



WHAT THE  
BIBLE  
IS ABOUT

2021  
SESSION  
3

MIERV. SALOMON

LAMENTATIONS



THE  
LAMENTATIONS OF JEREMIAH

CHAPTER I

**H**ow doth the city sit solitary,  
that was full of people!  
How is she become as a widow,  
that was in the midst of the nations,  
and princess among the provinces,  
how is she become tributary!  
She weepeth sore in the night,  
and her tears are on her cheeks:  
She hath none comforter:  
all her lovers have treacherously forsaken her;  
her enemies have gone into captivity before her;  
and because of great affliction,  
she dwelleth among the heathen,  
and findeth no rest:  
all her persecutors have gathered together against her,  
and have compassed her about as a city that is besieged.

4 The ways of Zi'ōn do mourn,  
because none come to the solemn feasts:  
her gates are desolate:  
her priests are afflicted,  
and she is in bitterness.  
5 Her adversaries are the chief,  
her enemies prosper;  
for the multitude of her transgressions,  
she is departed:  
that she find no pursuer,  
and she remembered in the days of her affliction and of her misery,  
all her pleasant things that she had in the days of old,  
when her people were found in the midst of the land,  
and the captain of the host,  
who brought them to the king of Bāb'ŷ-lon,  
brought him to the king of Bāb'ŷ-lon,  
and set his throne upon the kings that changed  
and he did for his diet,  
the continual diet given him of Bāb'ŷ-lon,  
every day a portion of his life.

# Jeremiah – Chosen by God, Rejected by Men

He proclaimed an unpalatable warning for forty years: this world, this Kingdom, this comfortable way of life is coming to an end!



'Jeremiah Lamenting the  
Destruction of Jerusalem'  
by Rembrandt, 1630.

# Example 2 – The Five Hymns of Lament

A

**Chapter 1:** The prophet dwells on the manifold miseries oppressed by which the city sits as a solitary widow weeping sorely.

B

**Chapter 2:** These miseries are described in connection with the national sins that had caused them.

C

- A. Sins of Jerusalem
- B. Wrath of the LORD
- C. Glimpse of hope

**Chapter 3:** Speaks of hope for the people of God. The chastisement would only be for their good; a better day would dawn for them.

B'

**Chapter 4:** Laments the ruin and desolation that had come upon the city and temple, but traces it only to the people's sins.

A'

**Chapter 5:** A prayer that Zion's reproach may be taken away in the repentance and recovery of the people.

# Hymns from Lamentations



## ● Lamentations 1 - Catastrophe

- All You Who Pass This Way
- O Jesus, We Adore Thee
- Alone Thou Goest Forth, O Lord

## ● Lamentations 2 - Cause

- **Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!**
- God of Our Life, Through All the Circling Years
- There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

## ● Lamentations 3 – Cure

- Amidst the mighty, where is he
- **Great Is Thy Faithfulness**
- A New Song for Morning and Evening

## ● Lamentations 4 – Consequences

- Dieu de L'Homme et de L'Autel (God of Man and the Altar)
- In the shadow of the rock Let me rest
- Yo quiero ser, Señor amado (I Want to Be What You Would Make Me)

## ● Lamentations 5 - Cry

- Great God! how infinite art thou!
- הַשִּׁבְנוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְנִשְׁוֹבָה (Restore us to Yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored)
- Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven



# The Prophet Jeremiah

- Jeremiah's life (c.650-c.570 BC) is better documented in Scripture than any other prophet. Jewish literature parallels his life with Moses (Deut. 18:18, etc.).
- The son of Hilkiah, a *kohen* (Jewish priest) from the Benjamin village Anathot, he was called by God c. 626 BC to prophesy of Judah's destruction by northern invaders.
- Rabbinic literature claims Ezekiel as his son.
- The Prophet Zephaniah mentored him and his relative Huldah was a contemporary prophetess. Initially a preaching prophet, his unpopular message resulted in plots and persecution. When he complained to God, he is told that things would get worse – and they did.
- Upon predicting that Jerusalem would fall to Babylon, he was cast into a cistern to be forgotten and die, but was saved and imprisoned. The Babylonians freed him in 587 BC. He remained with the newly appointed governors, fleeing with one to Egypt, where he died.

*Jeremiah on the ruins of Jerusalem*  
by Horace Vernet, 1844.





# Outline

## Jerusalem's Devastation

(Lamentations 1)

- Jeremiah's Sorrow (1:1–11)
- Jerusalem's Sorrow (1:12–22)

## The Lord's Anger Explained

(Lamentations 2)

- The LORD'S Perspective (2:1–10)
- A Human Perspective (2:11–19)
- Jeremiah's Prayer (2:20–22)

## Jeremiah's Griefs Expressed

(Lamentations 3)

- Jeremiah's Distress (3:1–20)
- Jeremiah's Hope (3:21–38)
- Jeremiah's Counsel/Prayer (3:39–66)

## God's Wrath Detailed

(Lamentations 4)

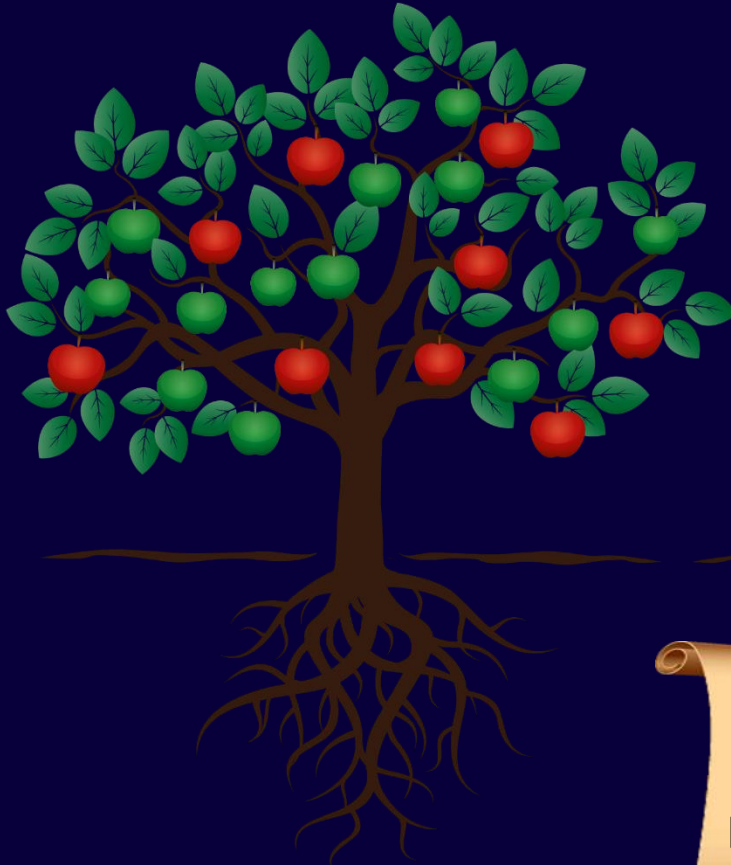
- For Jerusalem(4:1-20).
- For Edom (4:21-22).

## The Remnant's Prayers

(Lamentations 5)

- To Be Remembered by the LORD (5:1-18).
- A plea to Be Restored by the LORD (5:19-22).

