

# Jeremiah 22:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Go up to Lebanon, and cry; and lift up thy voice in Bashan,  
and cry from the passages: for all thy lovers are destroyed.

## Analysis

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**Go up to Lebanon, and cry**—God commands personified Jerusalem to ascend the heights and wail from three mountain ranges: Lebanon (north), Bashan (northeast), and Abarim/Pisgah (east). These geographical markers form a panoramic sweep encompassing Judah's entire horizon. The repeated imperative **and cry** (תִּשָּׁעֲרִי, tse'aqi—feminine singular, addressing daughter Zion) emphasizes desperate lamentation. Why? **For all thy lovers are destroyed** (וְנִשְׁבְּרוּ כָּל־מְאַהֲבֶיךָ, nishberu kol-me'ahavayikh—'broken/shattered are all your lovers').

The term מְאַהֲבִים (me'ahavim, 'lovers') sarcastically denotes Judah's political allies—Egypt, Edom, Moab—whom she trusted instead of Yahweh. These covenant-breaking alliances constitute spiritual adultery. When Babylon swept through the region, these 'lovers' proved worthless, just as Hosea and Ezekiel had dramatized through their marriages. The mountains witness Judah's shame: her trust in human power leaves her abandoned and desolate.

## Historical Context

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During Jehoiakim and Zedekiah's reigns (609-586 BC), Judah vacillated between Babylonian and Egyptian allegiance, seeking security through treaties rather than covenant faithfulness. By 586 BC, all surrounding nations had fallen to Nebuchadnezzar—Egypt defeated, Edom subdued, Moab conquered. Judah's political 'lovers' offered no rescue.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What modern 'lovers' (securities, alliances, ideologies) do you trust instead of God?
2. How does political idolatry manifest in your own nationalism or tribalism?
3. What would it mean to lament from 'the mountaintops' over your misplaced trust?

## Interlinear Text

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יָלֵךְ	הַלְבָּנוֹן	וְצָעִקִי	וּבְבֶשֶׁת	וְתִנֵּנִי	קוֹלִי	וְצָעִקִי
Go up	to Lebanon	and cry	in Bashan	and lift up	thy voice	and cry
H5927	H3844	H6817	H1316	H5414	H6963	H6817
מִפְּסָגֵי	כִּי	נִשְׁבְּרוּ	כָּל	מֵאֲהָבָיִךָ:		
from the passages	H3588	are destroyed	H3605	for all thy lovers		
H5676		H7665		H157		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 27:12** (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Moses, Get thee up into this mount Abarim, and see the land which I have given unto the children of Israel.

**Ezekiel 23:22** (Love): Therefore, O Aholibah, thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will raise up thy lovers against thee, from whom thy mind is alienated, and I will bring them against thee on every side;

**Lamentations 1:2** (Love): She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks: among all her lovers she hath none to comfort her: all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies.

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