

Her Nakedness Is Seen: Lamentations 1:8–14

Scriptures for Today:

***Lamentations 1:8-14** Jerusalem hath grievously sinned; therefore she is removed: all that honoured her despise her, because they have seen her nakedness: yea, she sigheth, and turneth backward. 9 Her filthiness is in her skirts; she remembereth not her last end; therefore she came down wonderfully: she had no comforter. O LORD, behold my affliction: for the enemy hath magnified himself. 10 The adversary hath spread out his hand upon all her pleasant things: for she hath seen that the heathen entered into her sanctuary, whom thou didst command that they should not enter into thy congregation. 11 All her people sigh, they seek bread; they have given their pleasant things for meat to relieve the soul: see, O LORD, and consider; for I am become vile. 12 Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger. 13 From above hath he sent fire into my bones, and it prevaieth against them: he hath spread a net for my feet, he hath turned me back: he hath made me desolate and faint all the day. 14 The yoke of my transgressions is bound by his hand: they are wreathed, and come up upon my neck: he hath made my strength to fall, the Lord hath delivered me into their hands, from whom I am not able to rise up.*

Introduction

As we return to the book of Lamentations, it's important to remember where we are at in the Bible.

Think about everything that God has done up to this point. God had chosen Abraham, built a physical nation through his seed, (a people that were chosen and set apart) delivered Israel out of Egypt, gave them His law, brought them into the Promised Land, and placed His name in Jerusalem. He gave them judges, priests, kings, prophets, His Word, His temple, His protection, and His patience.

(Imagine having every blessing of God in your life...)

And yet in spite of all of that, the people kept turning away. This book records the aftermath of generations of rebellion against God.

Lamentations by definition, is the act of bewailing, expression of sorrow, cries of grief.

That's exactly what is going on in this book. Jeremiah, who God used to warn Jerusalem of impending judgement, is now describing the pain and sorrow in the aftermath of destruction.

Imagine if our city was invaded and wiped out by a foreign nation. Hundreds of thousands of people killed, scattered, or carried away. Everything you once knew is gone. Imagine walking the streets and seeing a remnant of people, children picking through ashes, smoke hanging in the air, houses reduced to rubble. The sound of weeping where music once played.

That's exactly what happened to Jerusalem. God's own people went after false gods. Trusted in idols. They ignored the warnings of the prophets. They hardened their hearts again and again. And now everything that God warned them would happen has finally come to pass.

Last time we were here, in verses 1 through 7, Jeremiah showed us the sorrow of Jerusalem. We saw the loneliness, the tears, the captivity, the bitterness, and the memory of what had been lost. But now as we come to verses 8 through 14, the focus gets even sharper.

Jeremiah is not only describing the pain of judgment — he is exposing the cause of it. Why does a great and mighty city get cut down and reduced to nothing?

(Whenever we receive chastisement from God in our life, there is always a good reason. God does not make mistakes. He is a righteous judge.)

These verses take us deeper into the reason Jerusalem has fallen. The shame, the uncleanness, the affliction, and the heavy hand of God's chastisement are now brought into full view. This is not random tragedy. This is not bad luck. This is what happens when sin is tolerated, excused, defended, and continued in.

These cries of the past are a warning to all of us today of the destructive nature of sin...

Let's take a look at these next verses.

Verse 8

Lamentations 1:8 Jerusalem hath grievously sinned; therefore she is removed: all that honoured her despise her, because they have seen her nakedness: yea, she sipheth, and turneth backward.

Jerusalem's downfall did not happen by accident. It was not random. It was not bad circumstances or unfortunate timing. Everything that happened was a result of grievous sin against God.

"Jerusalem hath grievously sinned; **therefore (for this reason) she is removed**"

God promised that this would happen and His promises always come true.

1 Kings 9:4-7 And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, *and* wilt keep my statutes and my judgments: **5** Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.

6 *But* if ye shall **at all** turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments *and* my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them: **7** Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people:

So when it says in Lamentations that she (Jerusalem) is removed because of sin, understand that they had hundreds of years to get this right. But God finally said enough is enough. He cast them out of His sight. Just like He promised to Solomon.

Lamentations 1:8 Jerusalem hath grievously sinned; therefore she is removed: all that honoured her despise her, because they have seen her nakedness: yea, she sigheth, and turneth backward.