# Parallels with Deuteronomy



She dwells among  
the nations; she finds  
no resting place.  
(Lam. 1:3)

## Lamentations

## Deuteronomy

Among those nations you will  
find no repose, no resting  
place for the sole of your foot.  
(Deut. 28:65)

# Choosing Sides

The consequences God ordains for those who obey and disobey him

*Deuteronomy 28*

## Curses for Disobedience

Cursed in the city and country  
Infertile women  
Destroyed crops  
Infertile livestock  
Scarce bread and grain  
Cursed coming in and going out  
Defeated by enemies  
Ridiculed by other nations  
Filled with fear and despair  
Powder and dust instead of rain  
Borrow from other nations rather than lend  
Be the tail and not the head  
Afflicted with many diseases

## Blessings for Obedience

Blessed in the city and country  
Fertile women  
Plentiful crops  
Fertile livestock  
Abundant bread and grain  
Blessed coming in and going out  
Defeat enemies  
Established as God's holy people  
Feared by other nations  
Plentiful rain  
Lend to other nations rather than than borrow  
Be the head and not the tail



MIERV. SALMO.

LAMENTATIONS



A(2:1) 2:1 Unmindful of his footstool on the day of his wrath. (2:1)

B(2:2) 2:2 He has brought to the ground in dishonour her king and her princes. (2:2)

C(2:3) 2:3 He broke off, in fiery wrath, the horn that was Israel's whole strength (2:3)

D(2:4) 2:4 He took his stand as a foe, and slew all on whom the eye doted (2:4)

E(2:5) 2:5 For daughter Judah he has multiplied moaning and groaning. (2:5)

F(2:6) 2:6 He has scorned in fierce wrath both king and priest. (2:6)

G(2:7) 2:7 Who shout in the house of the LORD as on a feast day. (2:7)

H(2:8) 2:8 The LORD marked for destruction the wall of daughter Zion (2:8)

I(2:9) 2:9 And her prophets have not received any vision from the LORD. (2:9)

J(2:10) 2:10 On the ground in silence sit the old men of daughter Zion (2:10)

K(2:11) 2:11 As child and infant faint away in the open spaces of the town. (2:11)

K'(2:12) 2:12 They ask their mothers, "Where is the cereal?" (2:12)

J'(2:13) "2:13 To what can I liken or compare you, O daughter Jerusalem? (2:13)"

I'(2:14) 2:14 Your prophets had for you false and specious visions (2:14)

H'(2:15) 2:15 They hiss and wag their heads over daughter Jerusalem (2:15)

G'(2:16) 2:16 All your enemies open their mouths against you (2:16)

F'(2:17) 2:17 Letting the enemy gloat over you and exalting the horn of your foes. (2:17)

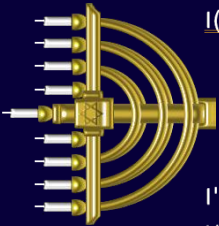
E'(2:18) "2:18 moan, O daughter Zion! (2:18)"

D'(2:19) 2:19 Lift up your hands to him for the lives of your little ones (2:19)

C'(2:20) 2:20 Are priest and prophet to be slain in the sanctuary of the LORD? (2:20)

B'(2:21) 2:21 Dead in the dust of the streets lie young and old (2:21)

A'(2:22) "2:22 There was not, on the day of your wrath (2:22)"



A: Day of His wrath.

E: Daughters.

I: Prophets.

B: On the ground.

F: Leaders.

J: Daughters.

C: Death of leaders.

G: Enemies.

K: Infants.

D: Beloved.

H: Daughters.

**Second Song**



# WHAT THE BIBLE IS ABOUT

## LAMENTATIONS

### CHAPTER 2

*For all the  
earth is Mine.*

**AND YOU SHALL BE TO ME**

**A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS**

**AND A HOLY NATION.**

EXODUS 19:5,6

WE'RE LIFTING FROM  
THE EARTH AND SKY

YOU'RE THE MAN  
GLORY SHAKING UP T



# The plight of Judah's people

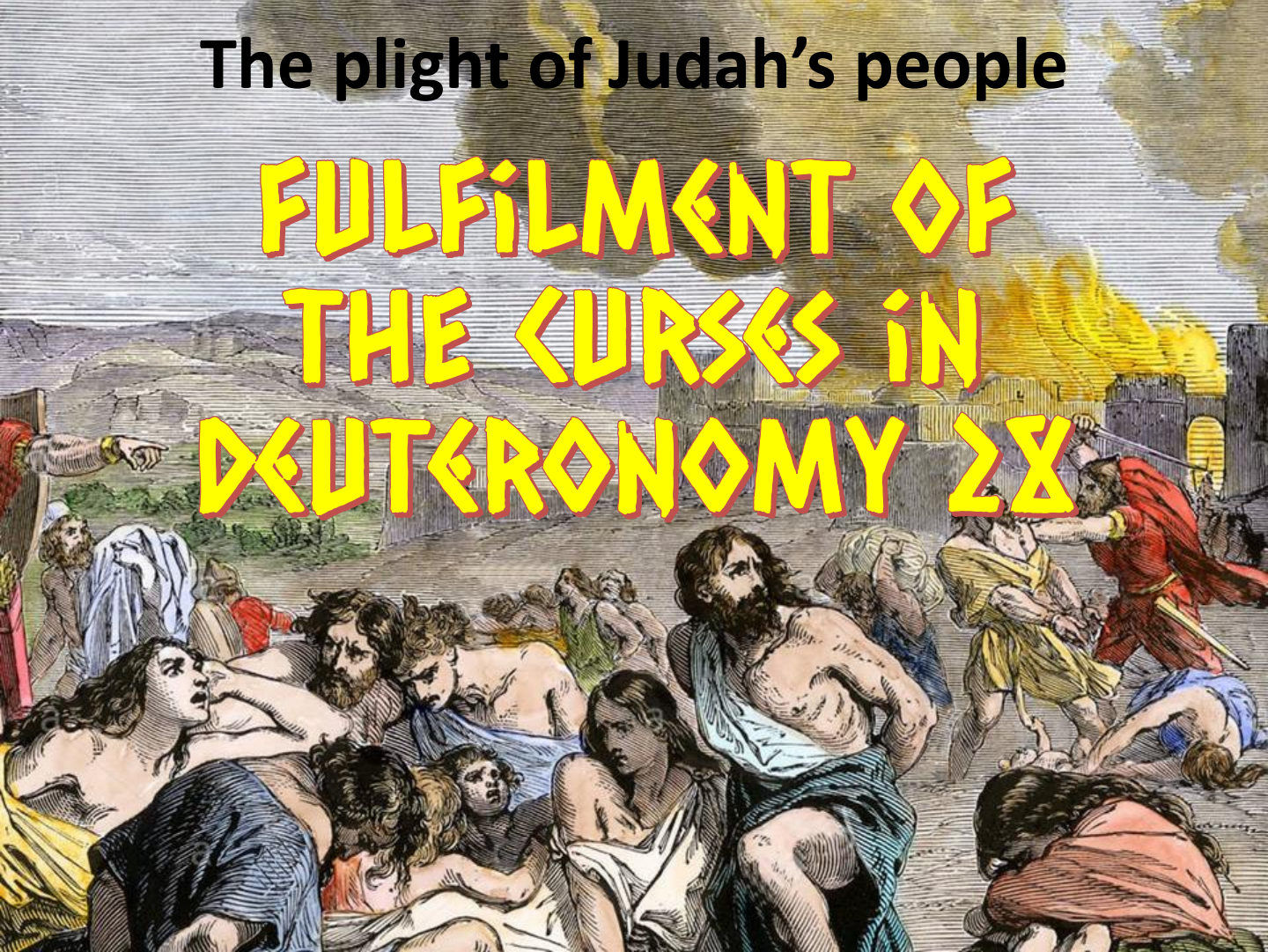
Along with fire, Jeremiah used other pictures to show the plight of Judah turning their backs on God:

- People were caught in nets like animals.
- They suffered under the yoke of bondage to foreign nations.
- They cried out for help but no one would save them or even show sympathy.
- Their friends and lovers didn't keep their promises.
- They were trod underfoot and crushed like grapes in a winepress.
- They were starved and left faint.



