



WHAT THE
BIBLE
IS ABOUT

2021
5
SESSION

MIERV. SALOMON

LAMENTATIONS



THE
LAMENTATIONS OF JEREMIAH

CHAPTER I

How doth the city sit solitary,
that was full of people!
how is she become as a widow!
she 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 to comfort her:
all her friends have treacherously forsaken her;
her enemies have gone into captivity because of great affliction,
and she dwelleth among the heathen:
she hath no rest:
all her persecutors have gathered together against her,
and they have not pitied her.

4 The ways of Zion do mourn,
because none come to the solemn feasts:
her gates are desolate:
her priests and her virgins 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 peace.
6 And from the daughter of Zidon all her beauty is gone,
and they are gone before the pursuer.
7 Jê-ru'sâ-lêm 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

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.

Lamentations

A Chapter 1: The cause of Judah's trouble is sin, specifically idolatry

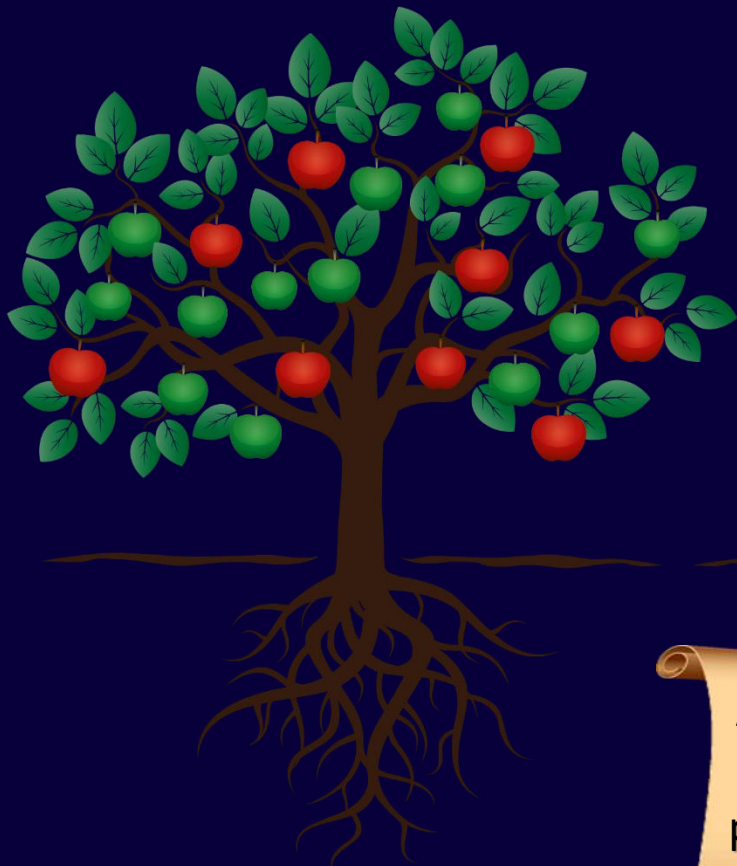
B Chapter 2: The result of their idolatry is the destruction of the nation

**C Chapter 3: Mercy and Grace
(the main point of the book)**

B' Chapter 4: The result of their idolatry is the destruction of the nation

A' Chapter 5: The cause of Judah's trouble is sin, specifically idolatry

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)



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).

MIERV. SALMO.



LAMENTATIONS

4.5

A(4:1) 4:1 How the sacred stones lie strewn at every street corner (4:1)

B(4:2) 4:2 Now worth no more than earthen jars made by the hands of a potter! (4:2)

C(4:3) 4:3 Even the jackals bare their breasts and suckle their young (4:3)

D(4:4) 4:4 The babes cry for food, but there is no one to give it to them. (4:4)

E(4:5) 4:5 Those accustomed to dainty food perish in the streets (4:5)

F(4:6) 4:6 The punishment of the daughter of my people is greater than the penalty of Sodom (4:6)

G(4:7) 4:7 Brighter than snow were her princes (4:7)

H(4:8) 4:8 Now their appearance is blacker than soot (4:8)

I(4:9) 4:9 Better for those who perish by the sword than for those who die of hunger (4:9)

J(4:10) 4:10 The hands of compassionate women boiled their own children (4:10)

K(4:11) 4:11 He has kindled a fire in Zion that has consumed her foundations. (4:11)

K'(4:12) 4:12 That enemy or foe could enter the gates of Jerusalem. (4:12)

J'(4:13) 4:13 Who shed in her midst the blood of the just! (4:13)

I'(4:14) 4:14 They staggered blindly in the streets, soiled with blood (4:14)

H'(4:15) 4:15 Away you unclean! (4:15)

G'(4:16) 4:16 He does not receive the priests with favor, nor show kindness to the elders. (4:16)

F'(4:17) 4:17 From our watchtower we watched for a nation that could not save us.(4:17)

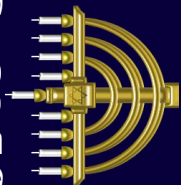
E'(4:18) 4:18 Men dogged our steps so that we could not walk in our streets (4:18)

D'(4:19) 4:19 They harassed us on the mountains and waylaid us in the desert. (4:19)

C'(4:20) 4:20 He in whose shadow we thought we could live on among the nations (4:20)

B'(4:21) 4:21 To you also shall the cup be passed (4:21)

A'(4:22) 4:22 he will not prolong your exile (4:22)



A: Captivity.

E: Town.

I: Bloody.

B: Vessel.

F: Foreign land.

J: Sacrifice.

C: To rely upon.

G: Priests.

K: Devastation of

D: Sufferings.

H: Dirty.

Jerusalem.

**Fourth
Song**



WHAT THE BIBLE IS ABOUT

LAMENTATIONS

CHAPTER 4

Jeremiah's vivid imagery



The Degradation of Zion

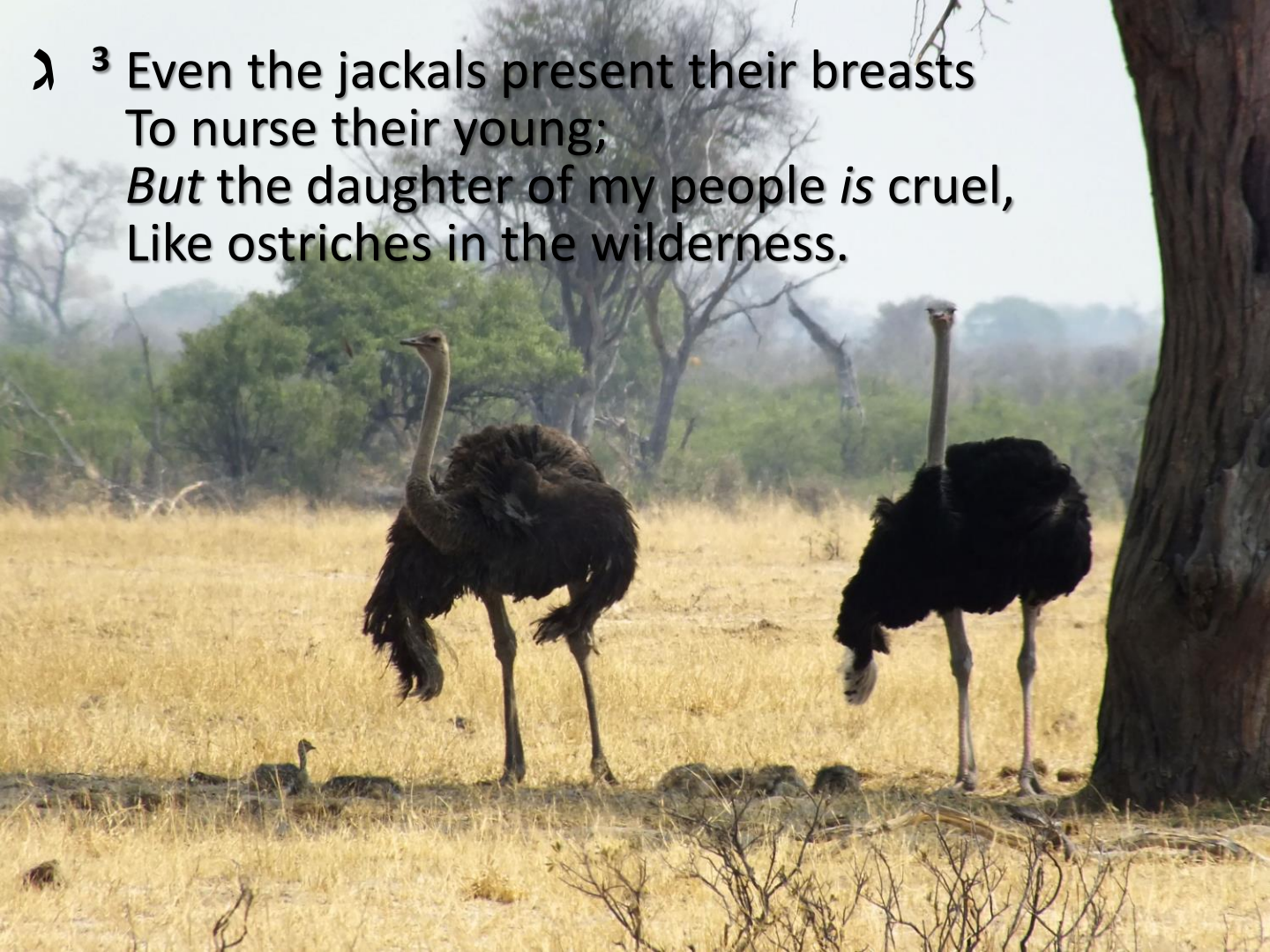
⌘ ¹ How the gold has become dim!
How changed the fine gold!
The stones of the sanctuary are scattered
At the head of every street.



ב² The precious sons of Zion,
Valuable as fine gold,
How they are regarded as
clay pots,
The work of the hands of
the potter!



λ ³ Even the jackals present their breasts
To nurse their young;
But the daughter of my people *is* cruel,
Like ostriches in the wilderness.



