



“Sin and Its Price”

Lamentations 5:1-10

March 21, 2021

Lam 5:1-10

1 Remember, O Lord, what has befallen us;

Look, and see our reproach!

2 Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers,
Our houses to aliens.

3 We have become orphans without a father,
Our mothers are like widows.

4 We have to pay for our drinking water,
Our wood comes to us at a price.

5 Our pursuers are at our necks;

We are worn out, there is no rest for us.

6 We have submitted to Egypt and Assyria to get enough bread.

7 Our fathers sinned, and are no more;

It is we who have borne their iniquities.

8 Slaves rule over us;

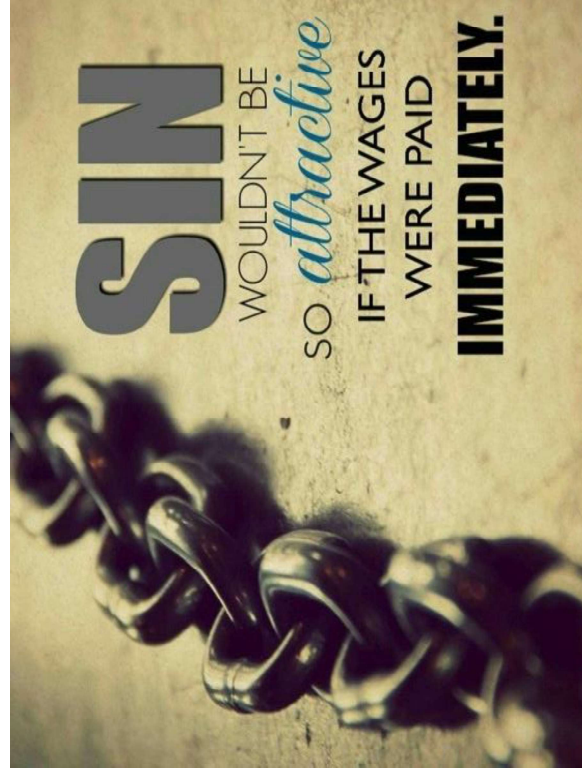
There is no one to deliver us from their hand.

9 We get our bread at the risk of our lives

Because of the sword in the wilderness.

10 Our skin has become as hot as an oven,

Because of the burning heat of famine.



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James 5:13

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray.

Notice what Jeremiah is implying by what he is saying:

“There is nothing that You have handed out that I do not deserve.”

“There is nothing that I have received that is unjust.”

“For Your judgments are always righteous.”

• Therefore “Remember”, “Look”, and “See”.

• Here is a plea for God to take notice of their condition.

• Jeremiah is afraid God has forgotten them.

• Do you ever find yourself in a position of thinking God has forgotten you?

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The price of sin:

1. Inheritance.

- The land and houses God gave to the tribes of Israel under the Abrahamic Covenant as an inheritance was now in the control of foreigners.
- All of the rich and valuable property and buildings, including the Temple, that had been handed down from past generations, was now handed over to a foreign nation, who had absolutely no regard for the worth of any of it.
- Even more so, what about future generations that will receive no future inheritance.
- Think if that were true – you would have to forget the major and minor prophets and a lot of the book of Revelation, who promise a rich inheritance for saved Israel.

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1 Peter 1:3-4

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

3 We have become orphans without a father, Our mothers are like widows.

2. Security.

- Jeremiah feels the loneliness.
- He feels abandoned.
- Who will take care of Israel?
- Jeremiah must have thought, "I knew it was going to be bad, I just didn't know it would be this bad."

Heb 13:5

5 For He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"

Rom 8:15-17

15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear, again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

17 and if children, heirs also,

4 We have to pay for our drinking water,

Our wood comes to us at a price.

3. Everyday necessities.

- In their own land, which was a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths, had wells of water of their own, and water freely and in abundance, they now had to purchase water.
- Wood, which was abundant and free for building and for warmth from a fire, now came at a price.
- Rewind back to the garden of Eden. Same thing. What once was free, abundant, and easily obtained now required labor, and sweat, and frustration, and worry.
- Oh what a big price sin makes us pay!

Phil 4:19

19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Matt 6:25

25 "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on.

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4. Rest.

- "The enemy is breathing down our necks and we are worn out from running from them."
- Israel is exhausted.
- Sin and its consequences can take its toll on you.

Matt 11:28

28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

Heb 4:1,3,11

- 1 Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.
- 3 For we who have believed enter that rest,
- 11 Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.

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5. Compromise.

- Treaties with Assyria and Egypt had promised military protection and financial gain, but, in the end, such alliances proved worthless.
 - Sin always requires the compromise of biblical, godly standards.
- 2 Cor 6:14-16**
- 14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?
 - 15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?
 - 16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols?

