



“The Risk of Sin”

Lamentations 1:10-15

January 3, 2021

- Job is a book about undeserved suffering. Job had done nothing to bring his problems on himself. Lamentations is a book about deserved suffering. Jerusalem had brought her problems on herself.
- Jerusalem gambled with her sin. She took a chance, she took a risk. She lost. Every time we sin we take a chance as well. And we lose every time.

Jerusalem sits alone because of her sin . . .

- Vs. 1 She has lost her people.
- Vs. 2 She has lost her friends.
- Vs. 3 She has lost her place of rest.
- Vs. 4 She has lost her worship.
- Vs. 5 She has lost her freedom.
- Vs. 6 She has lost her courage.
- Vs. 7 She has lost her prosperity.
- Vs. 8 She has lost her dignity.
- Vs. 9 She has lost her future.

Lam 1:10-15

**10 The adversary has stretched out his hand
Over all her precious things,
For she has seen the nations enter her sanctuary,
The ones whom You commanded
That they should not enter into Your congregation.**

**11 All her people groan seeking bread;
They have given their precious things for food
To restore their lives themselves.**

"See, O Lord, and look,
For I am despised."

**12 "Is it nothing to all you who pass this way?
Look and see if there is any pain like my pain
Which was severely dealt out to me,
Which the Lord inflicted on the day of His fierce anger.**

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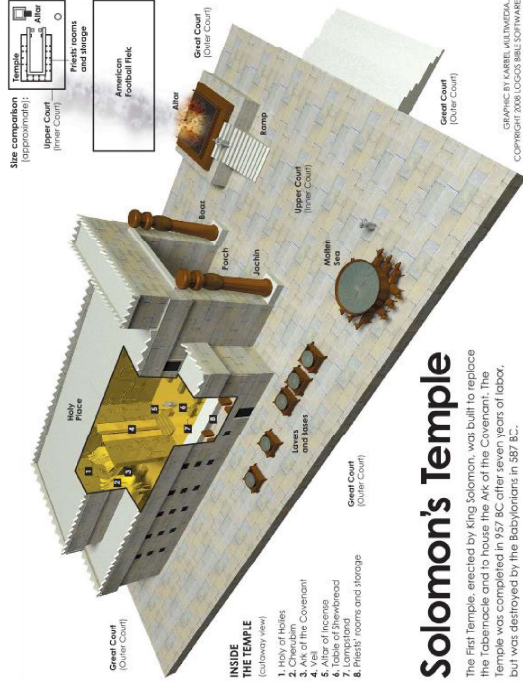
For she has seen the nations enter her sanctuary,

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Vs. 10 SHE HAS LOST HER PURITY.

- Remember the spiritual imagery the Bible uses to describe Jerusalem in her sin, her idolatry, her unfaithfulness – she is a harlot, she is a prostitute and she gives herself (even pays others) for her acts of prostitution. She gets taken advantage of by every pagan nation.
- Now read verse 10 with that in mind. Here, her enemy (Babylon) is violating her against her will.
- Babylon has her hands all over Jerusalem. Babylon is entering Jerusalem’s most private sacred parts – her sanctuary. This is spiritual rape.



Solomon's Temple

The First Temple, erected by King Solomon, was built to replace the Tabernacle and to house the Ark of the Covenant. The Temple was completed in 957 BC after seven years of labor, but was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 BC.

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- Babylon has her hands all over Jerusalem. Babylon is entering Jerusalem's most private sacred parts – her sanctuary. This is spiritual rape.
- God is saying, "Jerusalem, you want to give yourself to anyone and everyone. But I am going to bring along one that is not going to be so nice. In fact he is going to forcefully take from you what he wants and violate you in the depths of your being."
- Even in our day, to let a foreign enemy to enter the capitol of a nation and desecrate it, would be one of the worst things that could happen to a nation.
- When Jerusalem was destroyed, all that was sacred became irrelevant. People who had no rights to come near the inner sanctuary, walked right in and treated the most sacred place on earth as if it were a compost heap.
- The greatest fight you will ever face in your life, is the war against sin and it's entrance into your heart.