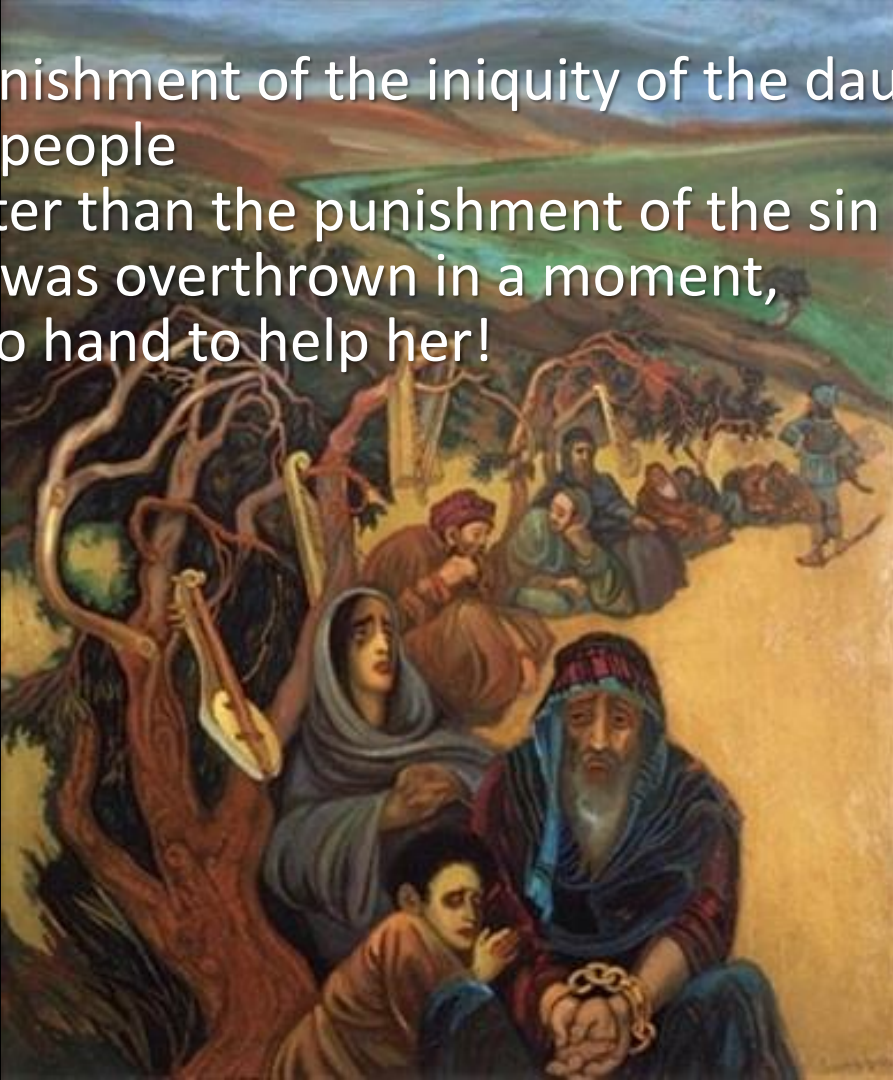
† 4 The tongue of the infant clings
To the roof of its mouth for thirst;
The young children ask for bread,
But no one breaks *it* for them.



ה 5 Those who ate delicacies
Are desolate in the streets;
Those who were brought up in scarlet
Embrace ash heaps.



1⁶ The punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of
my people
Is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom,
Which was overthrown in a moment,
With no hand to help her!



7 Her Nazirites were brighter than snow
And whiter than milk;
They were more ruddy in body than rubies,
Like sapphire in their appearance.



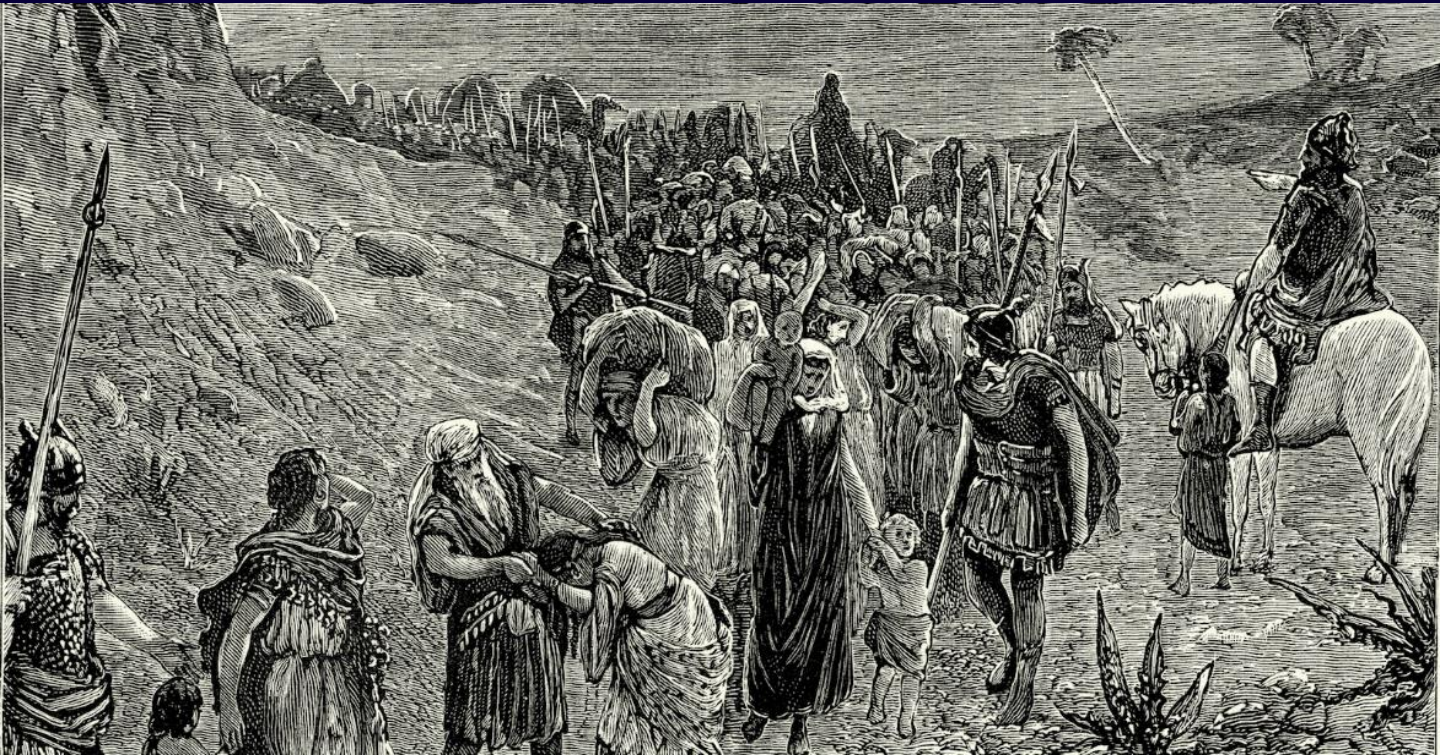
The LORD said to Moses,
“Speak to the Israelites
and say to them:
‘If a man or woman wants
to make a special vow, a
vow of dedication to the
LORD as a Nazirite, they
must abstain from . . .’”
[Numbers 6:1-3a]

⁂ ^B Now their appearance is blacker than soot;
They go unrecognized in the streets;
Their skin clings to their bones,
It has become as dry as wood.

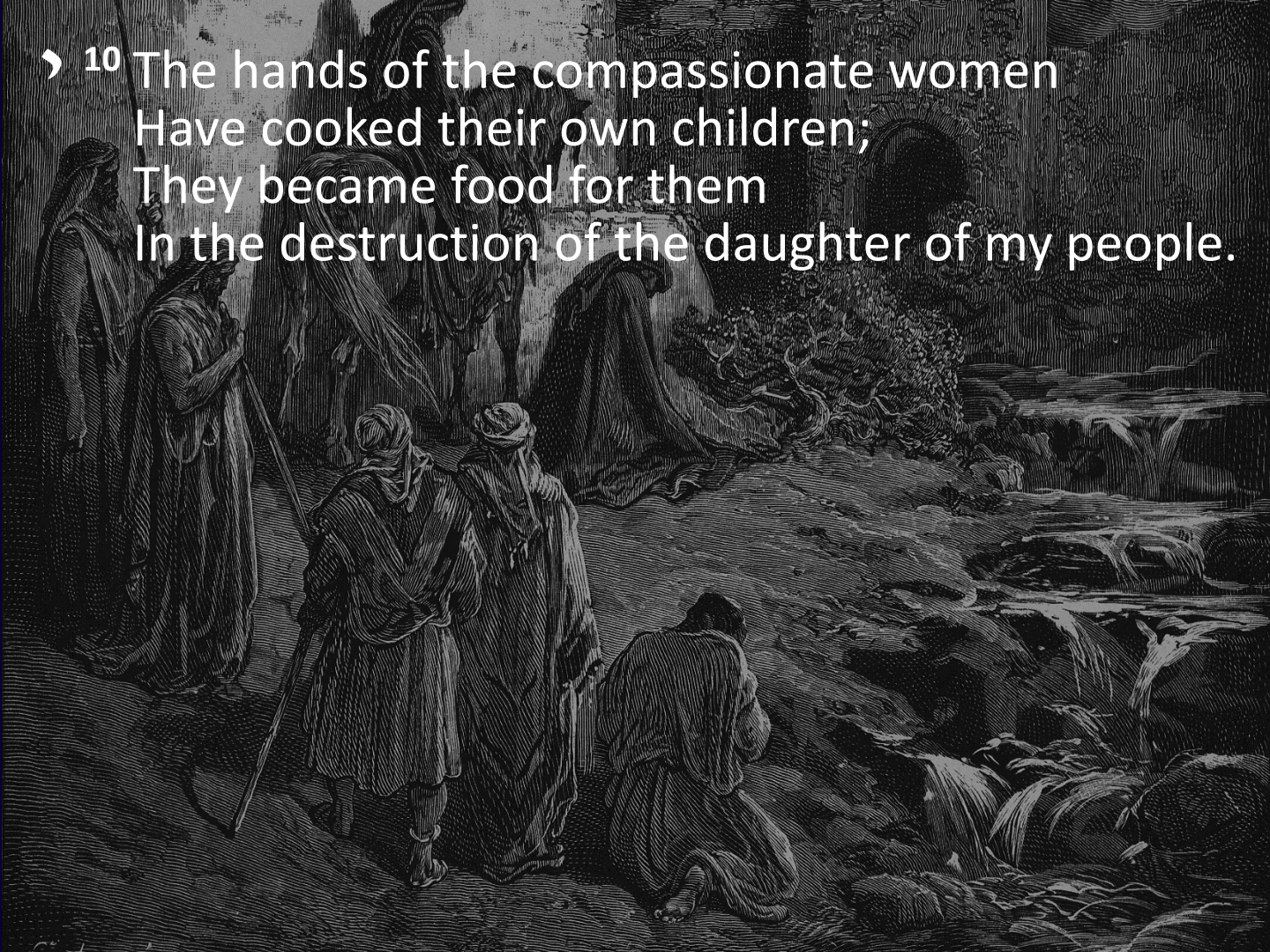
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‘If a man or woman wants
to make a special vow, a
vow of dedication to the
LORD as a Nazirite, they
must abstain from . . .’”
[Numbers 6:1-3a]



9 *Those slain by the sword are better off
Than those who die of hunger;
For these pine away,
Stricken for lack of the fruits of the field.*



› ¹⁰ The hands of the compassionate women
Have cooked their own children;
They became food for them
In the destruction of the daughter of my people.