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What about “Generational Curses?”

Generational Blessings

Gen 12:2-3

- 2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great;
 - And so you shall be a blessing;
 - 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse.
- And in you **all the families of the earth will be blessed.**”

- When it comes to blessing, God thinks in terms of individuals and generations.

7 Our fathers sinned, and are no more; It is we who have borne their iniquities.

6. A burden on future generations.

- The punishment which the Jewish nation had been deserving for a number of years came now upon them, because they copied and increased the sins of their fathers, and the cup of their iniquity was full.
- Sin does not have to be repeated and committed by future generations.
- Every generation is responsible for the sin they commit.

Generational Sin

The belief in “Generational Curses” teaches that:

1. We are victims of curses placed upon us because of the sins of our ancestors.
2. We are therefore responsible for the sins of our ancestors and the curse upon us can only be broken when all sins of our ancestors and predecessors are confessed.
3. I am not personally responsible for my sin.
4. We are not really sinners, but victims of society and parents, in particular.

- All of this is unbiblical, a lie, and can really mess people up.

Ex 20:4-6

- 4 “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.
- 5 “You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,
- 6 but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Deuteronomy 28:15-68 contains fifty-three verses listing generational curses. Here are just a few of the bents:

- Poverty
- Hereditary disease
- Divorce
- Child abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Domestic violence
- Immorality
- Adultery
- Perversion
- Depression
- Confusion
- Fear
- Mental illness
- Suicide
- Destructive attitudes and behaviors

- The word “iniquity” means to be “bent” toward a certain sin
- Notice here that the iniquity of the parents is carried on to the children to the third and fourth generations.

- **So, a child will be “bent” like his or her parents, grandparents and great grandparents.**

- They will all have an inner inclination toward the same certain sinful habits, behavior and attitude problems — just like physical characteristics of height, weight, and hair color that tend to run in families.

Deut 24:16

16 “Fathers shall not be put to death for their sons, nor shall sons be put to death for their fathers; everyone shall be put to death for his own sin.”

2 Chron 25:4

4 However, he did not put their children to death, but did as it is written in the law in the book of Moses, which the Lord commanded, saying, “Fathers shall not be put to death for sons, nor sons be put to death for fathers, but each shall be put to death for his own sin.”

- You see, our problem really comes from the first Adam.
- It was he that has passed down our inherited sin nature.
- Our solution is found in the second Adam – Jesus Christ who breaks the “bent” of our sin nature. (Rom. 5:12-20)

Do you struggle with a particular sin, and see a history of that sin in your past generations?

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John 8:31-36

- 31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;
- 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
- 33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free?'"
- 34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.
- 35 "The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever.
- 36 "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

1. Slavery to other humans.

2. Slavery to sin.

Rom 6:17

- 17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,

3. Slavery to legalism.

Gal 5:1

- 1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

8 Slaves rule over us;

There is no one to deliver us from their hand.

7. No freedom.

- Sin will take away your freedom and hold you captive.
- In my bondage, I am lower than a slave.
- It all looks so hopeless for Jeremiah and Israel.

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Because of the sword in the wilderness.*

8. Danger.

- Israel could not wander to far away from their work or town, even to get some food.
- Their actions were watched very closely.
- So it became dangerous to even try to get food.

Deut 31:6

6 "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you."

Ps 121:7-8

7 The Lord will protect you from all evil;
He will keep your soul.
8 The Lord will guard your going out and your coming in
From this time forth and forever.

Nahum 1:7

7 The Lord is good,
A stronghold in the day of trouble,
And He knows those who take refuge in Him.

Ps 3:3-5

3 But You, O Lord, are a shield about me,
My glory, and the One who lifts my head.
4 I was crying to the Lord with my voice,
And He answered me from His holy mountain. Selah.
5 I lay down and slept;
I awoke, for the Lord sustains me.

Ps 34:7

7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him,
And rescues them.

Isa 43:2

2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
And through the rivers, they will not overflow you.
When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched,
Nor will the flame burn you.

10 *Our skin has become as hot as an oven,
Because of the burning heat of famine.*

9. A body that is suffering.

"hot" - **קָמַר** *kamar* - shriveled.

- Their skin had become shriveled as though it were exposed to an oven.
- Famine is like a burning heat that causes the skin to shrivel.
- Skin is the most visible part of our body and most noticed when it begins to deteriorate.

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2 Cor 4:16

16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

1 Peter 3:17

17 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

1 Peter 5:8-10

8 Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.
10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

The price paid for sin will always
far exceed
the pleasure that was gained from doing it.