

Lamentations 4

Chapter 4 of 5 · 22 Verses · Authorized King James Version

The Horrors of the Siege

- ¹ How is the gold become dim! how is the most fine gold changed! the stones of the sanctuary are poured out in the top of every street.
 - ² The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold, how are they esteemed as earthen pitchers, the work of the hands of the potter!
 - ³ Even the sea monsters draw out the breast, they give suck to their young ones: the daughter of my people is become cruel, like the ostriches in the wilderness.
 - ⁴ The tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst: the young children ask bread, and no man breaketh it unto them.
 - ⁵ They that did feed delicately are desolate in the streets: they that were brought up in scarlet embrace dunghills.
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- ⁶ For the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, that was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her.
 - ⁷ Her Nazarites were purer than snow, they were whiter than milk, they were more ruddy in body than rubies, their polishing was of sapphire:
 - ⁸ Their visage is blacker than a coal; they are not known in the streets: their skin cleaveth to their bones; it is withered, it is become like a stick.
 - ⁹ They that be slain with the sword are better than they that be slain with hunger: for these pine away, stricken through for want of the fruits of the field.

10 The hands of the pitiful women have sodden their own children: they were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my people.

11 The LORD hath accomplished his fury; he hath poured out his fierce anger, and hath kindled a fire in Zion, and it hath devoured the foundations thereof.

12 The kings of the earth, and all the inhabitants of the world, would not have believed that the adversary and the enemy should have entered into the gates of Jerusalem.

13 For the sins of her prophets, and the iniquities of her priests, that have shed the blood of the just in the midst of her,

14 They have wandered as blind men in the streets, they have polluted themselves with blood, so that men could not touch their garments.

15 They cried unto them, Depart ye; it is unclean; depart, depart, touch not: when they fled away and wandered, they said among the heathen, They shall no more sojourn there.

16 The anger of the LORD hath divided them; he will no more regard them: they respected not the persons of the priests, they favoured not the elders.

17 As for us, our eyes as yet failed for our vain help: in our watching we have watched for a nation that could not save us.

18 They hunt our steps, that we cannot go in our streets: our end is near, our days are fulfilled; for our end is come.

19 Our persecutors are swifter than the eagles of the heaven: they pursued us upon the mountains, they laid wait for us in the wilderness.

20 The breath of our nostrils, the anointed of the LORD, was taken in their pits, of whom we said, Under his shadow we shall live among the heathen.

- 21** Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, that dwellest in the land of Uz; the cup also shall pass through unto thee: thou shalt be drunken, and shalt make thyself naked.
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- 22** The punishment of thine iniquity is accomplished, O daughter of Zion; he will no more carry thee away into captivity: he will visit thine iniquity, O daughter of Edom; he will discover thy sins.
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HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Believe — אָמֵן (Aman)

To believe, trust, be faithful

The Hebrew **aman** (אָמֵן) means to believe or confirm—the root of 'Amen.' It conveys firm trust and reliability. Abraham 'believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness' (Genesis 15:6).

Blood — דָּם (Dam)

Blood

The Hebrew **dam** (דָּם) means blood—representing life itself. 'The life of the flesh is in the blood' (Leviticus 17:11), and blood was required for atonement, foreshadowing Christ's sacrifice.

Heaven — שָׁמַיִם (Shamayim)

Heaven, sky

The Hebrew **shamayim** (שָׁמַיִם) means heaven or sky—God's dwelling place and the realm above earth. 'The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's' (Psalm 115:16), yet 'the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him' (1 Kings 8:27).

Iniquity — אָוֶן (Avon)

Iniquity, guilt, punishment

The Hebrew **avon** (אָוֶן) encompasses iniquity, guilt, and its punishment—the twisted nature of sin. 'The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all' (Isaiah 53:6), Christ bearing our guilt and penalty.