↪ ¹¹ The LORD has fulfilled His fury,
He has poured out His fierce anger.
He kindled a fire in Zion,
And it has devoured its foundations.



↳ ¹² The kings of the earth,
And all inhabitants of the world,
Would not have believed
That the adversary and the enemy
Could enter the gates of Jerusalem—



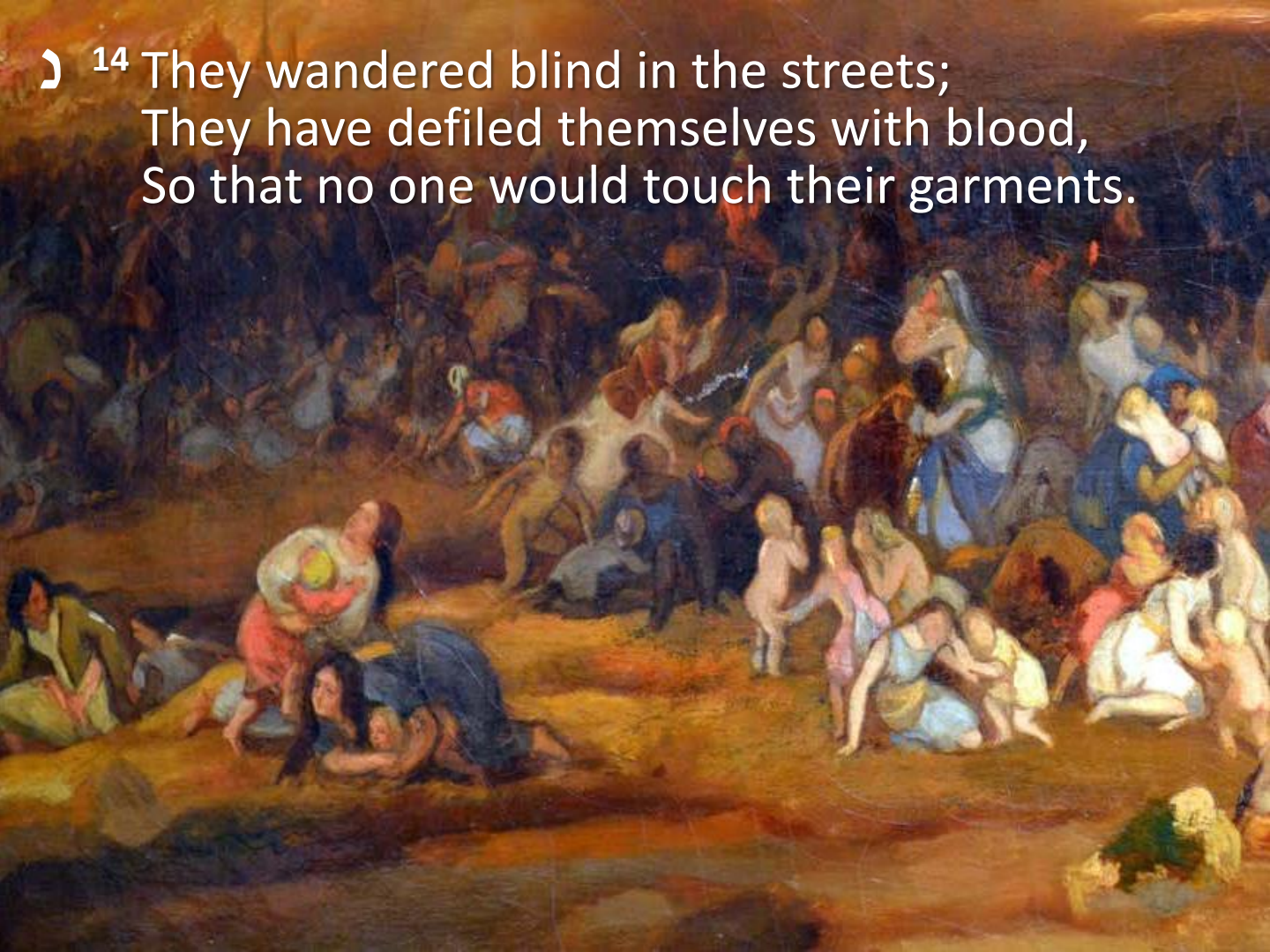
13 Because of the sins of her prophets
And the iniquities of her priests,
Who shed in her midst
The blood of the just.

McNAUGHTON
FINE ART

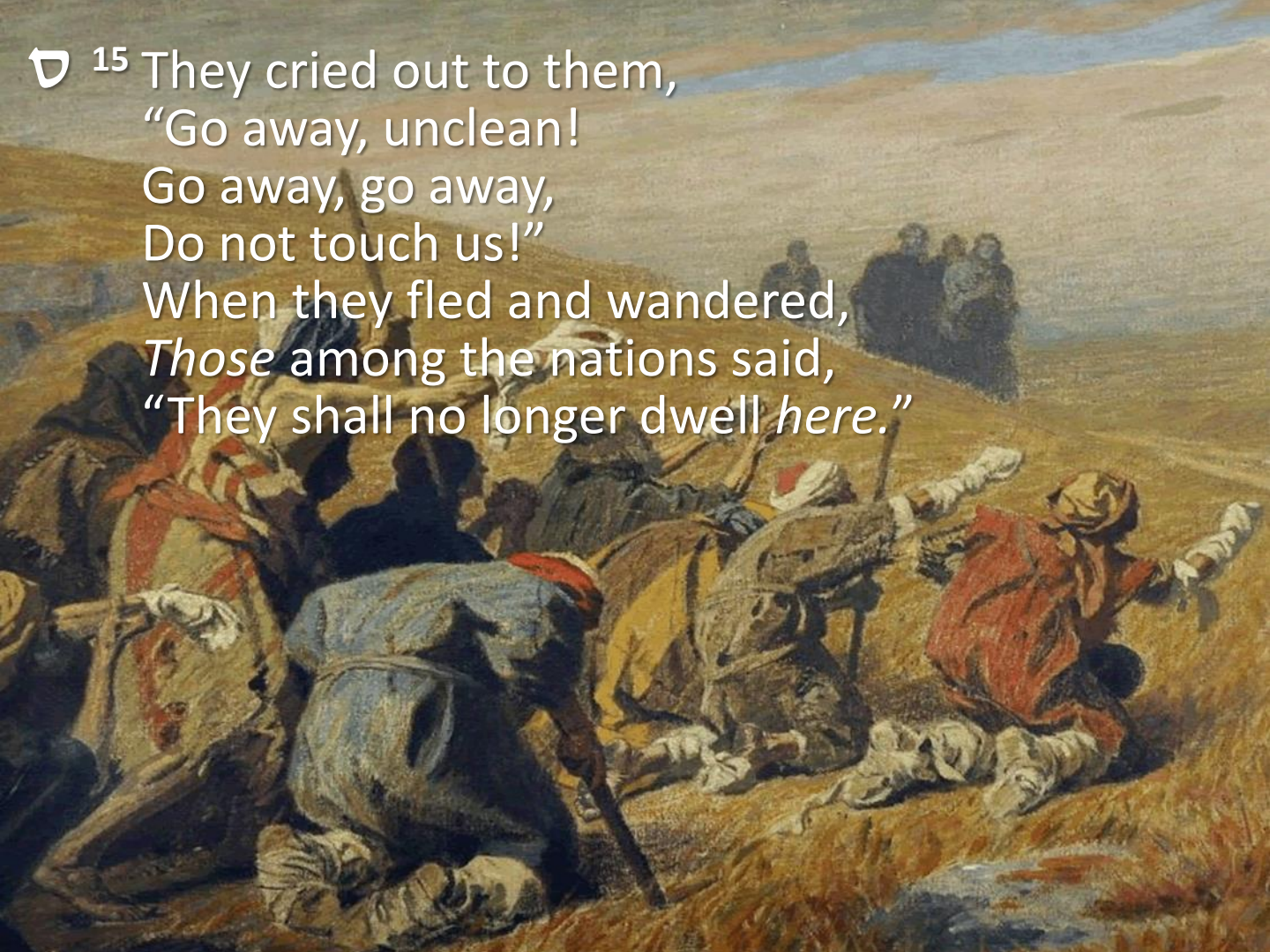
“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her!”

