

# Lamentations 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?** (לֹא אֵיכֶם, lo aleikhem)—Jerusalem personified addresses indifferent passersby, a prophetic cry for recognition of her unprecedented suffering. **If there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow** claims the superlative nature of her grief. **Wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me** acknowledges divine agency in judgment—not merely Babylonian conquest, but covenant curses executed. This verse is often applied typologically to Christ's suffering (used in Good Friday liturgy), though its primary reference is Jerusalem's historical destruction. The Hebrew construction emphasizes that this affliction comes 'from YHWH'—covenant judgment, not arbitrary fate.

## Historical Context

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Reflects the actual horrors of the 18-month siege (589-586 BC): starvation, cannibalism (Lam 2:20; 4:10), mass executions, and temple desecration. Ancient Near Eastern custom was for travelers to pass ruined cities as object lessons, often without pity for those who had defied great powers.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does acknowledging that God Himself ordains affliction (rather than blaming circumstances) change the nature of suffering?
2. In what ways might your own suffering serve as a witness to others about the consequences of breaking covenant with God?

## Interlinear Text

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|----------|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| לֹא      | אֵלֵיכֶם       | כָּל                       | עַ בְּרִי                             | הֵב יָטוּ     | דֶּרֶךְ       |          |
| H3808    | H413           | H3605                      | H5674                                 | H1870         | H5027         |          |
|          |                |                            | Is it nothing to you all ye that pass | by            | behold        |          |
| וְרָא וְ | אִם            | יֵשׁ                       | כִּמְכָּאֵב י                         | כִּמְכָּאֵב י | אֲשֶׁר        | עוֹלַל ל |
| H7200    | H518           | H3426                      | H4341                                 | H4341         | H834          | H0       |
| and see  |                | if there be                | any sorrow                            | any sorrow    | which is done |          |
|          |                |                            |                                       |               |               |          |
| אֲשֶׁר   | הוֹגָה         | יְהוָה                     | בִּי וּם                              | חַר וֹן       |               |          |
| H834     | H3013          | H3068                      | H3117                                 | H2740         |               |          |
|          | hath afflicted | unto me wherewith the LORD | me in the day                         | of his fierce |               |          |
|          |                |                            |                                       |               |               |          |
| אֲפֹ:    |                |                            |                                       |               |               |          |
| anger    |                |                            |                                       |               |               |          |
| H639     |                |                            |                                       |               |               |          |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Daniel 9:12** (Parallel theme): And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem.

**Jeremiah 18:16** (Parallel theme): To make their land desolate, and a perpetual hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished, and wag his head.

**Jeremiah 30:24** (References Lord): The fierce anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have done it, and until he have performed the intents of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it.

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