Jerusalem was once a city that was greatly admired. She had honor, reputation, beauty, and other nations respected her because she was the city of God. The place of the temple and center of worship.

Look how God describes Jerusalem in Ezekial...

Ezekiel 16:13-14 Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment *was of* fine linen, and silk, and broidered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom. **14** And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it *was* perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord GOD.

It's sort of like this country and many others where there is an abundance of wealth. Overflowing with food, resources, large cities, and pleasures. Now that we have all these things, what does the nation do? We turn our backs on the God that gave us those things.

All the nations that once honored Jerusalem now despised her. Why? Because they have seen her nakedness. Nakedness here points to humiliation, disgrace, and the uncovering of what was once hidden. Jerusalem's sin had stripped her bare. "she sigheth, and turneth backward." Trying to hide shame but you have nowhere to hide.

There is also a strong connection here to the language of spiritual whoredom. Jerusalem had played the harlot with false gods and foreign alliances, and now her shame is uncovered for all to see.

That's exactly what sin does. It will bring great shame to you, your family, and everyone around you. All sin leads to shame, humiliation, and destruction!

Everything we do in secret that we think no one will ever know about, it will all come to light. It will all be exposed.

Luke 12:2 For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.

Respected leaders are brought to shame because of sin. Pastors are brought to shame. CEOs are brought to shame, Husbands and wives are brought to shame. We will all be brought to shame because of our own sins. Humble yourself now. Reveal your sins to God (He already sees them) before He reveals them to the world.

Verse 9

Lamentations 1:9 Her filthiness *is* in her skirts; she remembereth not her last end; therefore she came down wonderfully: she had no comforter. O LORD, behold my affliction: for the enemy hath magnified *himself*.

We have a further description of open shame. Jerusalem's uncleanness is no longer hidden.

Her filth is visible. It has stained her garments. What should have been covered is now exposed. This is not just outward dirt—it pictures moral pollution, spiritual corruption, and disgrace.

In Scripture, garments often represent condition, character, or standing. Her filthiness is in her skirt. Jerusalem is not clean. She is polluted by her sin. What are some of those sins?

Jeremiah 2:34 Also in thy skirts is found the blood of the souls of the poor innocents: I have not found it by secret search, but upon all these.

Jeremiah 13:27 I have seen thine adulteries, and thy neighings, the lewdness of thy whoredom, *and* thine abominations on the hills in the fields. Woe unto thee, O Jerusalem! wilt thou not be made clean? when *shall it once be?*

Jerusalem was filthy with the shedding of innocent blood, physical and spiritual adulteries, whoredoms, and fornication.

Lamentations 1:9 Her filthiness *is* in her skirts; **she remembereth not her last end; therefore she came down wonderfully: she had no comforter.**

The phrase, remembered not her last end, refers to the result, consequence or future outcome.

Jerusalem did not think about where her choices were leading. She did not consider the outcome. She lived for the present and ignored the future. (That's how many people choose to live today)

You enjoyed the pleasure for a season, but you forgot the price. You chose the sin, but you don't think about the sorrow at the end.

It goes on to say, because she did not remember her last end, (*she didn't consider the consequences*), she came down wonderfully. When it says wonderfully, it doesn't mean wonderful in a good way. It means the city came down astonishingly, shockingly, and terribly. Her fall was severe and dramatic.

It was the kind of downfall that leaves people stunned.

When sin is ignored long enough, the fall is often more sudden and more severe than people imagined.

- A nation can look strong one day and be broken the next. (We think we have so much military might and strength. But this country will be brought down one day—in a moment. It will be a great wonder and astonishment.)
- A world-renowned pastor can seem stable for many years and all of a sudden come crashing down because of some scandal. "I never thought that man could ever fall." It's a great wonder and astonishment!

How do the mighty, the respected, the honored, the highly esteemed, come to an end of shame and destruction? Through the deceitfulness of sin.

Look at the last part of verse 9...

Lamentations 1:9 ...O LORD, behold my affliction: for the enemy hath magnified *himself*.

Not only does sin bring great shame, but it also gives the enemy an opportunity to be lifted up and to mock God. When David sinned with Bathsheba God told him that he has given a great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme.

You don't want to do that with your life. You want to bring glory and honor to God.

Verse 10

Lamentations 1:10 The adversary hath spread out his hand upon all her pleasant things: for she hath seen *that* the heathen entered into her sanctuary, whom thou didst command *that* they should not enter into thy congregation.