Matt. 23:37a

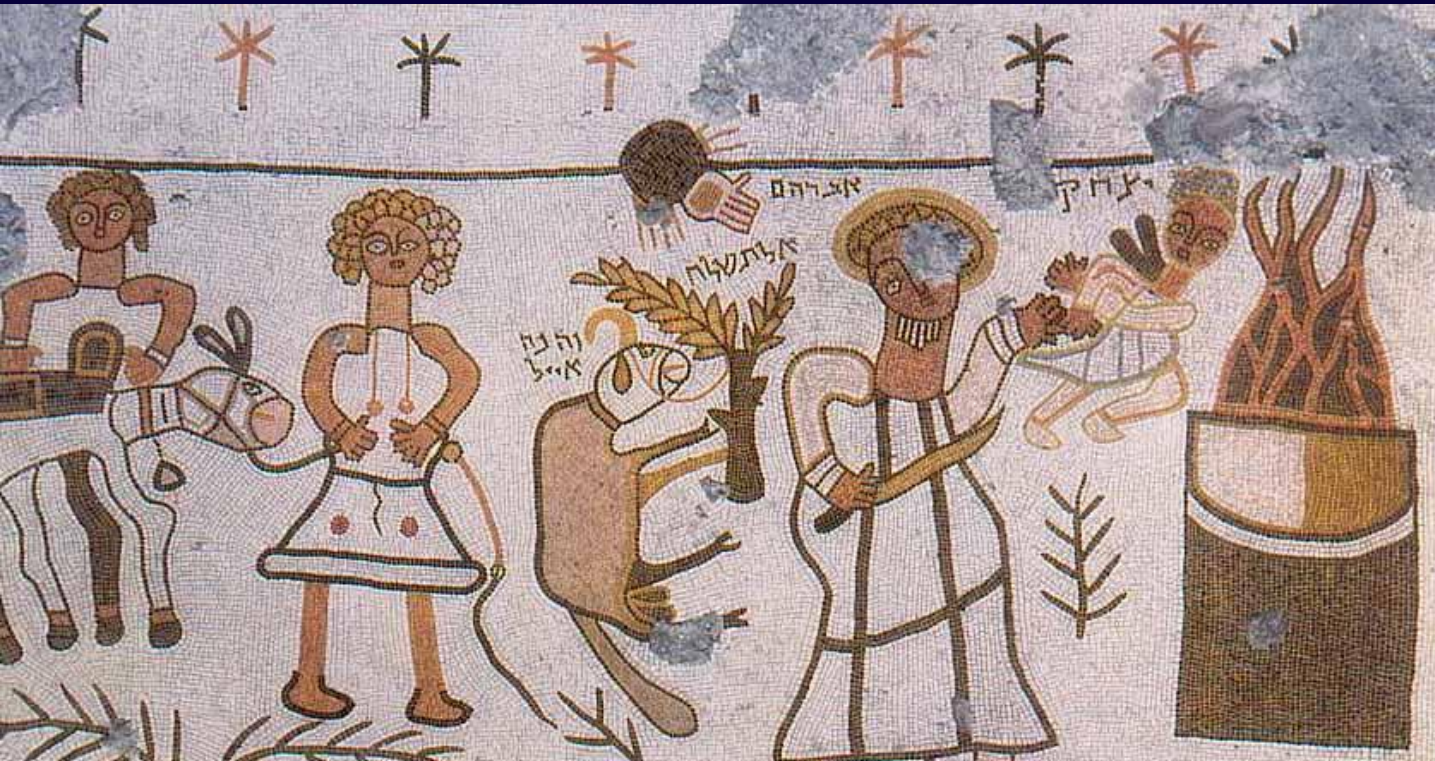
14 They wandered blind in the streets;
They have defiled themselves with blood,
So that no one would touch their garments.

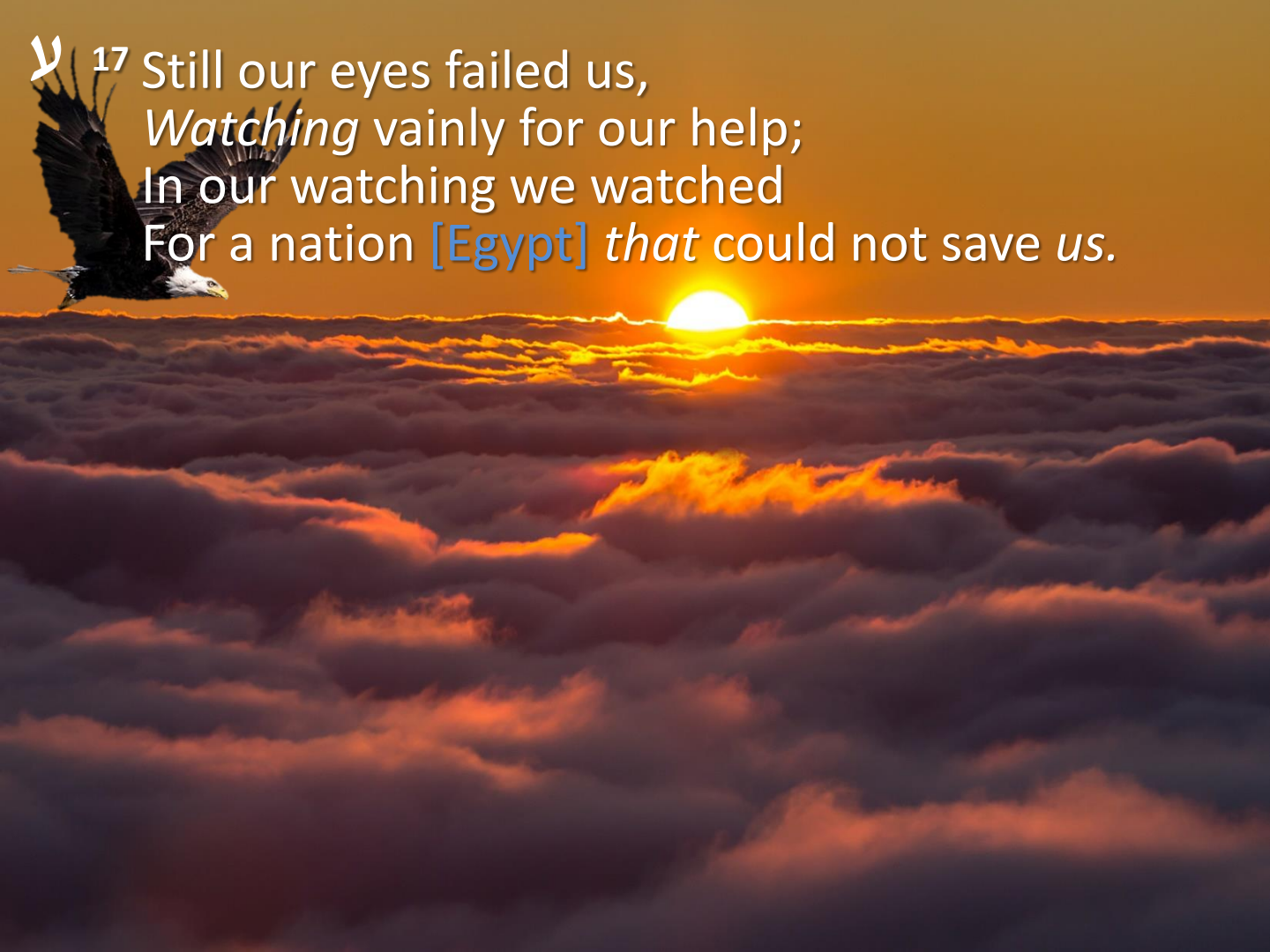


15 They cried out to them,
“Go away, unclean!
Go away, go away,
Do not touch us!”
When they fled and wandered,
Those among the nations said,
“They shall no longer dwell *here.*”




פ¹⁶ The face [פָּנִים, *anger*] of the LORD scattered them;
He no longer regards them.
*The people do not respect the priests
Nor show favor to the elders.*



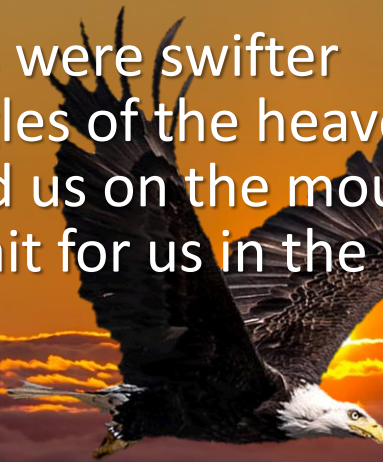
A bald eagle is shown in flight on the left side of the image, its wings spread wide. The background is a dramatic sunset or sunrise scene. The sun is a bright, glowing orb positioned just above a horizon line, which appears to be a sea of clouds. The clouds are illuminated from below, creating a rich palette of orange, red, and purple. The overall atmosphere is one of awe and contemplation.

17 Still our eyes failed us,
Watching vainly for our help;
In our watching we watched
For a nation [Egypt] *that* could not save *us*.

A bald eagle is shown in flight, its wings spread wide, flying over a vast expanse of clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow that illuminates the clouds and the eagle. The eagle's head is turned towards the right, and its talons are visible. The overall scene is dramatic and evocative, suggesting a sense of freedom and the end of a journey.

18 They tracked our steps
So that we could not walk in our streets.
Our end was near;
Our days were over,
For our end had come.

19 Our pursuers were swifter
Than the eagles of the heavens.
They pursued us on the mountains
And lay in wait for us in the wilderness.



↵ ²⁰ The breath of our nostrils, the anointed of
the LORD,
Was caught in their pits,
Of whom we said, “Under his shadow
We shall live among the nations.”



21 Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom,
You who dwell in the land of Uz!







21 Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom,
You who dwell in the land of Uz!
The cup shall also pass over to you
And you shall become drunk and make
yourself naked.



ת²² *The punishment of your iniquity is accomplished,*
O daughter of Zion;
He will no longer send you into captivity.
He will punish your iniquity,
O daughter of Edom;
He will uncover your sins! 9



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LAMENTATIONS



Fifth Song

A

Part 1 (5:1-4): “We have become orphans, fatherless; widowed are our mothers. (5:3)”

B

Part 2 (5:6-9): “Our fathers, who sinned, are no more; but we bear their guilt. (5:7)”

C

- A. To be forsaken
- B. Sins
- C. Lamentation

Part 3 (5:10-15): “The joy of our hearts has ceased, our dance has turned into mourning; (5:15)”

B'

Part 4 (5:16-18): “woe to us, for we have sinned! (5:16)”

A'

Part 5 (5:19-22): “Why, then, should you forget us, abandon us so long a time? (5:20)”



WHAT THE BIBLE IS ABOUT

LAMENTATIONS

CHAPTER 5

Prayer for Restoration



- 1 Remember, O LORD, what has come upon us;
Look, and behold our reproach!
- 2 Our inheritance has been turned over to aliens,
And our houses to foreigners.
- 3 We have become orphans and waifs,
Our mothers *are* like widows.

- 4 We pay for the water we drink,
And our wood comes at a price.
- 5 *They* pursue at our heels;
We labor *and* have no rest.
- 6 We have given our hand to the Egyptians
And the Assyrians, to be satisfied with bread.

