

Lamentations Ch 2

Lam 2:1-9:

What the Lord has done

Lam 2:1-9 How the Lord in his anger has set the daughter of Zion under a cloud! He has cast down from heaven to earth the splendor of Israel; he has not remembered his footstool in the day of his anger. **2** The Lord has swallowed up without mercy all the habitations of Jacob; in his wrath he has broken down the strongholds of the daughter of Judah; he has brought down to the ground in dishonor the kingdom and its rulers. **3** He has cut down in fierce anger all the might of Israel; he has withdrawn from them his right hand in the face of the enemy; he has burned like a flaming fire in Jacob, consuming all around.

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4 He has bent his bow like an enemy, with his right hand set like a foe; and he has killed all who were delightful in our eyes in the tent of the daughter of Zion; he has poured out his fury like fire. **5** The Lord has become like an enemy; he has swallowed up Israel; he has swallowed up all its palaces; he has laid in ruins its strongholds, and he has multiplied in the daughter of Judah mourning and lamentation. **6** He has laid waste his booth like a garden, laid in ruins his meeting place; the LORD has made Zion forget festival and Sabbath, and in his fierce indignation has spurned king and priest.

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7 The Lord has scorned his altar, disowned his sanctuary; he has delivered into the hand of the enemy the walls of her palaces; they raised a clamor in the house of the LORD as on the day of festival. **8** The LORD determined to lay in ruins the wall of the daughter of Zion; he stretched out the measuring line; he did not restrain his hand from destroying; he caused rampart and wall to lament; they languished together. **9** Her gates have sunk into the ground; he has ruined and broken her bars; her king and princes are among the nations; the law is no more, and her prophets find no vision from the LORD.

Lam 2:1-9:

What the Lord has done

- ▶ **Lam 2:2** The Lord has swallowed up without mercy all the habitations of Jacob...
- ▶ **Lam 2:3** He has cut down in fierce anger all the might of Israel...
- ▶ **Lam 2:5** The Lord has become like an enemy; he has swallowed up Israel...
- ▶ **Lam 2:8** The LORD determined to lay in ruins the wall of the daughter of Zion...

Lam 2:1-9: What the Lord has done

- ▶ **Jer 4:6** Raise a signal flag as a warning for Jerusalem: Flee now, do not delay! For I am bringing terrible destruction upon you from the north

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Lam 2:2:

God's Character –Merciful?

- ▶ **Lam 2:2** The Lord has swallowed up **without mercy** all the habitations of Jacob...
- ▶ **Eph 2:4-5** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved
- ▶ **Psa 69:16** Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good; according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.

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God's Character –Merciful?

- ▶ **Exo 34:6-7** The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, **7** keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

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God's Character –Merciful?

- ▶ **2Pe 3:9-10** The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. **10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Lam 2:10-17: What Israel feels

Lam 2:10-17 The elders of the daughter of Zion sit on the ground in silence; they have thrown dust on their heads and put on sackcloth; the young women of Jerusalem have bowed their heads to the ground. **11** My eyes are spent with weeping; my stomach churns; my bile is poured out to the ground because of the destruction of the daughter of my people, because infants and babies faint in the streets of the city. **12** They cry to their mothers, “Where is bread and wine?” as they faint like a wounded man in the streets of the

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city, as their life is poured out on their mothers' bosom. **13** What can I say for you, to what compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? What can I liken to you, that I may comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For your ruin is vast as the sea; who can heal you? **14** Your prophets have seen for you false and deceptive visions; they have not exposed your iniquity to restore your fortunes, but have seen for you oracles that are false and misleading. **15** All who pass along the way clap their hands at you; they hiss and wag their

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heads at the daughter of Jerusalem: “Is this the city that was called the perfection of beauty, the joy of all the earth?” **16** All your enemies rail against you; they hiss, they gnash their teeth, they cry: “We have swallowed her! Ah, this is the day we longed for; now we have it; we see it!” **17** The LORD has done what he purposed; he has carried out his word, which he commanded long ago; he has thrown down without pity; he has made the enemy rejoice over you and exalted the might of your foes.

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- ▶ **Lam 2:14** Your prophets have seen for you false and deceptive visions; they have not exposed your iniquity to restore your fortunes, but have seen for you oracles that are false and misleading.
- ▶ **Jer 2:8** The priests did not say, 'Where is the LORD?' Those who handle the law did not know me; the shepherds transgressed against me; **the prophets prophesied by Baal and went after things that do not profit.**

Lam 2:18-22:

Israel's response and prayer

Lam 2:18-22 Their heart cried to the Lord. O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears stream down like a torrent day and night! Give yourself no rest, your eyes no respite! **19** “Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the night watches! Pour out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord! Lift your hands to him for the lives of your children, who faint for hunger at the head of every street.” **20** Look, O LORD, and see! With whom have you dealt thus? Should women eat the fruit of their womb, the



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children of their tender care? Should priest and prophet be killed in the sanctuary of the Lord? **21** In the dust of the streets lie the young and the old; my young women and my young men have fallen by the sword; you have killed them in the day of your anger, slaughtering without pity. **22** You summoned as if to a festival day my terrors on every side, and on the day of the anger of the LORD no one escaped or survived; those whom I held and raised my enemy destroyed.

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Israel's response and prayer

▶ **Lam 2:20-22** Look, O LORD, and see!...

Lam 2

Conclusion

- ▶ God is the same today, in the past and in the future
- ▶ God is both merciful and just
- ▶ The time to spread the Good News about God's mercy through Jesus Christ is now.