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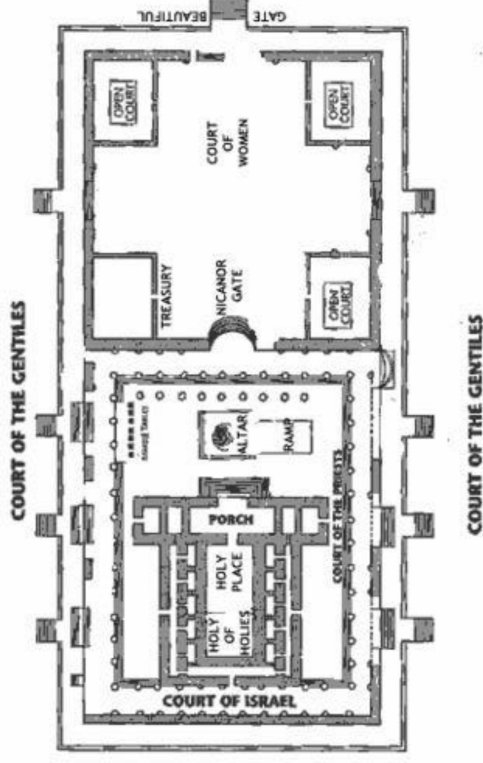
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Vs. 11 SHE HAS LOST HER ABILITY TO SURVIVE.

- Bread is the basic staple of life. It is used 492 times in the Bible.
- Jerusalem's sin had led her to a place of desperation for bread. Maybe a pound of gold for a crust of bread.
- Reminds us of the 7 year Tribulation. 3rd Seal judgment/Black horse –

Rev 6:6

- 6 ... "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius;
- But they cry out to God in desperation, but it is too late.
- Sin can make you desperate.



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VS. 12 SHE HAS LOST HER WORTH.

- Notice the change – it is Jerusalem that is now speaking. Strange to have a dead corpse sit up and start speaking at their funeral.
- We have been on the outside looking in (Jeremiah 1-11). Now from the inside looking out (Jerusalem 12-22)
- No one pays any attention to Jerusalem. They ignore what has happened to her. They couldn't care less.
- She has been stripped, she is naked, she is worth nothing.
- She is in pain and no one cares.
- This is an unsympathetic world looking upon Jerusalem's misery and regarded it as nothing. Happens every day.
- But notice the source of inflicted pain – not the Babylonians, but "the Lord."
- When you fall into sin and the discipline of God, don't be surprised if no one seems to care.

13 "From on high He sent fire into my bones,

And it prevailed over them.

He has spread a net for my feet;

He has turned me back;

He has made me desolate,

Faint all day long.

VS. 13 SHE HAS LOST HER PROTECTED POSITION.

- Jeremiah will now use 4 metaphors in the next 3 verses to describe God's judgment on Jerusalem:
 1. Fire. (13a)
 2. Net. (13b)
 3. Yoke. (14)
 4. Winepress. (15)
- Jerusalem describes her burned city as "fire sent into her bones."
- Jerusalem was captured as a bird in a net or to hold back captured men during war.
- Notice the 4 times "he" is used.
- It was God who sent the fire and spread the net and there was no escape.
- Nor will there be for us a way of escape from the disciplinary hand of God for our sin. We are no longer protected from Him.

14 "The yoke of my transgressions is bound;

By His hand they are knit together.

They have come upon my neck;

He has made my strength fail.

The Lord has given me into the hands

Of those against whom I am not able to stand.

VS. 14 SHE HAS LOST HER STRENGTH.

- The 3rd metaphor is a "yoke."
- The Lord had put Jerusalem into a yoke like an ox.
- Note the change in Hebrew names from Yahweh to Adonai.
- She had lost her freedom. Now someone else was controlling her. She no longer had the strength to resist.
- Jerusalem was like a trapped, blocked, empty, and exhausted ox.
- Unchecked sin can so bind us that all power to overcome it is spent and gone, leaving the believer in a weakened condition.
- That is how sin works: it promises liberation, but yields slavery. It promises unlimited freedom, and yields terrible servitude; it promises great joy, and produces bitter sorrow.

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15 "The Lord has rejected all my strong men In my midst;

He has called an appointed time against me

To crush my young men;

The Lord has trodden as in a wine press

The virgin daughter of Judah.

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Vs. 15 SHE HAS LOST HER LIFE.

- The 4th metaphor Jeremiah uses is a winepress.
- A winepress was used to squeeze all of the juice out of the grape and discard the husk into a heap.
- It does not matter how young or strong the grapes are. They will be crushed and emptied of all of their juice.
- Jerusalem had strong, young men but they were no match for the winepress of God.
- God "squeezed" the life out of Jerusalem by using the Babylonian army, and left her vulnerable for capture.
- Don't ever think you are a match for God and His might. He knows how to "crush" us and bring us to repentance.

How does this apply to me?

1. Sin is a violation of your sanctified walk with God.
2. Sin can rob you of physical necessities.
3. Sin produces the pain of isolation and loneliness.
4. Sin creates the corner that God puts you in.
5. Sin is a burden that will drain you of your strength.
6. Sin will "crush" your spiritual life.
7. Sin, unrestrained, will result in spiritual captivity.

"The payment for sins can be delayed,
but it cannot be avoided."

- Shawn Ryan