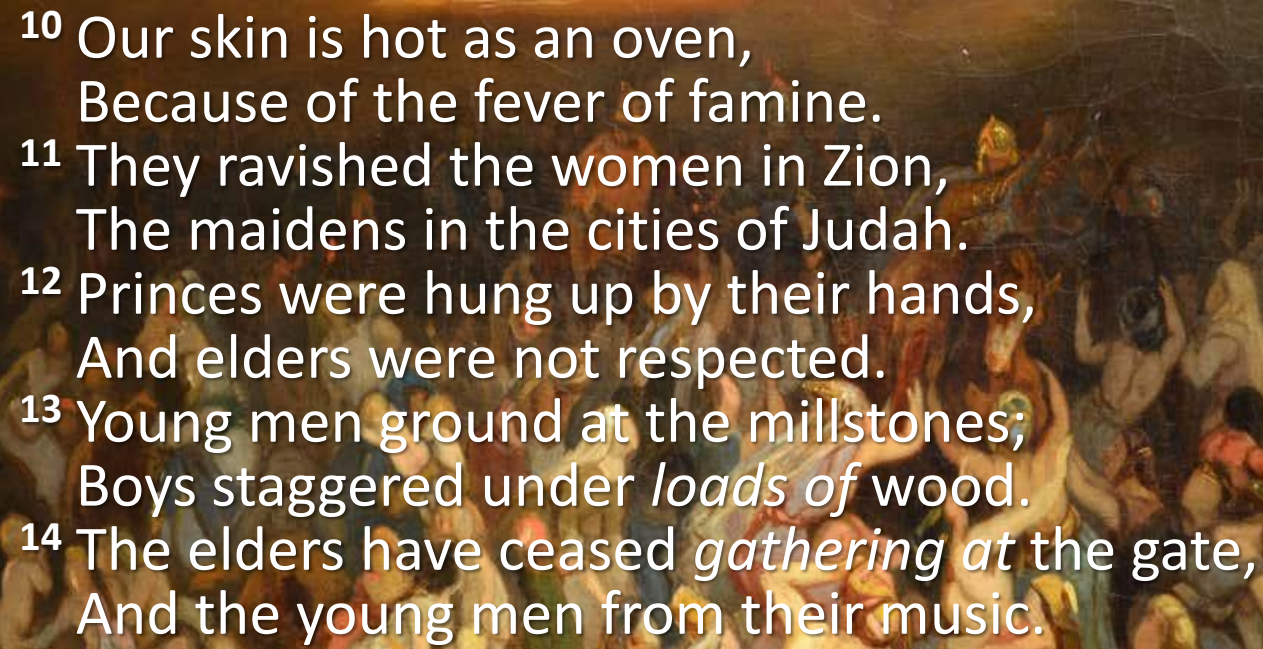


7 Our fathers sinned *and are* no more,
But we bear their iniquities.



- 8 Servants rule over us;
There is none to deliver us from their hand.
- 9 We get our bread *at the risk* of our lives,
Because of the sword in the wilderness.



- 
- 10 Our skin is hot as an oven,
Because of the fever of famine.
- 11 They ravished the women in Zion,
The maidens in the cities of Judah.
- 12 Princes were hung up by their hands,
And elders were not respected.
- 13 Young men ground at the millstones;
Boys staggered under *loads of wood*.
- 14 The elders have ceased *gathering at the gate*,
And the young men from their music.



שרים בידם נתכו פני זקנים לא מהזי
בהורים טחון נשאו ונערים בעץ משכו

15 The joy of our heart has ceased;
Our dance has turned into mourning.

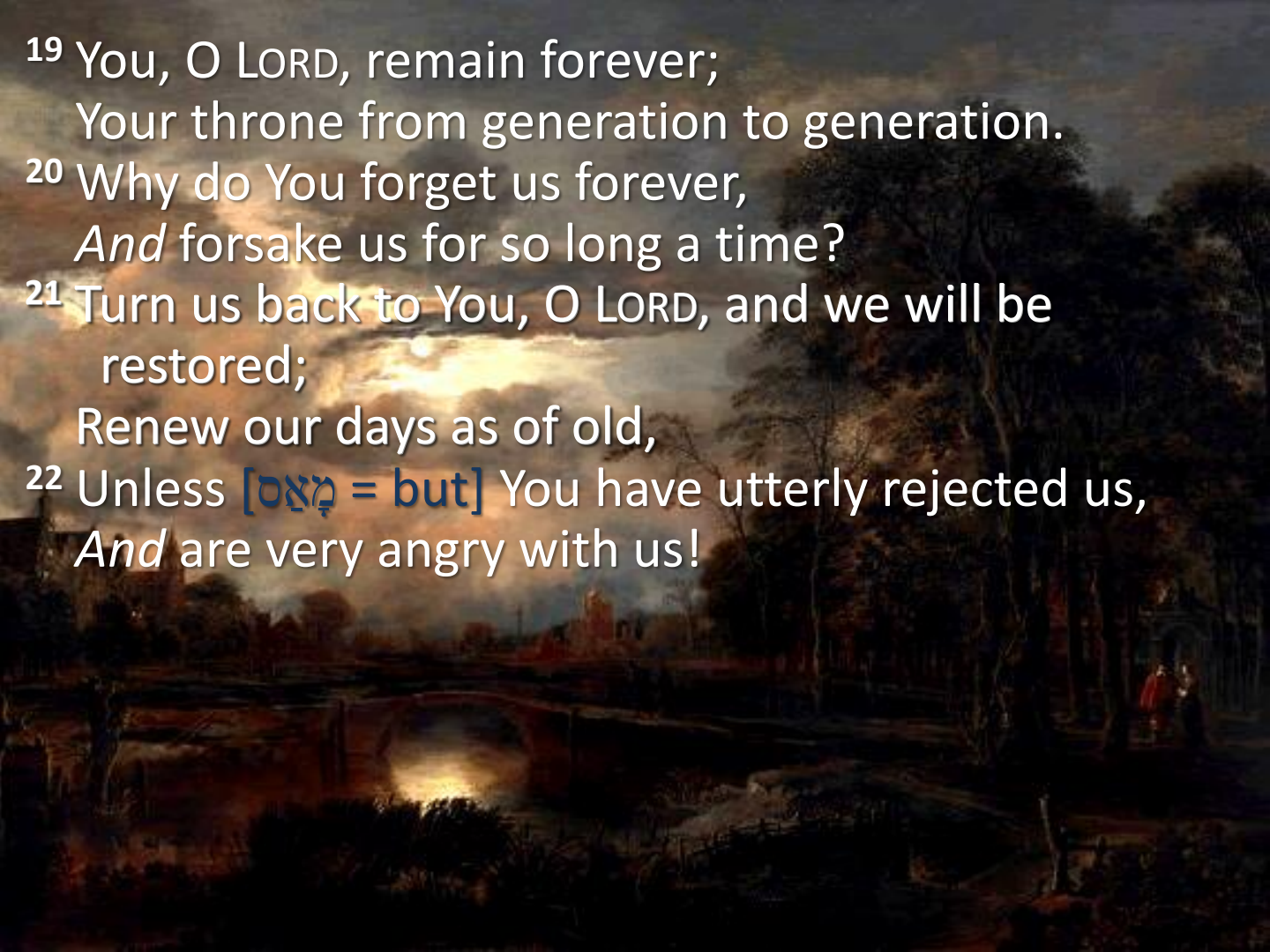
16 The crown has fallen *from* our head.
Woe to us, for we have sinned!

17 Because of this our heart is faint;
Because of these *things* our eyes grow dim;

18 Because of Mount Zion which is desolate,
With foxes walking about on it. פ

השיבנו יהוד | אליך ונשוב הדש
ימינו כקדם ; כי אם-מאס מאסתנו קצפת עלינו עד-מאד :
השיבנו יהוד אכך ונשובה הדש ימינו כקדם

“Renew our days as of old” by David Wander, 2011.

A dramatic landscape painting with a sunset or sunrise over a river and trees. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and a bright light source is breaking through, creating a golden glow. The river reflects the light, and the trees are silhouetted against the sky. In the distance, a small building or structure is visible. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

19 You, O LORD, remain forever;
Your throne from generation to generation.

20 Why do You forget us forever,
And forsake us for so long a time?

21 Turn us back to You, O LORD, and we will be
restored;
Renew our days as of old,

22 Unless [סאָן = but] You have utterly rejected us,
And are very angry with us!



²² But You have utterly rejected us,
And are very angry with us!

The Flight of the Prisoners, James Tissot, 1902

19 You, O LORD, remain forever;
Your throne from generation to generation.

20 Why do You forget us forever,
And forsake us for so long a time?

21 Turn us back to You, O LORD, and we will be
restored;

Renew our days.

אַתָּה יְהוָה לְעוֹלָם תֵּשֵׁב

22 Unless [מָאֵס = but] You have utterly rejected us,

And are very angry with us

כִּסְאֶךָ לְדָר וְדוֹר

לְמָה לְנִצַּח תִּשְׁכַּחֲנוּ

תִּעֲזָבֵנוּ לְאַרְךָ יָמִים:

19 You, O LORD, remain forever;
Your throne from generation
to generation.

אַתָּה יְהוָה לְעוֹלָם תִּשָּׁב
בְּסִיְאָךָ לְדֹר וָדֹר:

20 Why do You forget us forever,
And forsake us for so long a time?

לָמָּה לִנְצַח תִּשְׁכַּחֵנוּ
תַּעֲזֹבֵנוּ לְאַרְךָ יָמִים:

Yahweh is sovereign!

א Aleph— You, O Lord, rule for ever;

כ Kaf— Your throne is from generation to generation.

But O LORD do not abandon us!!

ל Lamed— Why do You forget us forever;

ת Tav— Why do You forsake us so long?

Can your theology handle Lamentations?

- 1 Do you have a theology where God can get really angry and show it?
- 2 Do you have a theology where man is really, really bad?
- 3 Do you have a theology that can deal with the fact that even the righteous can experience pain, weeping, and anguish of heart like Jeremiah did?
- 4 Do you have a theology where God's grace is really powerful and lavish - indeed, His grace is greater than the greatest of sin?