The plight of Judah's people

# FULFILMENT OF THE CURSES IN DEUTERONOMY 28



# Finally, they cried out to God


- Each of the first three chapters ends with a prayer:
  - *“See, O LORD, that I am in distress; My soul is troubled; My heart is overturned within me, For I have been very rebellious....”* (1:20-22)
  - *“See, O LORD, and consider! To whom have You done this? ....”* (2:20-22)
  - *“I called on Your name, O LORD, From the lowest pit. You have heard my voice: ‘Do not hide Your ear From my sighing, from my cry for help....’”* (3: 55-66)
- The entire fifth chapter is a prayer.



## God's Anger with Jerusalem

⌘<sup>1</sup> How the Lord has covered the daughter of Zion  
With a cloud in His anger!  
He cast down from heaven to the earth  
The beauty of Israel,  
And did not remember His footstool  
In the day of His anger.

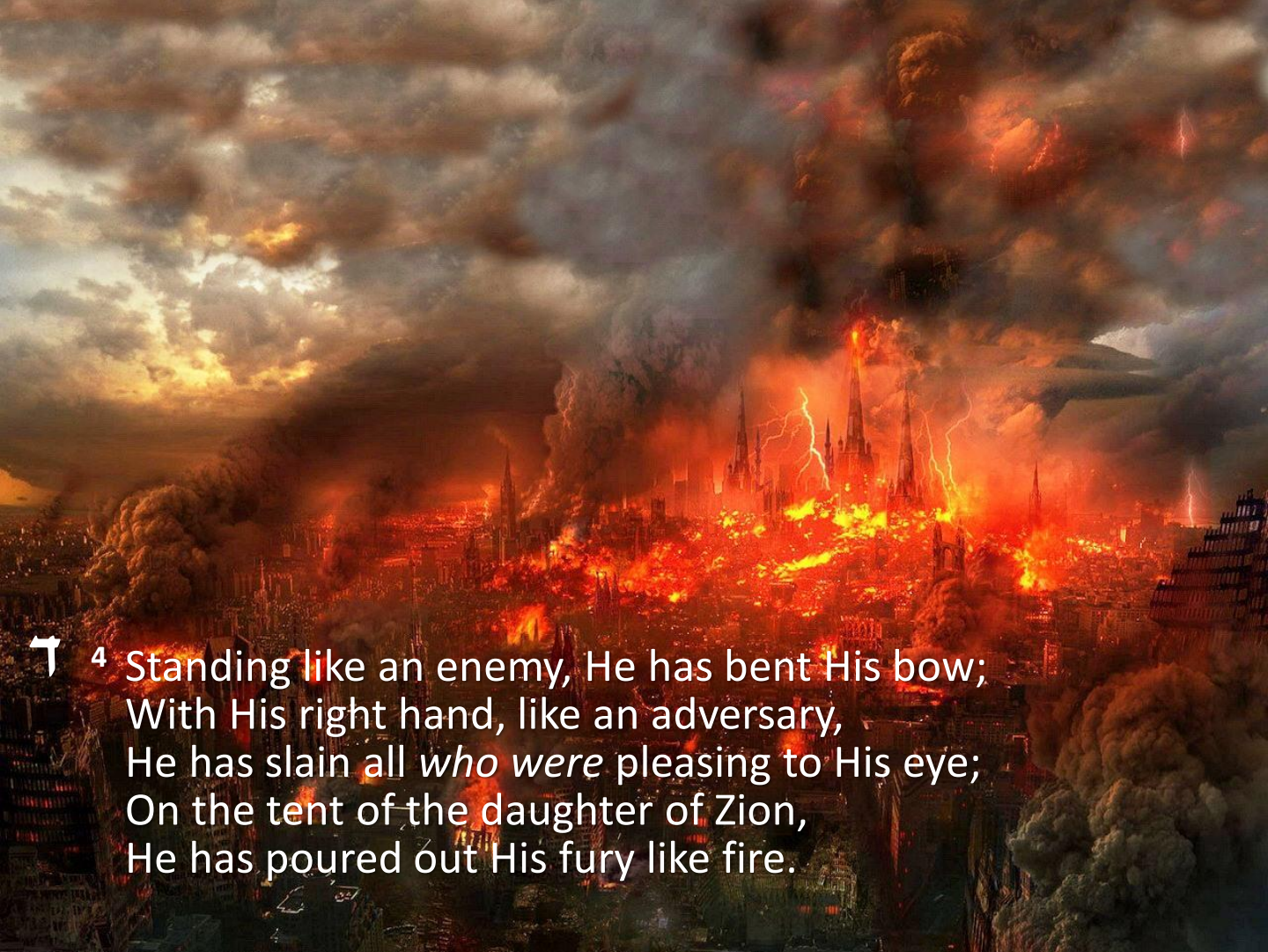




ב<sup>2</sup> The Lord has swallowed up and has not pitied  
All the dwelling places of Jacob.  
He has thrown down in His wrath  
The strongholds of the daughter of Judah;  
He has brought *them* down to the ground;  
He has profaned the kingdom and its princes.

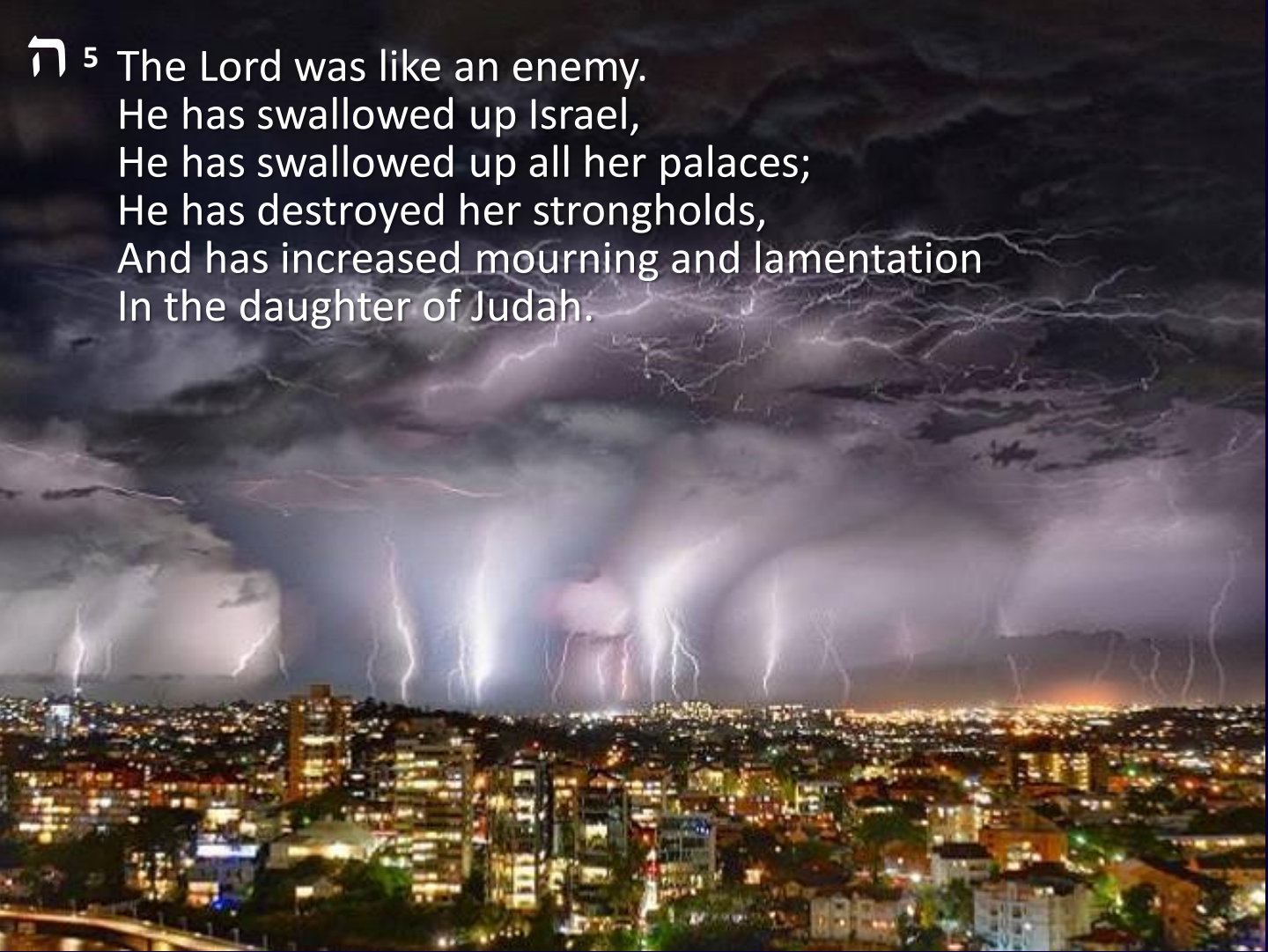
3 He has cut off in fierce anger  
Every horn of Israel;  
He has drawn back His right hand  
From before the enemy.  
He has blazed against Jacob like a flaming fire  
Devouring all around. There was no refugee or survivor.  
Those whom I have borne and brought up  
My enemies have destroyed.”



