

Complete and Total DEVASTATION ~ Lamentation 1-2

→ Scripture Reading - Lamentation 1:7-8, 18

INTRODUCTION

→ Lamentations video 1.1

Deut. 28:1-14 Describes the BLESSINGS God promised if the worshiped ONLY Him

Deut. 28:15-65 Describes the CURSES God promised if they worshipped OTHER gods

Deut. 28:15 (NLT) But if you REFUSE to listen to the LORD your God and DO NOT OBEY all the commands and decrees I am giving you today, ALL these CURSES will come and overwhelm you:

Deut. 28:16-19 (NLT) Your towns and your fields WILL be cursed. ¹⁷ Your fruit baskets and breadboards WILL be cursed. ¹⁸ Your children and your crops WILL be cursed. The offspring of your herds and flocks WILL be cursed. ¹⁹ Wherever you GO and whatever you DO, you WILL be CURSED.

Deut. 28:20 (NLT) The LORD Himself WILL send on you CURSES, CONFUSION, and FRUSTRATION in everything you do, until at last you are completely DESTROYED for doing evil and abandoning ME.

→ Lamentations video 1.2

>> There were 3 different Deportations between 607-587 BC

Jerusalem cries out in ANGUISH ~ Lamentations 1:1-11

¹ Jerusalem, once so full of people, is now deserted. She who was once great among the nations now sits alone like a widow. Once the queen of all the earth, she is now a slave. ² She sobs through the night; tears stream down her cheeks. Among all her LOVERS, there is no one left to COMFORT her. All her friends have betrayed her and become her enemies. ³ **Judah has been led away into CAPTIVITY, oppressed with cruel SLAVERY.** She lives among foreign nations and has no place of rest. Her enemies have chased her down, and she has nowhere to turn. (NLT)

⁵ Her oppressors have become her masters, and her enemies prosper, for the LORD has punished Jerusalem for her many sins. Her children have been captured and taken away to distant lands. (NLT)

⁸ Jerusalem has sinned greatly, so she has been tossed away like a filthy rag. All who once honored her now despise her, for they have seen her stripped naked and humiliated. All she can do is groan and hide her face. ⁹ **She DEFILED herself with immorality** and gave no thought to her future. Now she lies in the gutter with no one to lift her out. "LORD, see my misery," she cries. "The enemy has triumphed." (NLT)

IMPLICATIONS

Jeremiah 6:10 (NLT) To whom can I give warning? Who will listen when I speak? Their ears are closed, and they cannot hear. **They SCORN the word of the LORD.** They don't want to listen at all.

Jeremiah 6:16-17 (NLT) This is what the LORD says: "Stop at the crossroads and look around. Ask for the old, godly way, and walk in it. Travel its path, and you will find REST for your SOULS. But you reply, 'No, that's NOT the road we want!' ¹⁷ I posted WATCHMEN over you who said, 'Listen for the sound of the alarm.' But you replied, 'No! We won't pay attention!'

Jerusalem CRIES OUT for Help ~ Lamentations 1:12-22

¹⁶ For all these things I weep; tears flow down my cheeks. **No one is here to COMFORT me;** any who might encourage me are far away. My children have no future, for the enemy has conquered us. ¹⁷ **Jerusalem reaches out for help, but no one COMFORTS her.** Regarding his people Israel, the LORD has said, Let their neighbors be their enemies! Let them be thrown away like a filthy rag. (NLT)

¹⁸ The LORD is right, Jerusalem says, for **I REBELLED against Him.** Listen, people everywhere; look upon my anguish and despair, for my sons and daughters have been taken captive to distant lands.

²⁰ LORD, see my anguish! My heart is broken and my soul despairs, for **I have rebelled against YOU.** In the streets the sword kills, and at home there is only death. ²¹ Others heard my groans, but **no one turned to COMFORT me...**

IMPLICATIONS

→God Withdrew His COMFORT and Protection from Judah

¹⁶ For all these things I weep; tears flow down my cheeks. No one is here to COMFORT me...

Jeremiah's sorrow expresses the sorrow of the nation. God is the comforter, but because of the people's sins, **He had to turned away from them and become their JUDGE.** LABS

Hebrews 10:31 (NIV) It is a DREADFUL thing to fall into the hands of the **LIVING God**.

John 3:17-18 (NIV) For God **did not send his Son** into the world **to condemn the world**, but to **SAVE** the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever **BELIEVES in Him is not condemned**, but whoever does **NOT believe** stands condemned already because he has **not believed** in the name of God's one and only Son.

God's JUST Anger ~ Lamentations 2:1-22

¹ The Lord in His ANGER has cast a dark shadow over beautiful Jerusalem. The fairest of Israel's cities lies in the dust, thrown down from the heights of heaven. In His day of great ANGER, the Lord has **shown NO mercy** even to his Temple. ²Without mercy the Lord has destroyed every home in Israel. In His ANGER He has broken down the fortress WALLS of beautiful Jerusalem. He has brought them to the ground, dishonoring the kingdom and its rulers. ³ All the strength of Israel vanishes beneath His fierce ANGER. The Lord has withdrawn His protection as the enemy attacks. He consumes the whole land of Israel like a raging fire. (NLT)

¹⁷ But it is the LORD who did just as he planned. He has fulfilled the promises of disaster He made long ago. He has destroyed Jerusalem without mercy. He has caused her enemies to gloat over her and has given them power over her. (NLT)

IMPLICATIONS

→God IS Slow to ANGER and Full of Mercy Compassion and LOVE

^{2:1} ...In His day of great anger, the Lord has shown NO mercy even to his Temple.

Psalms 103:8-11 (NLT) The LORD is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

⁹ He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever.

¹⁰ He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. ¹¹ For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.

→You REAP what you SOW

^{2:17} But it is the LORD who did just as He planned. He has **fulfilled the promises of disaster** He made long ago. He has destroyed Jerusalem without mercy.

Galatians 6:7 (ESV) Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

You reap **WHAT** you sow, **NOT** something else, but **THAT**. An act of love makes the soul more loving. A humble deed deepens humility. The thing **REAPED** is the very thing **SOWN**, multiplied a hundred fold. FWRobertson

TAKE AWAY ??

Jeremiah 29:10-14 (NIV) ¹⁰ This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill MY gracious promise to bring you back to this place.

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

¹² Then you will call upon ME and come and pray to ME, and I WILL listen to you.

¹³ You will seek ME and FIND ME when you seek ME with ALL your heart.