Linear analysis of Lamentations

| Chapter | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Lines | 66 | 66 | 66 | 44 | 22 | 264 |
| Acrostic Letters | 22 | 22 | 66 | 22 | 0 | 132 |

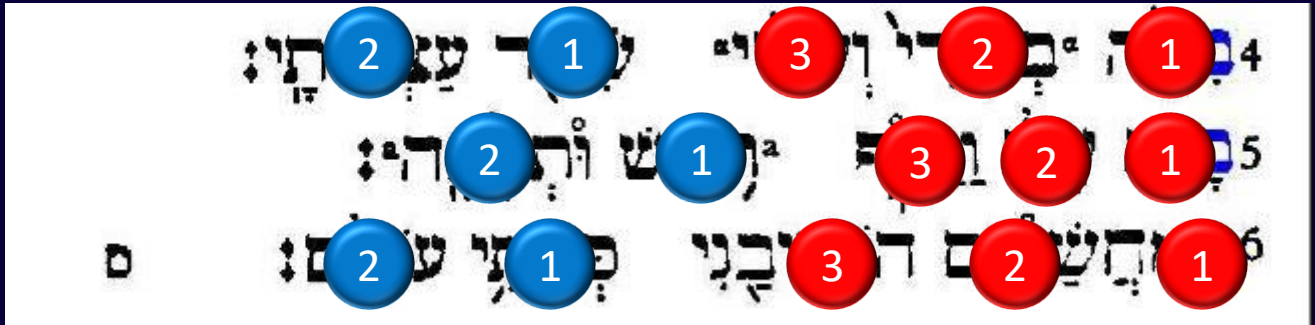
| Chapter | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|
| Acrostic Letters | 22 | 22 | 66 | 22 | 4 | N/A |
| In central theme | --- | --- | 66 | --- | 4 | 70 |
| In supporting themes | 22 | 22 | --- | 22 | 4 | 70 |

Two Groups of 70

- For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. (Jeremiah 29:10)
- This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. Then after seventy years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity, declares the LORD, making the land an everlasting waste. (Jeremiah 25:11-12)

The qinah rhythm of poetry

- Lamentations is expressed as a qinah, a funeral dirge.
- Each couplet of every verse follows the qinah rhythm of poetry. Qinah poetry has 3 accents and then 2 accents.



- This 3-2 limping rhythm gives it a weird dying feeling, a sense of incompleteness. It expresses the raw emotion of grief and sorrow, but in a strictly controlled manner.

Qinah pattern example

- Traditional (3/3) Hebrew verse:

^① The heavens/^② declare/^③ the glory of God

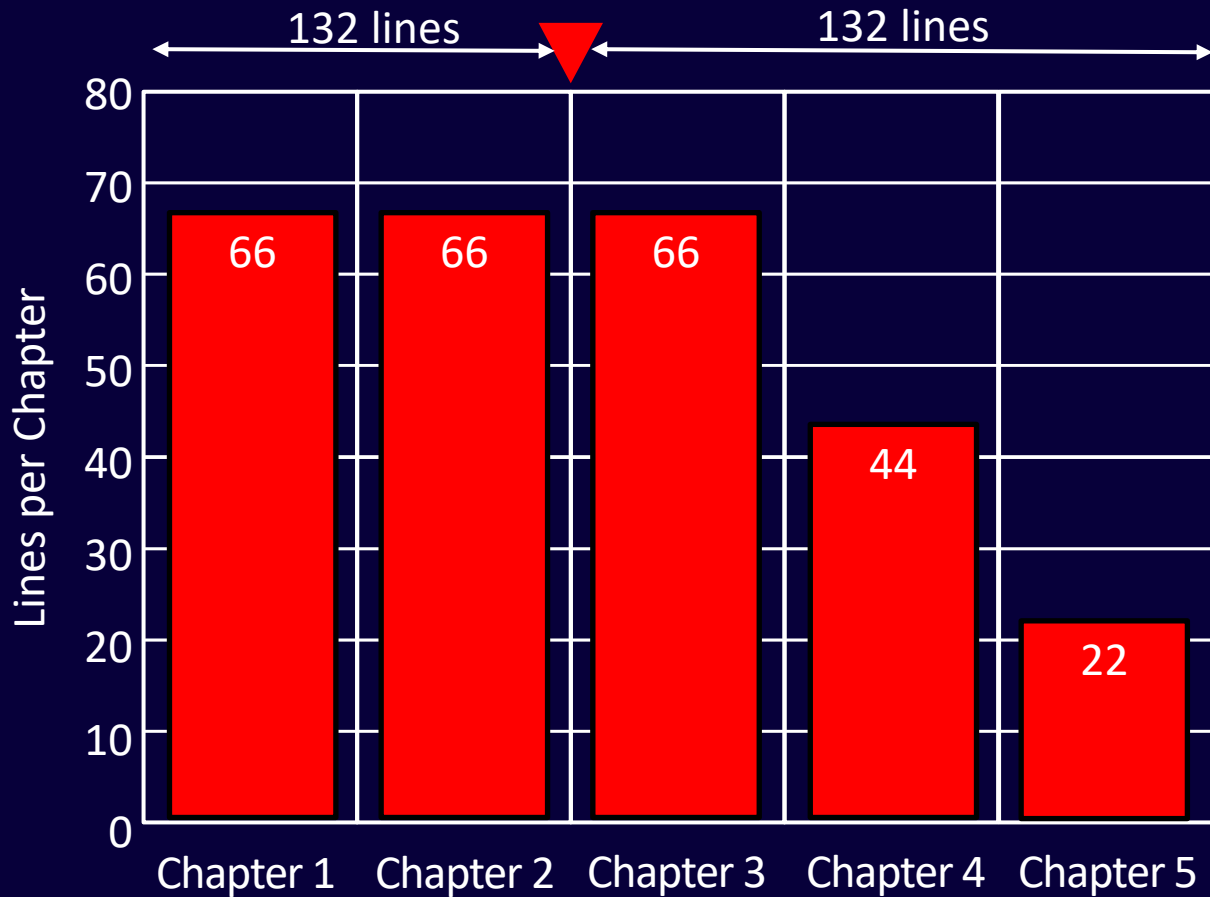
^① The firmament/^② sheweth/^③ his handywork

- The Lament or Eulogy (3/2) verse:

^① He hath inclosed/^② my ways/^③ with hewn stone,

^① He hath made crooked/^② my paths.