A dramatic, apocalyptic scene of a city in flames under a dark, stormy sky with lightning. The city is engulfed in fire, with thick black smoke rising into the sky. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and several bright lightning bolts strike down on the city. The overall atmosphere is one of intense destruction and divine wrath.

†<sup>4</sup> Standing like an enemy, He has bent His bow;  
With His right hand, like an adversary,  
He has slain all *who were* pleasing to His eye;  
On the tent of the daughter of Zion,  
He has poured out His fury like fire.

ה<sup>5</sup> The Lord was like an enemy.  
He has swallowed up Israel,  
He has swallowed up all her palaces;  
He has destroyed her strongholds,  
And has increased mourning and lamentation  
In the daughter of Judah.

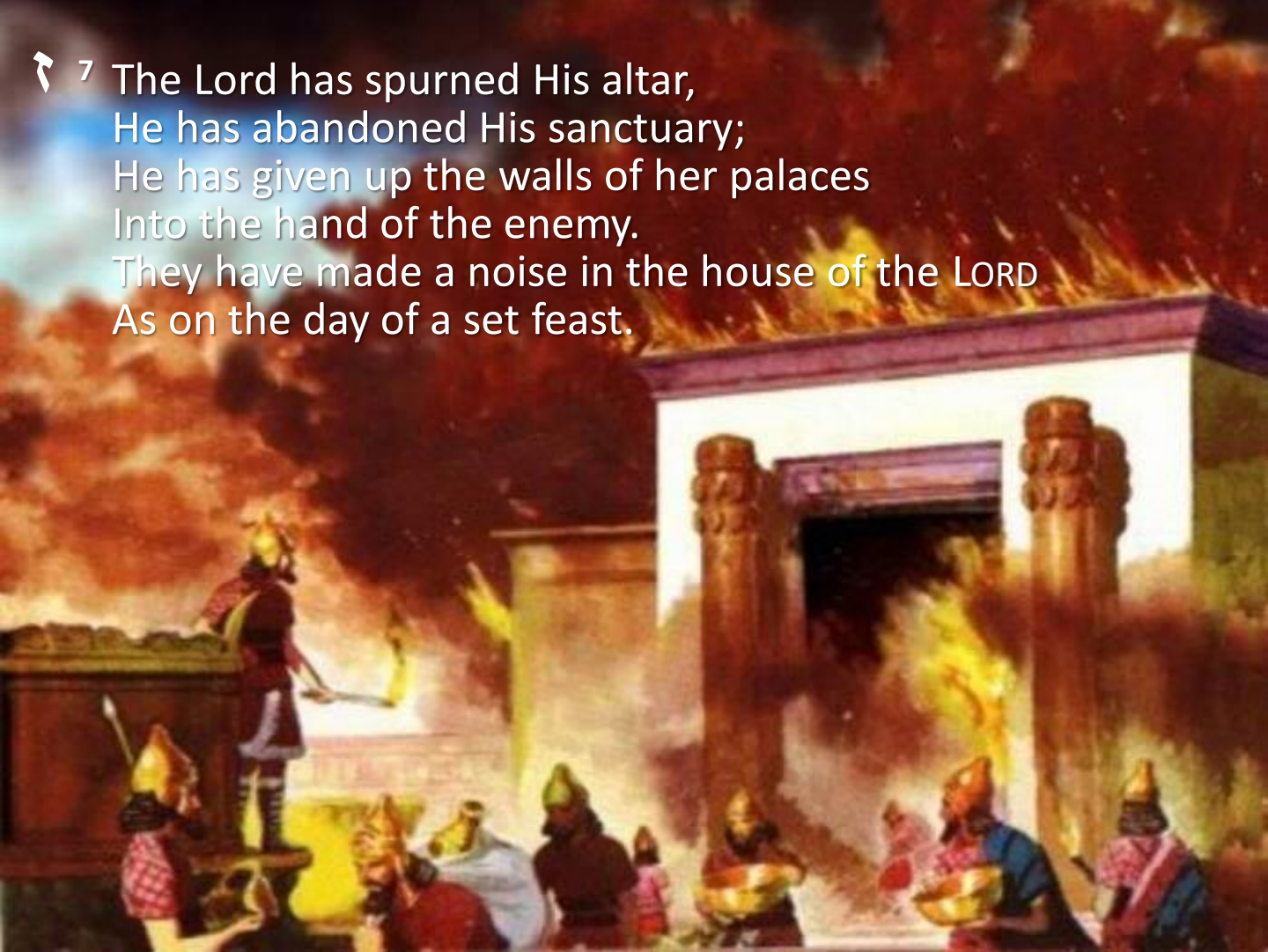




6 He has done violence to His tabernacle,  
*As if it were a garden;*  
He has destroyed His place of assembly;  
The LORD has caused the appointed feasts and Sabbaths  
to be forgotten in Zion.  
In His burning indignation  
He has spurned the king and the priest.



7 The Lord has spurned His altar,  
He has abandoned His sanctuary;  
He has given up the walls of her palaces  
Into the hand of the enemy.  
They have made a noise in the house of the LORD  
As on the day of a set feast.

