

# “The Stark Reality of the Goodness and Severity of God”

Lamentations 2:1-22 5/3/2020

## Lamentations- Drawing Near to God in Life’s Disruptions

**Big Idea-** This chapter of Lamentations gives us an inspired record of the severe destruction of Jerusalem (Lady of Zion). This is a lament poem written by the narrator who describes the absolute destruction of Jerusalem (2:1-9). He gives his own lament about its destruction (2:10-17) and encourages Lady Zion to pray (2:18-19). He records her heartfelt prayer (2:20-22).

**Lamentations 3:22-24** Because of the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed; his mercies never come to an end; <sup>23</sup> they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup> "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

**Ecclesiastes 7:1** A good reputation is more valuable than costly perfume. And the day you die is better than the day you are born. <sup>2</sup> Better to spend your time at funerals than at parties. After all, everyone dies-- so the living should take this to heart.

**LESSON 1-** The bluntness of God’s justice is revealed in the Poet’s Assessment

- A. The assessment that God is just should give us HOPE  
(2 Timothy 3:1-17; Isaiah 9:6; 6:3; Galatians 6:7)
- B. The assessment that God is just causes us to ask WHY  
(The narrator presents God’s severe judgment, but why is He so angry?)
- C. The assessment that God is just provides additional VALIDATION  
(Chapter 1 was Lady Zion’s words. Chapter 2 is the narrator)

**Principle of Comfort- The Narrator joins Lady Zion in Lament**

**LESSON 2-** The bluntness of God’s justice is revealed in the Poet’s AGONY

- A. The agony of the narrator leads him to try and COMFORT Lady Zion
- B. The agony of the narrator still recognizes the Lord’s JUSTICE

**Principle of Comfort- The Lord is the only sure foundation! (John 6:68)**

**LESSON 3-** The bluntness of God’s justice is revealed in the Poet’s ADVICE

- A. The advice by the narrator is to cry out to the LORD alone.
- B. The advice is taken by Lady Zion in lamenting ACCUSATION

**Principle of Comfort- There is no unworthy lament if its directed to God**

*Our Vision- Striving to be Disciples who make Disciples*

**Galatians 6:7** ¶ Don't be misled-- you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. (Gal. 6:7 NLT)

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (Isa. 9:6-7 ESV)