Lines per Chapter in Lamentations

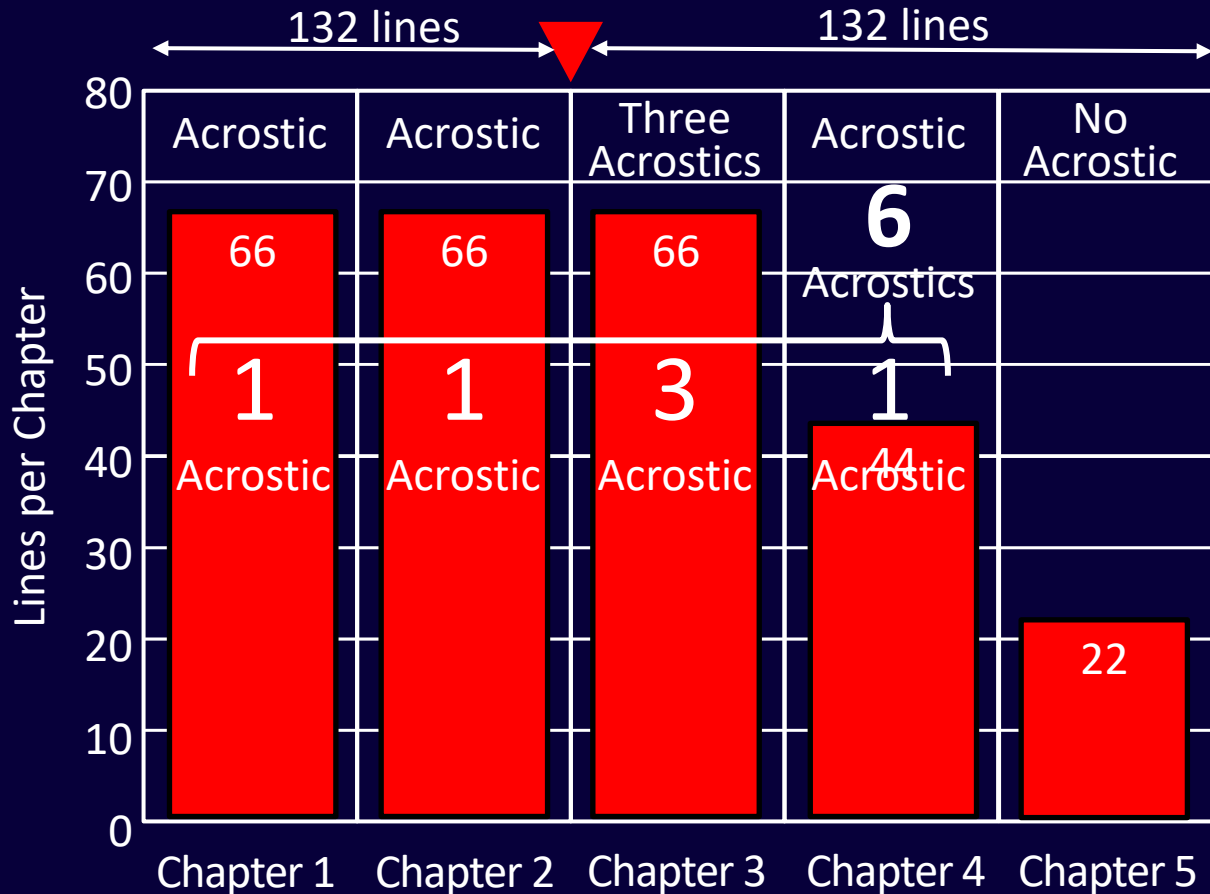


An interesting anomaly

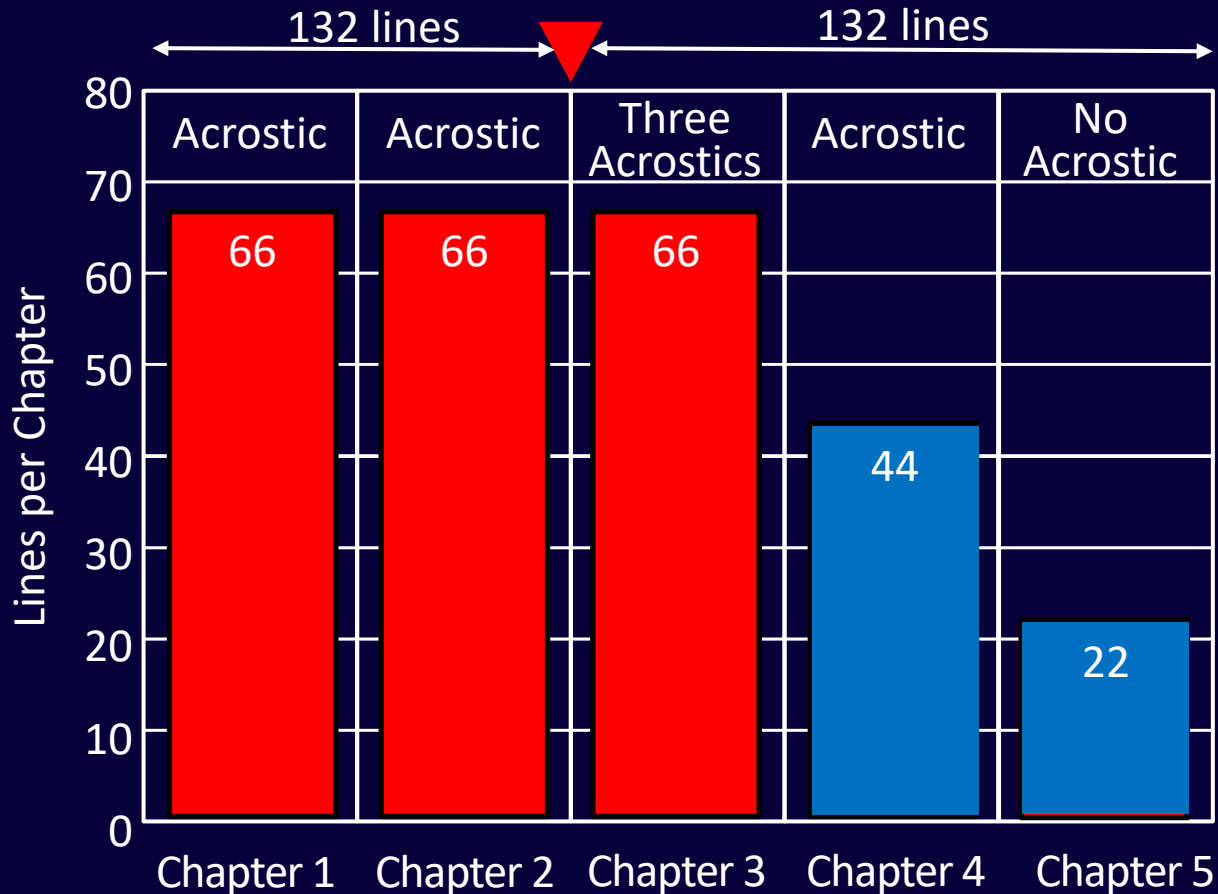
Standard
Hebrew
Alef-bet

| Present | | | Reflection on the Past | | | | | | | | Present | | |
|----------|--------|---|------------------------|--------|----------|----|----------|-----|----------|--------|---------|----|-----------------|
| Lament 1 | | | Lament 2 | | Lament 3 | | Lament 4 | | Lament 5 | | | | |
| 1 | Alef | א | 1 | Alef | א | 1 | Alef | א | 1 | Alef | א | 1 | |
| 2 | Bet | ב | 2 | Bet | ב | 2 | Bet | ב | 2 | Bet | ב | 2 | |
| 3 | Gimel | ג | 3 | Gimel | ג | 3 | Gimel | ג | 3 | Gimel | ג | 3 | |
| 4 | Dalet | ד | 4 | Dalet | ד | 4 | Dalet | ד | 4 | Dalet | ד | 4 | |
| 5 | He | ה | 5 | He | ה | 5 | He | ה | 5 | He | ה | 5 | |
| 6 | Vav | ו | 6 | Vav | ו | 6 | Vav | ו | 6 | Vav | ו | 6 | |
| 7 | Zayin | ז | 7 | Zayin | ז | 7 | Zayin | ז | 7 | Zayin | ז | 7 | |
| 8 | Chet | ח | 8 | Chet | ח | 8 | Chet | ח | 8 | Chet | ח | 8 | |
| 9 | Tet | ט | 9 | Tet | ט | 9 | Tet | ט | 9 | Tet | ט | 9 | |
| 10 | Yod | י | 10 | Yod | י | 10 | Yod | י | 10 | Yod | י | 10 | |
| 11 | Kaf | כ | 11 | Kaf | כ | 11 | Kaf | כ | 11 | Kaf | כ | 11 | |
| 12 | Lamed | ל | 12 | Lamed | ל | 12 | Lamed | ל | 12 | Lamed | ל | 12 | |
| 13 | Mem | מ | 13 | Mem | מ | 13 | Mem | מ | 13 | Mem | מ | 13 | |
| 14 | Nun | נ | 14 | Nun | נ | 14 | Nun | נ | 14 | Nun | נ | 14 | |
| 15 | Samech | ס | 15 | Samech | ס | 15 | Samech | ס | 15 | Samech | ס | 15 | |
| 16 | Ayin | ע | 16 | Pe | פ | 16 | Pe | פ | 16 | Pe | פ | 16 | |
| 17 | Pe | פ | 17 | Ayin | ע | 17 | Ayin | ע | 17 | Ayin | ע | 17 | |
| 18 | Tsade | צ | 18 | Tsade | צ | 18 | Tsade | צ | 18 | Tsade | צ | 18 | Ayin-Pe |
| 19 | Qof | ק | 19 | Qof | ק | 19 | Qof | ק | 19 | Qof | ק | 19 | Praise & Prayer |
| 20 | Resh | ר | 20 | Resh | ר | 20 | Resh | ר | 20 | Resh | ר | 20 | Alef-Kaf |
| 21 | Shin | ש | 21 | Shin | ש | 21 | Shin | ש | 21 | Shin | ש | 21 | Lamed-Tav |
| 22 | Tav | ת | 22 | Tav-Pe | פ-ת | 22 | Tav-Pe | פ-ת | 22 | Tav-Pe | פ-ת | 22 | 21-22 |

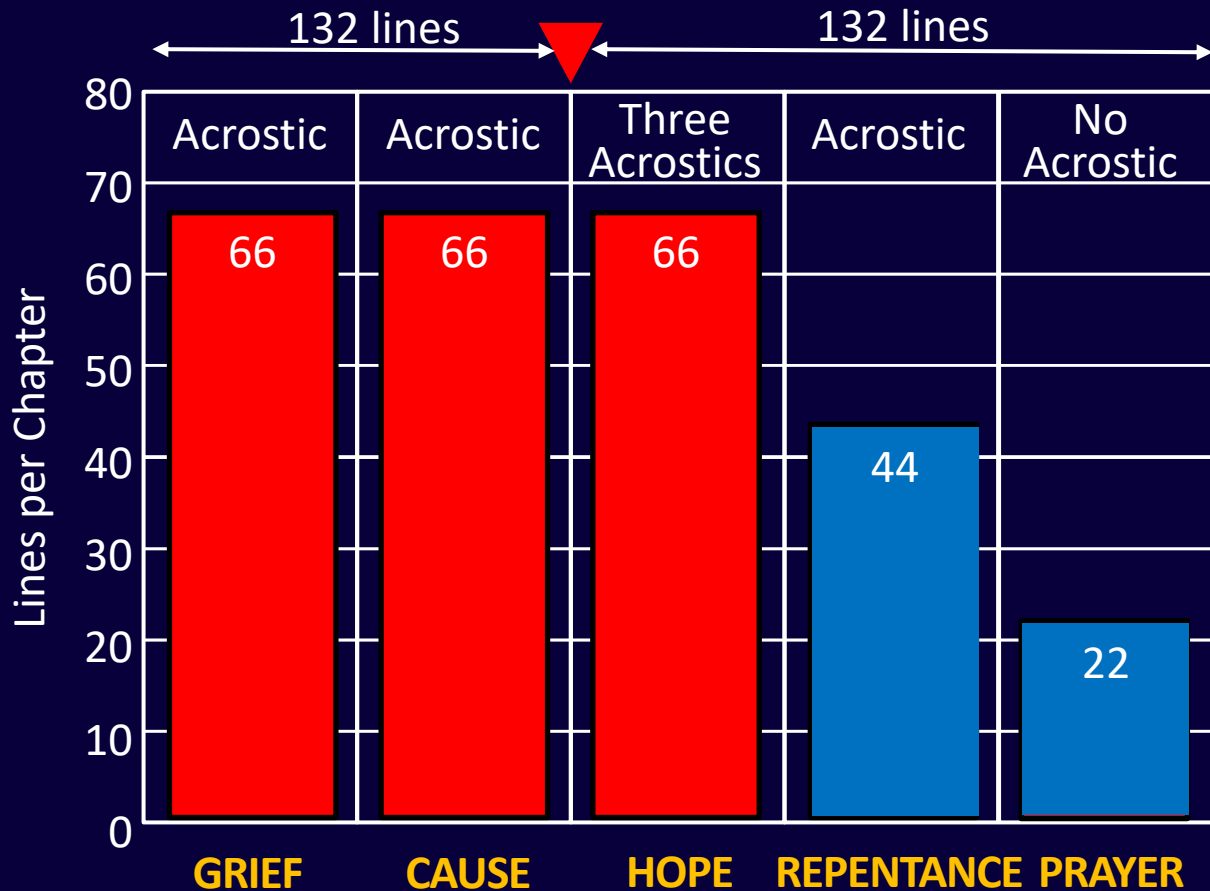
Lines per Chapter in Lamentations




Lines per Chapter in Lamentations



Lines per Chapter in Lamentations



The of the book of Lamentations

- A Zion desolate (Lamentations 1:1-11)
- B Zion betrayed (1:12-22)
- C YHVH's wrath did this (2:1-8)
- D All suffer, from princes to infants (2:9-12)
- E Exhortation to cry out to YHVH (2:13-22)
- F  YHVH afflicts in mercy (3:1-20)
- G YHVH's love and faithfulness (3:21-33)
- F' YHVH afflicts in mercy (3:33-39)
- E' Exhortation to cry out to YHVH (3:40-66)
- D' All suffer, from princes to infants (4:1-10)
- C' YHVH's wrath did this (4:11-16)
- B' Zion betrayed (4:17-22)
- A' Zion desolate (5:1-22)

The of the book of Lamentations

A Zion desolate (Lamentations 1:1-11)

B Zion betrayed (1:12-22)

C

D

E

F

G

F'

E'

D'

C'

B' Zion betrayed (4:17-22)

A' Zion desolate (5:1-22)

What we gained at the center of the book, from our text, we are allowed to carry out with us. We walked through a desolate wilderness, found a great treasure, and are invited to carry that treasure out . . . through a desolate wilderness.