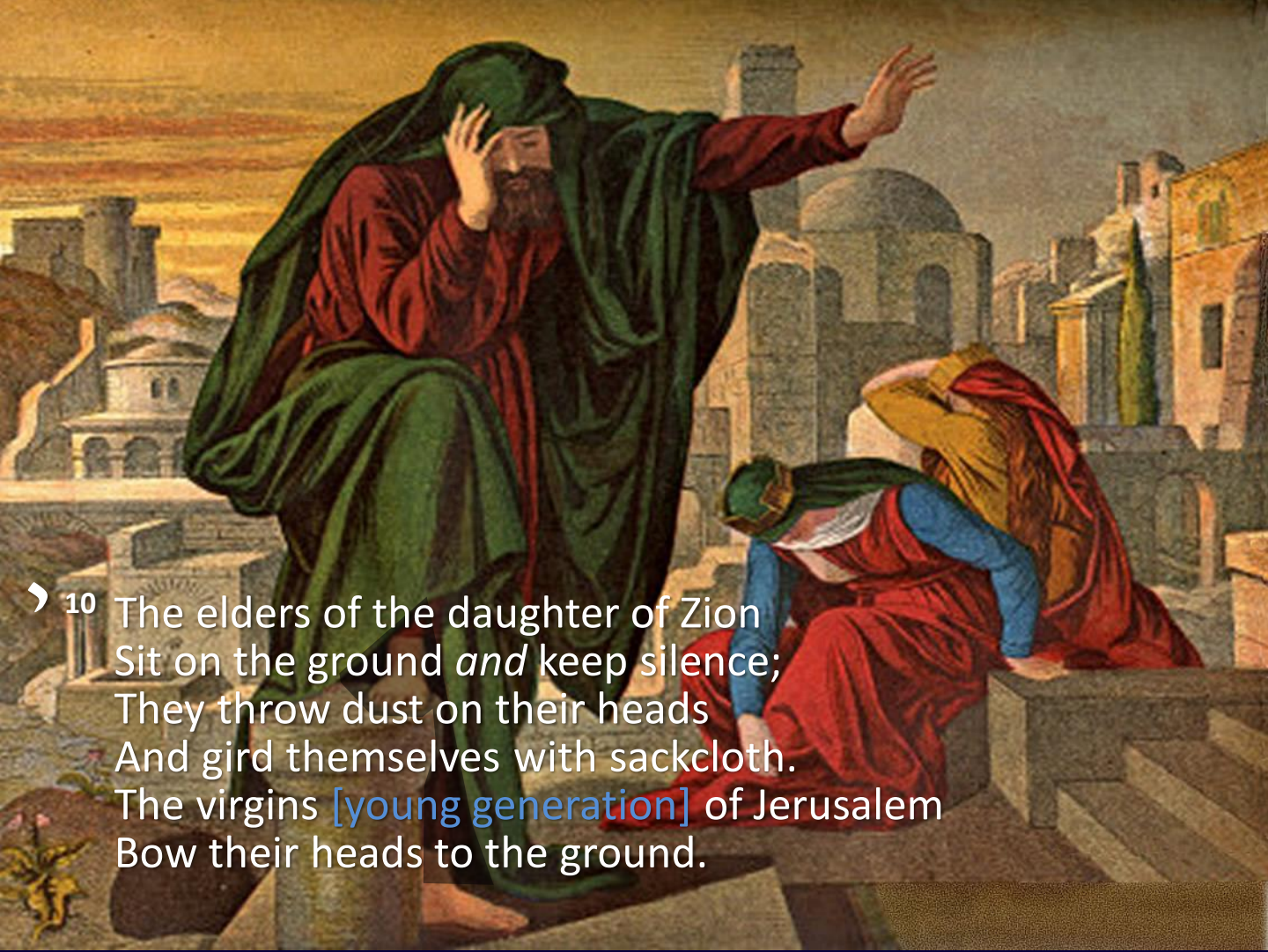


נ<sup>8</sup> The LORD has purposed to destroy  
The wall of the daughter of Zion.  
He has stretched out a line;  
He has not withdrawn His hand from destroying;  
Therefore He has caused the rampart and wall to lament;  
They languished together.



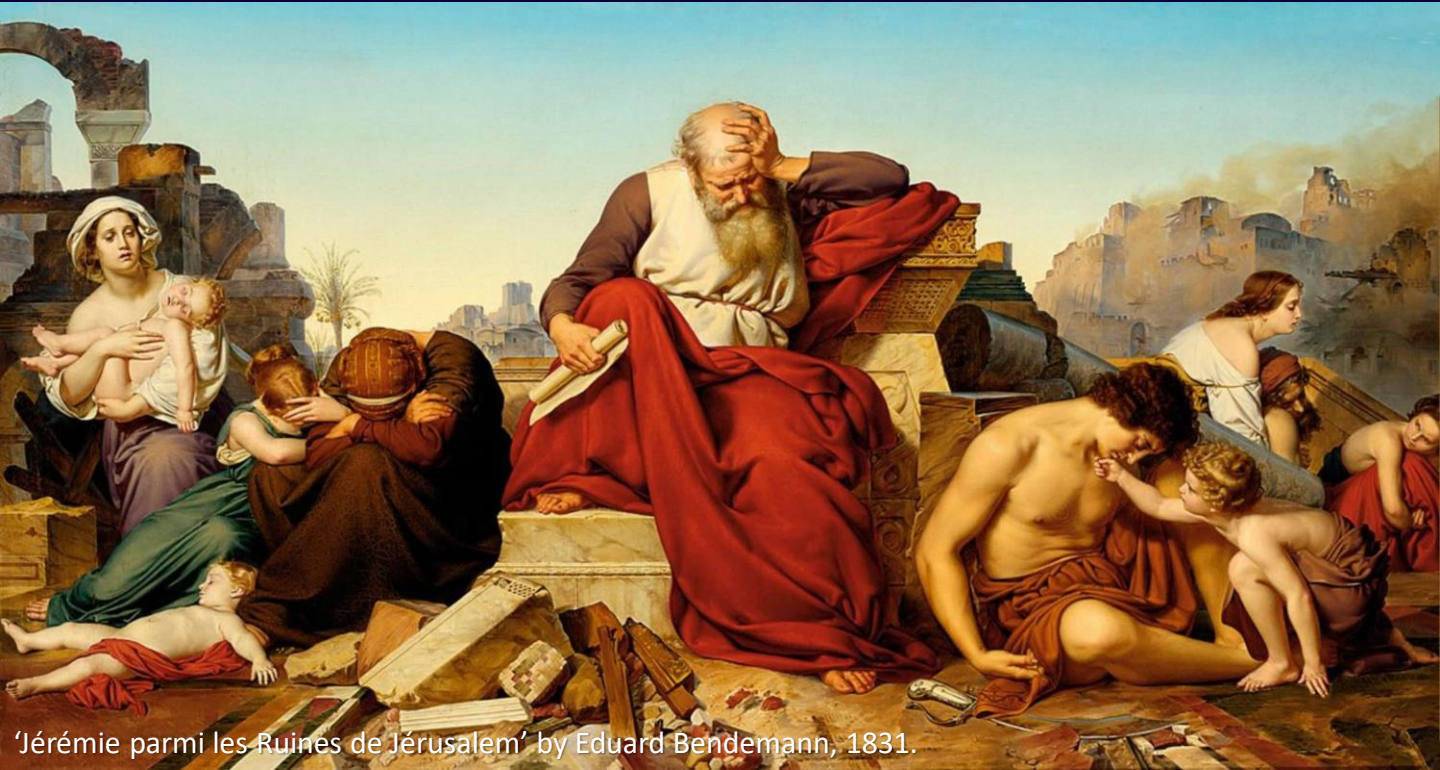
ו<sup>9</sup> Her gates have sunk into the ground;  
He has destroyed and broken her bars.  
Her king and her princes *are* among the nations;  
The Law *is* no *more*,  
And her prophets find no vision from the LORD.





- › <sup>10</sup> The elders of the daughter of Zion  
Sit on the ground *and* keep silence;  
They throw dust on their heads  
And gird themselves with sackcloth.  
The virgins [young generation] of Jerusalem  
Bow their heads to the ground.

כ 11 My eyes fail [כָּלָה] with tears, my heart [מִצְנָה] is troubled;  
My bile [כִּבְד] is poured [שָׁפַךְ] on the ground  
Because of the destruction of the daughter of my people,  
Because the children and the infants  
Faint [עָטַף] in the streets of the city.



'Jérémie parmi les Ruines de Jérusalem' by Eduard Bendemann, 1831.

5<sup>12</sup> They say to their mothers,  
“Where *is* grain and wine?”  
As they swoon like the wounded  
In the streets of the city,  
As their life is poured out  
In their mothers’ bosom.