The enemy did not just surround Jerusalem. They reached in and took everything from her. The same way that Jerusalem defiled herself with false gods, and abominable acts. God allowed her to be defiled by the enemy. They took all the pleasant things.

- the treasures of the temple,
- the vessels of worship,
- the beauty of Jerusalem,
- the things that were once associated with God's blessing and presence.

These were not common things. These were special things that had great value, beauty, and meaning.

In the same way that sin took everything pleasant and precious from Jerusalem, sin will take special things away from you in your life.

- Marriage is an amazing blessing from God. It should be very precious to you. The intimacy between a husband and wife is so special, it can't be matched by anything that this world has to offer. Sin will cause that pleasant blessing to be ripped from you. Don't corrupt your marriage because of selfish sin. Don't bring shame and reproach to a sacred union that God has formed.
- Family is an amazing blessing from God. It is a pleasant thing when a family loves God and serves Him together. Don't let sin open the door for the enemy to come into your home and wreak havoc. Parents, we can't let our sins and our mistakes bring shame upon our children. Our choices will affect our children for better or worse.

Friendships are great blessings. It's hard to find good friends in this world. Don't allow sin to take away those pleasant relationships. They can be destroyed in a moment over the most foolish things.

Verse 11

Lamentations 1:11 All her people sigh, they seek bread; they have given their pleasant things for meat to relieve the soul: see, O LORD, and consider; for I am become vile.

In this verse we see widespread misery. This did not just affect a specific group, it says "All her people sigh". All those who are left in the city are filled with groaning, exhaustion, hunger, grief, and weakness.

It says that "they seek bread and have given their pleasant things for meat to relive the soul." Imagine giving up everything that you hold dear just for a morsel of food. Imagine being so starved that you eat the flesh of your loved ones. They were reduced down to cannibalism.

Jeremiah 19:8-9 And I will make this city desolate, and an hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished and hiss because of all the plagues thereof. **9** And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and they shall eat every one the flesh of his friend in the siege and straitness, wherewith their enemies, and they that seek their lives, shall straiten them.

A once powerful city that had great abundance and wealth is diminished to a skeleton of city trying to scrape up anything they can find. That's what sin does. It takes you from fullness to famine in the blink of an eye.

Look at the last part of verse 11...

see, O LORD, and consider; for I am become vile.

It was only after destruction had been fulfilled, that Jerusalem began to recognize their vileness before God. At that point it's too late. The damage has already been done.

You don't want to wait for destruction to enter into your life to recognize your sins and make a change. Jerusalem had the commandments of God. We have the commandments of God. We know God's Will for us and we know what God hates. Yet we still continue to go against Him on a daily basis.

Romans 7:24-25 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? **25** I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Verse 12

Lamentations 1:12 *Is it* nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted *me* in the day of his fierce anger.

As Jerusalem is sitting in ruins, broken and humiliated; travelers pass by unmoved. The city is begging for someone to notice their calamity, but no one will have pity on them.

Lamentations 2:15-17 All that pass by clap *their* hands at thee; they hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, *saying, Is this the city that men* call The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth? **16** All thine enemies have opened their mouth against thee: they hiss and gnash the teeth: they say, We have swallowed *her* up: certainly *this is* the day that we looked for; we have found, we have seen *it*. **17** The LORD hath done *that* which he had devised; he hath fulfilled his word that he had commanded in the days of old: he hath thrown down, and hath not pitied: and he hath caused *thine* enemy to rejoice over thee, he hath set up the horn of thine adversaries.

Jerusalem found no pity from the outside. It was recognized by both Jerusalem and outsiders that this thing was done by God himself. Babylon may have been the instrument, but the Lord was the Judge who caused the affliction.

Verse 13

Lamentations 1:13 From above hath he sent fire into my bones, and it prevaieth against them: he hath spread a net for my feet, he hath turned me back: he hath made me desolate *and* faint all the day.

There was no question where this destruction was coming from. Jerusalem knew it was God. "**From above (God in Heaven)** hath he sent fire into my bones, and it prevaieth against them." No human strength can prevail against the Judgement of God. It's complete and utter helplessness. When you sin, you may think you are in control but just remember what is waiting for you around the corner.

Lamentations 1:13 ...he hath spread a net for my feet, he hath turned me back: he hath made me desolate *and* faint all the day.