12)

3-22)

3:21-33)

0-66)

10)

Lessons from Lamentations

1 God is Sovereign over the events of men.

2 Suffering sometimes comes from the chastening hand of God.

3 God can use humans to execute His judgement.

4 Sin brings forth tragic consequences.

5 The proper response to sin is to repent and request forgiveness.

6 Because of God's great love, His people are never without hope even in darkness.

7 People can see and experience God even through pain.

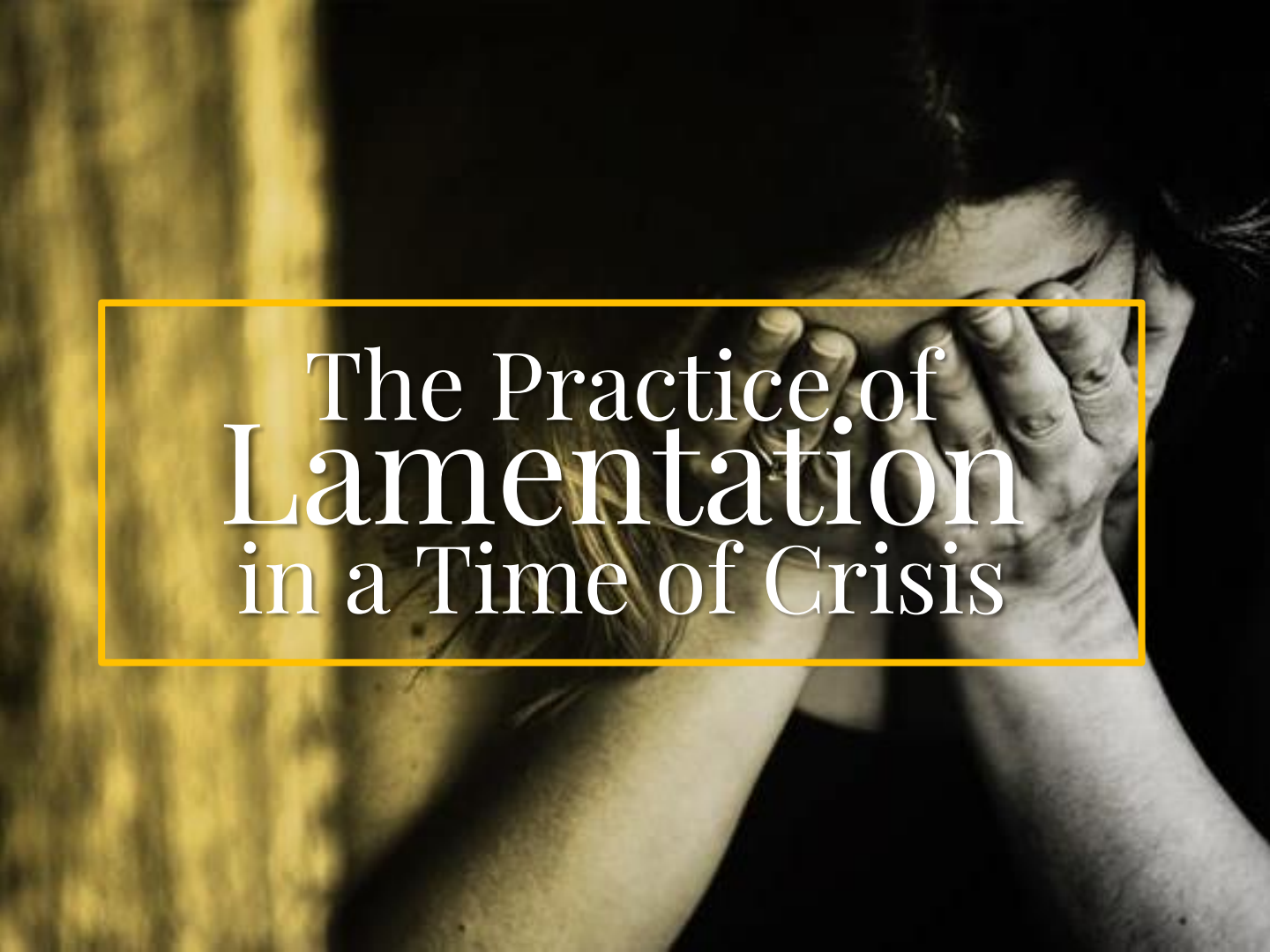


TISHA B'AV
A TIME TO MOURN

Recitation

- Lamentations is recited annually by Jews on the fast day of Tisha B'Av ("Ninth of Av"), mourning the destruction of both the First Temple by Babylon in 587 BC and the Second Temple by Rome in AD 70.
- In presentations of the Scroll of Lamentations (*Megillat Eikhah*), the voices of the many characters voices interact, producing a drama, or rather a series of dramas, from within the dialogues of which the text is composed.



A close-up photograph of a person's face, partially obscured by their hands as they cover their eyes. The person appears to be in a state of deep emotional distress, grief, or despair. The lighting is dramatic, with a strong yellowish-gold glow on the left side, possibly from a window or a light source, creating a somber and poignant atmosphere. The background is dark and out of focus.

The Practice of
Lamentation
in a Time of Crisis

A beneficial and liberating experience!

- God laments with us when we come to His Presence in our anger, fear, loneliness, pain, and confusion.

- We can follow the structure of lamenting psalms:

1 Begin with a cry that things aren't as they should be.

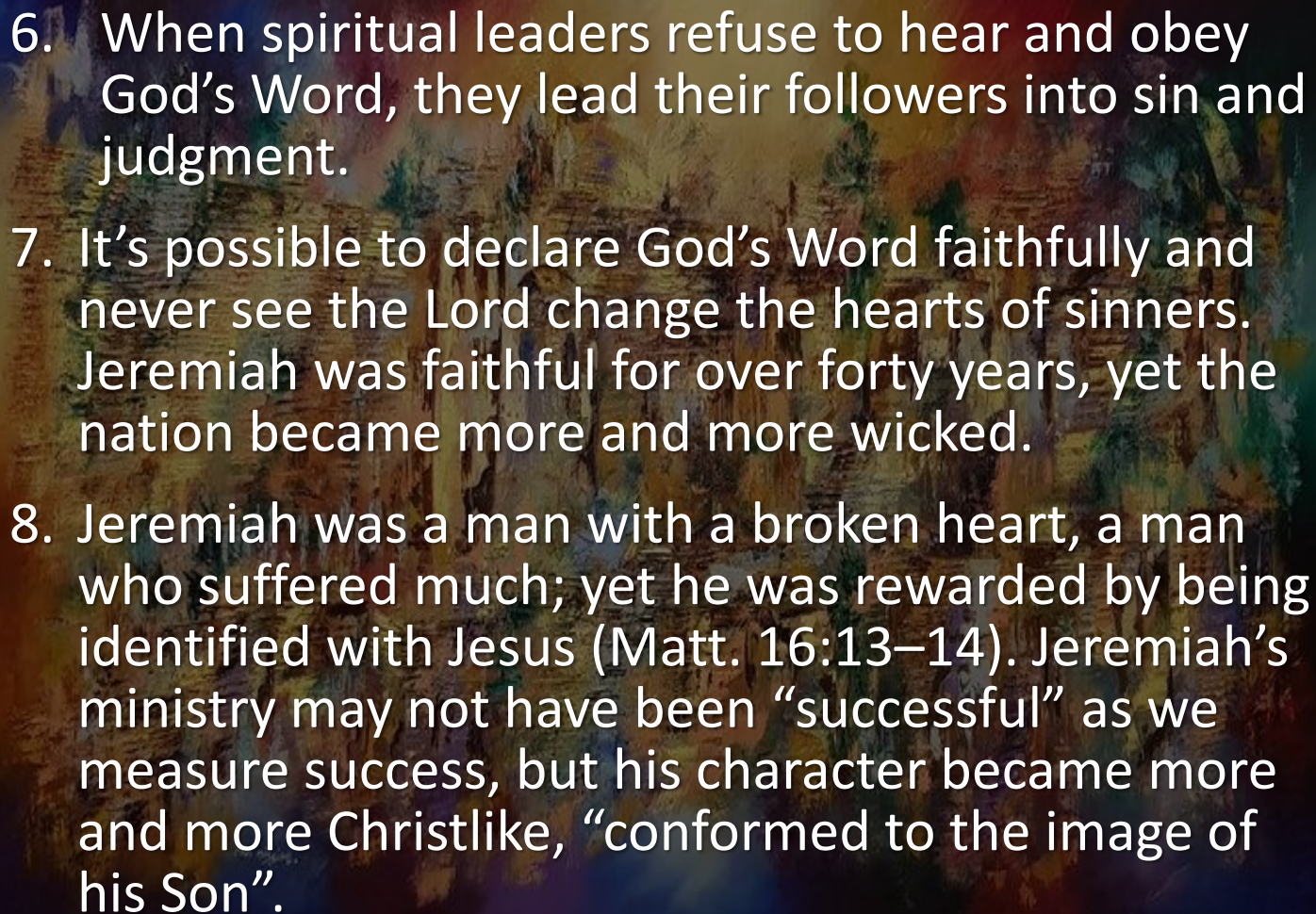
2 Turn this to a request. God, do something! Rescue me! Heal me! Restore me! Show mercy!

3 End with an expression of trust; e.g., reminder that God will set things right in His own way and time.

- Perhaps the best of many prayers of lament is Psalm 22, which Christ in His agony quoted from on the Cross.

Living Lessons

1. Privilege brings responsibility, and responsibility involves accountability.
2. God is longsuffering, but there comes a time when He must chasten His people.
3. When the blessings He gives are taken for granted and used selfishly, He takes those blessings from us. To enjoy the gifts but ignore the Giver is idolatry.
4. God is always faithful to the terms of His covenant, either to bless because we have obeyed, or to chasten because we have not.
5. When parents sin, the children also suffer.

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6. When spiritual leaders refuse to hear and obey God's Word, they lead their followers into sin and judgment.
 7. It's possible to declare God's Word faithfully and never see the Lord change the hearts of sinners. Jeremiah was faithful for over forty years, yet the nation became more and more wicked.
 8. Jeremiah was a man with a broken heart, a man who suffered much; yet he was rewarded by being identified with Jesus (Matt. 16:13–14). Jeremiah's ministry may not have been "successful" as we measure success, but his character became more and more Christlike, "conformed to the image of his Son".

MIERV. S/ALCO

FINIS

LAMENTATIONS