מ<sup>13</sup> How shall I console you?  
To what shall I liken you,  
O daughter of Jerusalem?  
What shall I compare with you,  
that I may comfort you,  
O virgin daughter of Zion?  
For your ruin *is* spread wide  
as the sea;  
Who can heal you?





14 Your prophets have seen for you  
False and deceptive visions;  
They have not uncovered your iniquity,  
To bring back your captives,  
But have envisioned for you false prophecies and delusions.



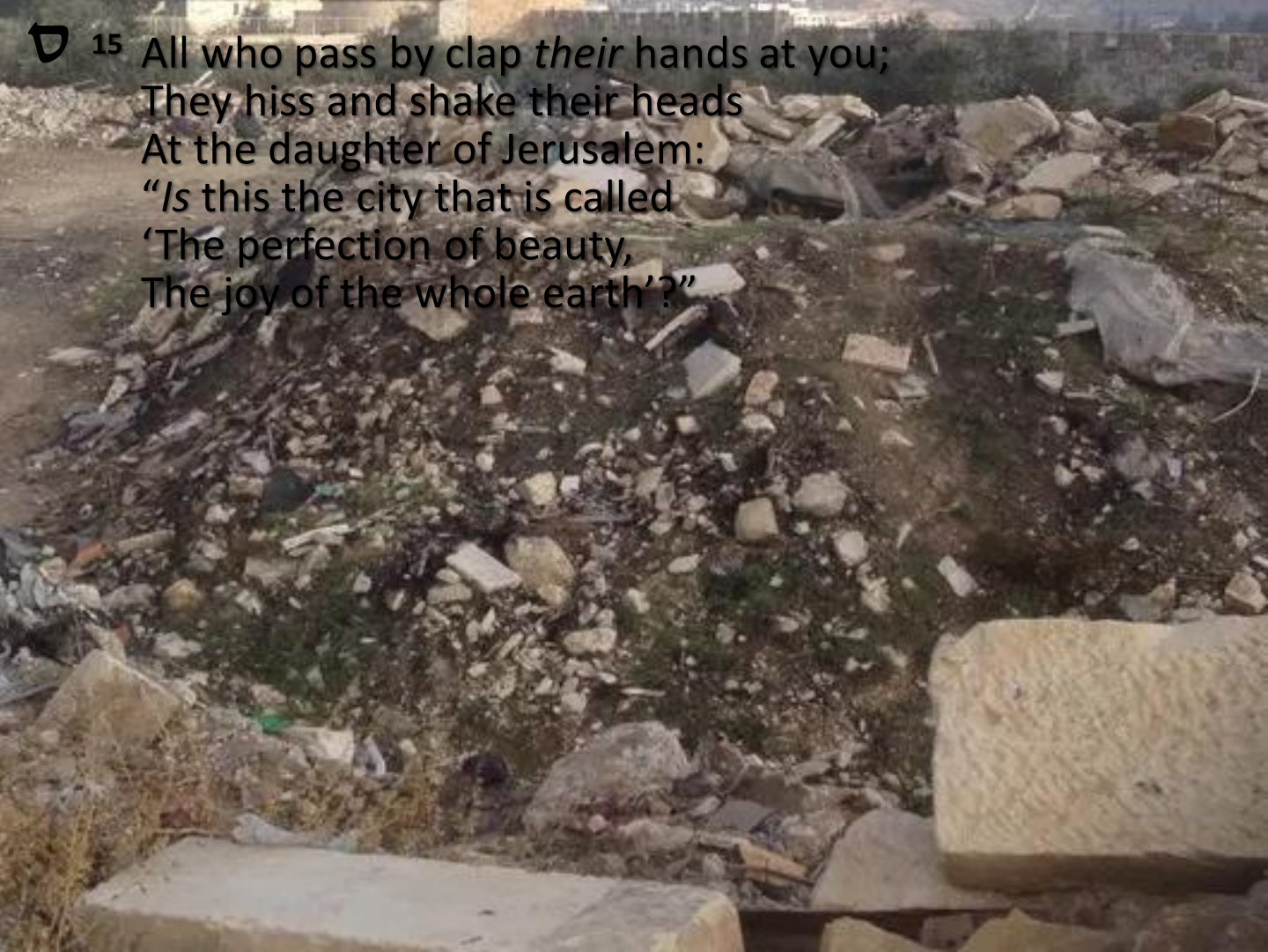
# False Prophets

- Beware of false prophets
- Recognise them by their fruits
- Know God's Word and the truth will set you free
- Trust God's Spirit to guide you in all truth
- Discern deception and manipulation
- In an abundance of counselors there is safety



15 All who pass by clap *their* hands at you;  
They hiss and shake their heads  
At the daughter of Jerusalem:  
“Is this the city that is called  
‘The perfection of beauty,  
The joy of the whole earth’?”





15 All who pass by clap *their* hands at you;  
They hiss and shake their heads  
At the daughter of Jerusalem:  
“Is this the city that is called  
‘The perfection of beauty,  
The joy of the whole earth’?”

9 16 All your enemies have opened their mouth against you;  
They hiss and gnash *their* teeth.  
They say, “We have swallowed *her* up!  
Surely this *is* the day we have waited for;  
We have found *it*, we have seen *it!*”