Lord — אֲדֹנָי / יְהוָה (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Priest — כֹּהֵן (Kohen)

Priest

The Hebrew **kohen** (כֹּהֵן) denotes a priest—one who mediates between God and people through sacrifices and intercession. Aaron and his descendants served as Israel's priests, foreshadowing Christ the Great High Priest.

Prophet — נָבִיא (Navi)

Prophet, spokesman

The Hebrew **navi** (נָבִיא) means prophet—one who speaks God's word to the people. Prophets received divine revelation and declared God's message, often calling Israel to repentance and foretelling future events.

Save — יָשָׁע (Yasha)

To save, deliver, rescue

The Hebrew **yasha** (יָשָׁע) means to save or deliver—rescue from danger or distress. This is the root of 'Jesus' (Yeshua), meaning 'YHWH saves.' God alone is Savior: 'I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour' (Isaiah 43:11).

Sin — חַטָּאת (Chatta'ah)

Sin, missing the mark

The Hebrew **chatta'ah** (חַטָּאת) means sin—missing the mark of God's standard. It encompasses rebellion, transgression, and falling short of divine holiness.

CROSS REFERENCES

Lamentations 4:1 **Parallel theme:** Lamentations 2:19; Isaiah 1:21

Lamentations 4:2

Parallel theme: Lamentations 5:12; Isaiah 30:14; 51:18; Jeremiah 19:11; Zechariah 9:13; 2 Corinthians 4:7; 2 Timothy 2:20

Lamentations 4:3

Parallel theme: Lamentations 2:20; 4:10; Leviticus 26:29; Jeremiah 19:9; Ezekiel 5:10

Lamentations 4:4 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 22:15

Lamentations 4:5

Parallel theme: 2 Samuel 1:24; Proverbs 31:21; Luke 7:25; 15:16; 16:19; 1 Timothy 5:6

Lamentations 4:6 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 19:25; Luke 10:12

Lamentations 4:7 **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 16:12; Psalms 51:7; 144:12. **Related:** Song of Solomon 5:10

Lamentations 4:8 **Parallel theme:** Lamentations 5:10; Job 19:20; 30:30; Psalms 119:83

Lamentations 4:9 **Parallel theme:** Leviticus 26:39; Ezekiel 24:23

Lamentations 4:10 **Parallel theme:** Lamentations 2:20; 3:48; 4:3; Leviticus 26:29; Isaiah 49:15; Jeremiah 19:9; Ezekiel 5:10

Lamentations 4:11 **References Lord:** Lamentations 2:17; Jeremiah 7:20; Ezekiel 22:31.
Parallel theme: Jeremiah 17:27

Lamentations 4:13 **Prophecy:** Lamentations 2:14; Jeremiah 5:31; 6:13; Matthew 23:31

Lamentations 4:14 **Blood:** Isaiah 1:15; Jeremiah 2:34. **Parallel theme:** Numbers 19:16; Isaiah 56:10

Lamentations 4:16

Parallel theme: Lamentations 5:12; Deuteronomy 32:26; Jeremiah 24:9. **References Lord:** Deuteronomy 28:25; Hebrews 8:9

Lamentations 4:17 **Parallel theme:** 2 Kings 24:7; Isaiah 20:5; Ezekiel 29:16

Lamentations 4:18 **Parallel theme:** Lamentations 3:52; Jeremiah 16:16; Amos 8:2

Lamentations 4:19 **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 28:49; Jeremiah 4:13; Hosea 8:1; Habakkuk 1:8

Lamentations 4:20 **Parallel theme:** 2 Samuel 1:21; Jeremiah 39:5; Ezekiel 12:13.

References Lord: Lamentations 2:9; Genesis 2:7; 2 Samuel 1:14; 19:21

Lamentations 4:21 **Parallel theme:** Job 1:1; Psalms 137:7; Amos 1:11; Revelation 16:15

Lamentations 4:22 **Sin:** Isaiah 40:2; Jeremiah 50:20. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 137:7

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