When we commit sin against God, it's like walking directly into a trap when there is a big sign with flashing lights that says trap ahead.

Or it's like seeing a train coming and you decide to walk down the tracks with a blindfold on and earplugs in thinking you are going to jump off the tracks right before it hits you.

It's absolutely insane to hear the warnings from God and still choose to continue in sin. And we end up desolate and faint all the day because of our foolish decisions.

Verse 14

Lamentations 1:14 The yoke of my transgressions is bound by his hand: they are wreathed, *and* come up upon my neck: he hath made my strength to fall, the Lord hath delivered me into *their* hands, *from whom* I am not able to rise up.

A **yoke** is something laid on the neck to control, direct, and burden. It is associated with labor, bondage, and submission. Here, Jerusalem says the yoke is made up of “**my transgressions.**”

All the sins that Jerusalem defended, tolerated, and committed have now become a yoke around her neck. Her transgressions are no longer entertaining, profitable, or pleasurable. Now they are heavy, binding, and crushing.

And notice that this yoke is bound by God's hand. This is not Karma as the world likes to describe it. This is the Lord binding the yoke upon Jerusalem. He is enforcing the burden.

Remember, as a believer in Jesus Christ, God has made you free from sin to become a servant of God. You are no longer a slave or a servant of sin. When you commit sin against God, you are entangling yourself again with the yoke of bondage.

Your transgressions, in this life, will be wreathed (twisted) around your neck and they will bring you down. Notice it says “he hath made my strength to fall”. Don't get to the place in your life where God has to take away your strength to get your attention. You don't want God to have to deliver you into the hands of your enemies.

When you look at verses 8 through 14, the message is clear: **sin does not stay small, hidden, or harmless.**

It brings shame. It stains your life. It steals what is precious. It leaves you empty. It strengthens the enemy. It traps your feet. It takes away your strength. And if it is not dealt with, it becomes a yoke around your neck.

Application

1. Don't take the blessings of God lightly.

Jerusalem had so much. God had blessed them, protected them, given them His Word, His temple, His presence, and His patience. And yet they still turned away.

We need to be careful not to do the same thing.

God has blessed us with salvation, a church, the Bible, preaching, fellowship, answered prayer, and countless mercies. Don't get so used to the blessings of God that you stop fearing the God who gave them.

2. Think about where sin leads.

Jerusalem "remembered not her last end." That is still how people live today. They think about the pleasure, but not the price.

Before you commit that sin, stop and ask:

- Where is this going to lead?
- What is this going to cost me?
- What is this going to do to my walk with God?
- What is this going to do to my marriage?
- What is this going to do to my children?
- What is this going to do to this church?

3. Secret sin will not stay secret.

Jerusalem's nakedness was exposed. Her filthiness was in her skirts. Everything that had been covered was brought into the open.

That is exactly what sin does.

People think:

no one knows, no one sees, I can manage it, I can hide it. But God says otherwise.

It's better to humble yourself before God now, before you are humbled publicly later. It's not a matter of if He will, it's when He will.

4. Sin will steal pleasant things out of your life.

Jerusalem lost her pleasant things.

Sin took what was beautiful, precious, and sacred and handed it over to the adversary.

That still happens every day. Sin will rob you of peace, joy, marriage, trust, respect, friendships, usefulness, testimony, strength, and years of your life.

Don't be deceived into thinking that sin is giving you something when it's really taking everything away.

5. Don't let sin become a yoke of bondage.

At first it feels light, it feels fun, it feels manageable. But in the end, it wraps around your neck. The deeper you go, the heavier it will become until it leads to death and destruction.

I want to encourage you to break that yoke off your neck. Replace all the bad in your life with the good things of God. If you believe in Jesus Christ and you know that He is the only one that can save you, then He has given you power over sin.

If you are not sure that you're going to heaven. Or you're trusting in your good deeds to get you there then that yoke of sin will drag you straight to hell.

Matthew 11:29-30 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. **30** For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

Don't carry the burden of sin anymore. Choose the yoke of Jesus Christ. Put all your trust in him to save you. His yoke is easy and his burden is light. You can rest in Him.

So remember that Jerusalem is not just a ruined city in the past, it's a warning sign from God about what sin does when it's not dealt with.

Please hearken unto God's Words. Listen to His warnings and be saved from much turmoil and distress in your life. It's never too late do right. Let's Pray