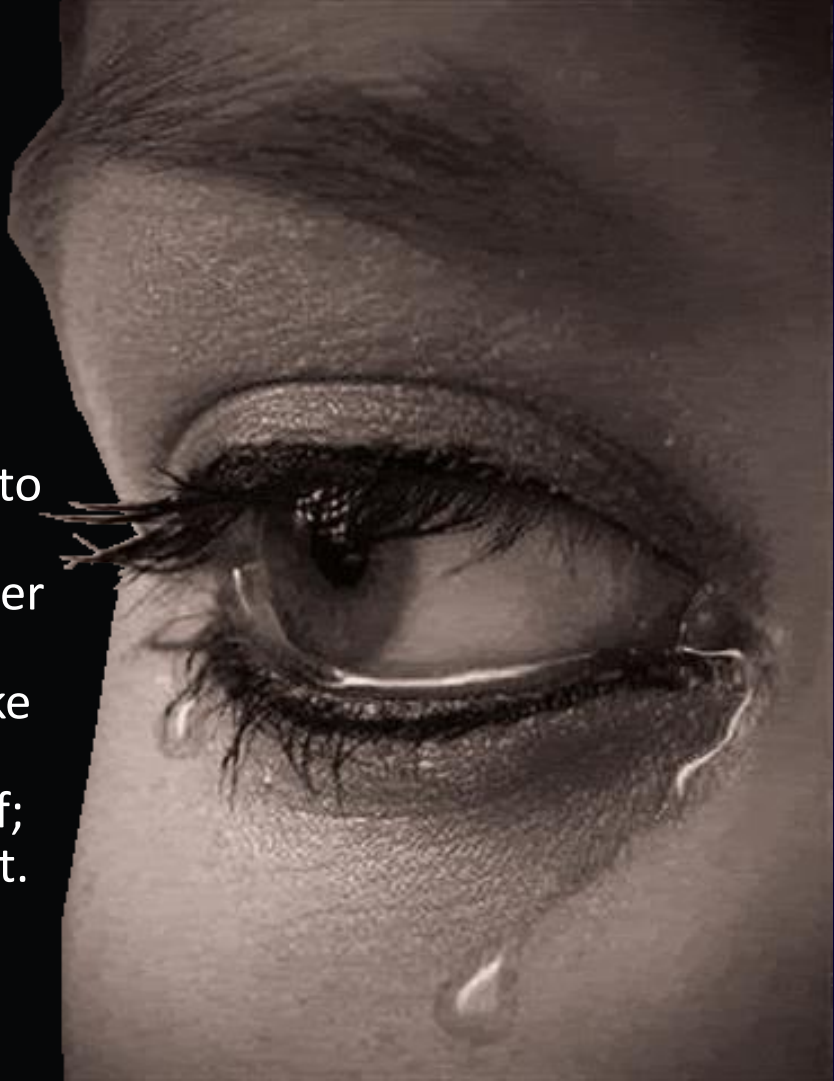


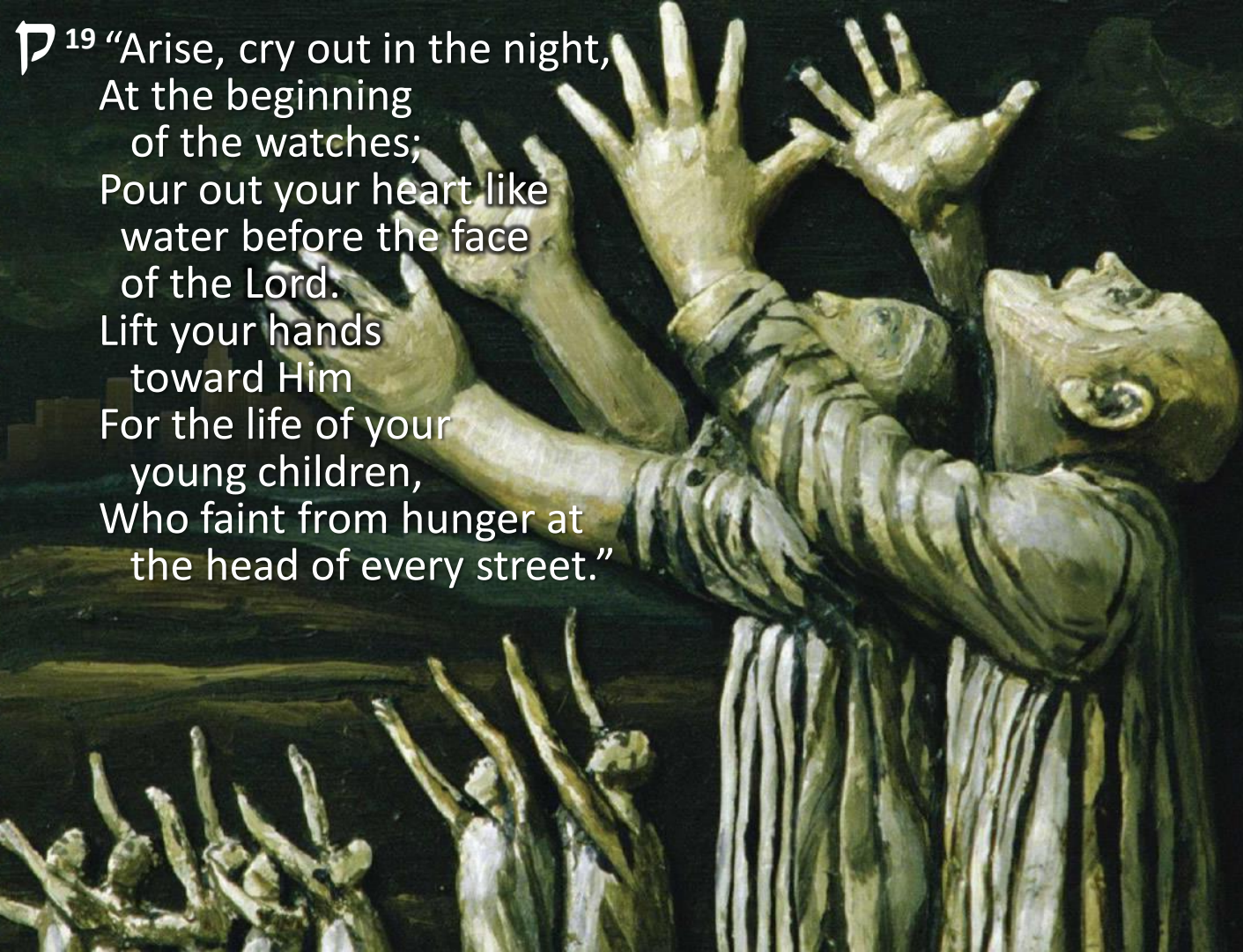
17 The LORD has done what He purposed;  
He has fulfilled His word  
Which He commanded in days of old.  
He has thrown down and has not pitied,  
And He has caused an enemy to rejoice over you;  
He has exalted the horn of your adversaries.

God  
ALWAYS  
KEEPS HIS Promises



18 Their heart cried out to  
the Lord,  
“O wall of the daughter  
of Zion,  
Let tears run down like  
a river day and night;  
Give yourself no relief;  
Give your eyes no rest.





19 "Arise, cry out in the night,  
At the beginning  
of the watches;  
Pour out your heart like  
water before the face  
of the Lord.  
Lift your hands  
toward Him  
For the life of your  
young children,  
Who faint from hunger at  
the head of every street."



↪ 20 “See, O LORD, and consider!  
To whom have You done this?  
Should the women eat their offspring,  
The children they have cuddled?  
Should the priest and prophet be slain  
In the sanctuary of the Lord?

“If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, **THE LORD [YHVH] YOUR GOD [Elohim]**, then the LORD will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues—great and prolonged plagues—and serious and prolonged sicknesses....” (Deut. 28:58-59)

<sup>60</sup> Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. <sup>61</sup> Also every sickness and every plague, which *is* not written in this Book of the Law, will the LORD bring upon you until you are destroyed.

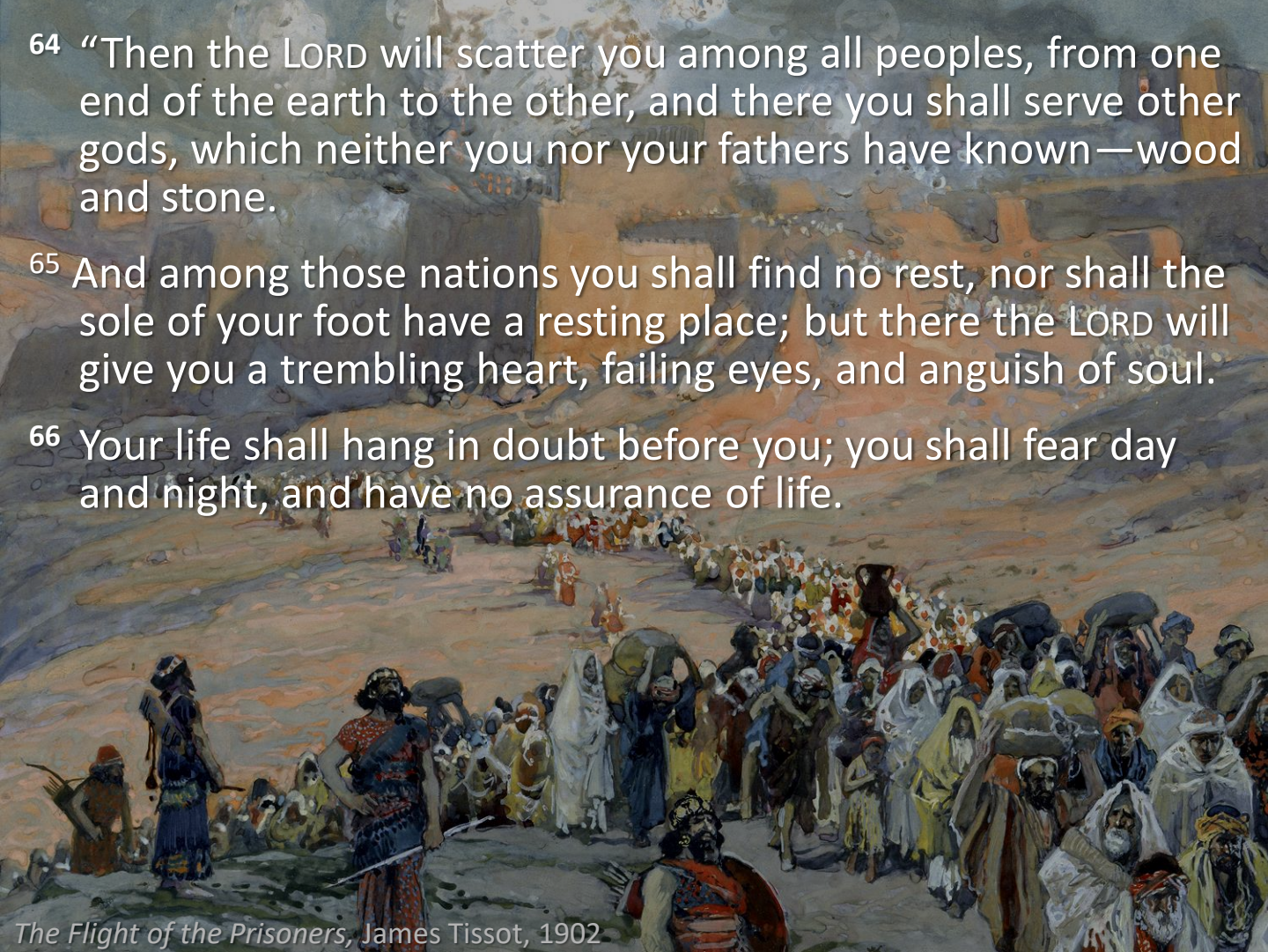
<sup>62</sup> You shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven in multitude, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.

<sup>63</sup> And it shall be, *that* just as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess.

64 “Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known—wood and stone.

65 And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.

66 Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life.



*The Flight of the Prisoners*, James Tissot, 1902

67 In the morning you shall say, "Oh, that it were evening!" And at evening you shall say, "Oh, that it were morning!" because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see.

68 "And the LORD will take you back to Egypt in ships, by the way of which I said to you, 'You shall never see it again.' And there you shall be offered for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you."



*The Flight of the Prisoners*, James Tissot, 1902

Jeremiah prophesied that Israel would return from Babylon after 70 years, and they did.



Isaiah 11:11-12 prophesied that *“the Lord shall set His hand again **the second time** to recover the remnant of His people... and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.”*

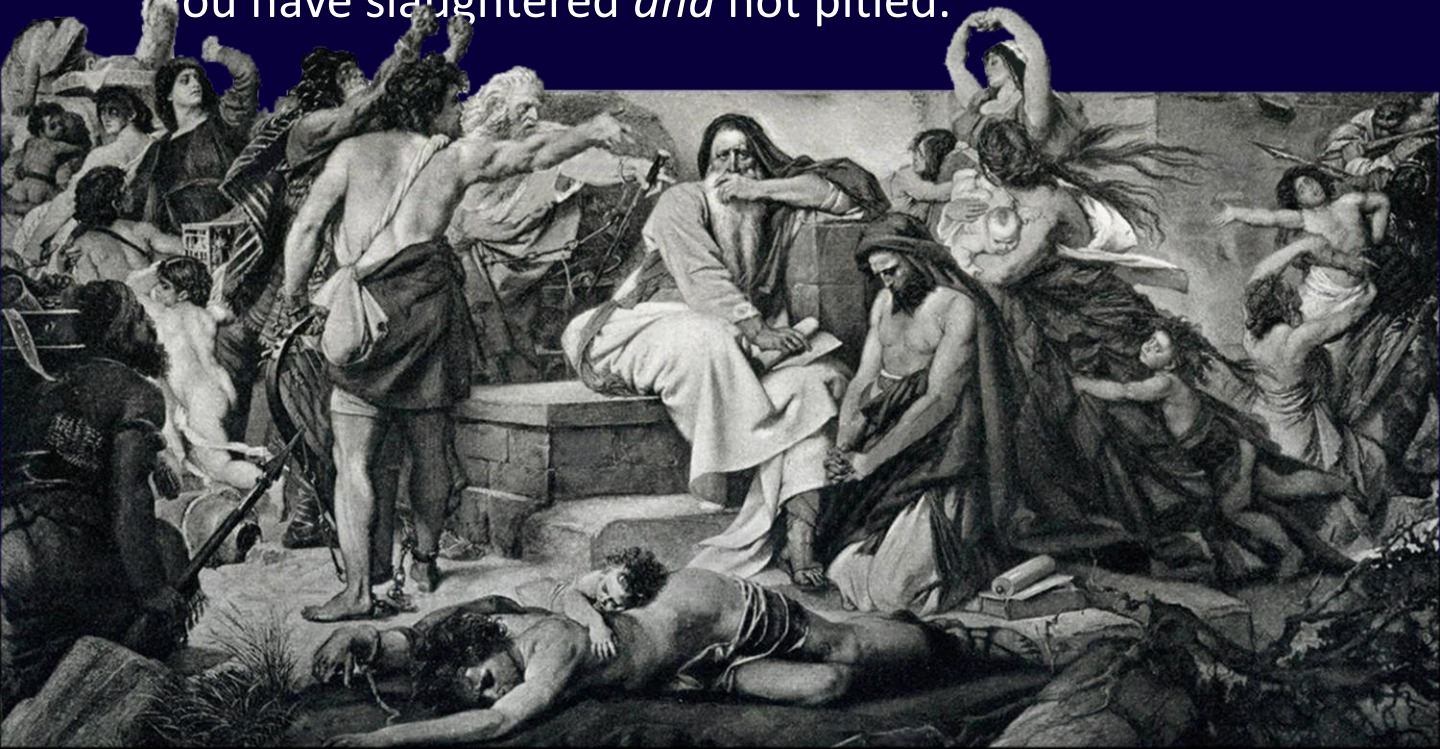



This occurred on May 14, 1948.





<sup>21</sup> “Young and old lie  
On the ground in the streets;  
My virgins and my young men  
Have fallen by the sword;  
You have slain *them* in the day of Your anger,  
You have slaughtered *and* not pitied.



ת 22 “You have invited as to a feast day  
The terrors that surround me.  
In the day of the LORD’s anger  
There was no refugee or survivor.  
Those whom I have borne and brought up  
My enemies have destroyed.” 



“The LORD will judge His people.’

It is a **fearful thing** to fall into  
the hands of the living God. 

Hebrews 10:30b-31



# The story this far

- **Chapter 1. What happened**

How lonely sits the city!  
Judah has gone into exile.  
O LORD, I am despised. Is any  
sorrow like mine? There is  
no one to comfort me.



- **Chapter 2. Why it happened**

The LORD has not pitied  
Jacob. He has abandoned his  
sanctuary. Young and old lie  
slaughtered in the streets.  
My eyes fail with tears.



# The story this far

- **Chapter 1. What happened**

How lonely sits the city!  
Judah has gone into exile.  
O LORD, I am despised. Is any  
sorrow like mine? There is  
no one to comfort me.



- **Chapter 2. Why it happened**

The LORD has not pitied  
Jacob. He has abandoned his  
sanctuary. Young and old lie  
slaughtered in the streets.  
My eyes fail with tears.



# Next week

- Chapter 3. What's coming

He has driven me into darkness. But the steadfast love of the LORD never ceases. Let us return to the LORD! You will repay my enemies.



Look at yourself and be depressed.

Look at circumstances and be **distressed**.

Look at the Lord and you'll be **blessed!**

MIERV. SALMO.

LAMENTATIONS

