

10/5/25

Sermon Title: Lamenting the desperate state of Judah having lost the glory of God

Preacher: Pastor Kim Soonbae

Scripture Passage: laments 2:1-22

(laments 2:1) How the Lord has covered Daughter Zion with the cloud of his anger! He has hurled down the splendor of Israel from heaven to earth; he has not remembered his footstool in the day of his anger.

(laments 2:2) Without pity the Lord has swallowed up all the dwellings of Jacob; in his wrath he has torn down the strongholds of Daughter Judah. He has brought her kingdom and its princes down to the ground in dishonor.

(laments 2:3) In fierce anger he has cut off every horn of Israel. He has withdrawn his right and at the approach of the enemy. He has burned in Jacob like a flaming fire that consumes everything around it.

(laments 2:4) Like an enemy he has strung his bow; his right hand is ready. Like a foe he has slain all who were pleasing to the eye; he has poured out his wrath like fire on the tent of Daughter Zion.

(laments 2:5) The Lord is like an enemy; he has swallowed up Israel. He has swallowed up all her palaces and destroyed her strongholds. He has multiplied mourning and lamentation for Daughter Judah.

(laments 2:6) He has laid waste his dwelling like a garden; he has destroyed his place of meeting. The LORD has made Zion forget her appointed festivals and her Sabbaths; in his fierce anger he has spurned both king and priest.

(laments 2:7) The Lord has rejected his altar and abandoned his sanctuary. He has given the walls of her palaces into the hands of the enemy; they have raised a shout in the house of the LORD as on the day of an appointed festival.

(laments 2:8) The LORD determined to tear down the wall around Daughter Zion. He stretched out a measuring line and did not withhold his hand from destroying. He made ramparts and walls lament; together they wasted away.

(lamentations 2:9) Her gates have sunk into the ground; their bars he has broken and destroyed. Her king and her princes are exiled among the nations, the law is no more, and her prophets no longer find visions from the LORD.

(lamentations 2:10) The elders of Daughter Zion sit on the ground in silence; they have sprinkled dust on their heads and put on sackcloth. The young women of Jerusalem have bowed their heads to the ground.

(lamentations 2:11) My eyes fail from weeping, I am in torment within; my heart is poured out on the ground because my people are destroyed, because children and infants faint in the streets of the city.

(lamentations 2:12) They say to their mothers, "Where is bread and wine?" as they faint like the wounded in the streets of the city, as their lives ebb away in their mothers' arms.

(lamentations 2:13) What can I say for you? With what can I compare you, Daughter Jerusalem? To what can I liken you, that I may comfort you, Virgin Daughter Zion? Your wound is as deep as the sea. Who can heal you?

(lamentations 2:14) The visions of your prophets were false and worthless; they did not expose your sin to ward off your captivity. The prophecies they gave you were false and misleading.

(lamentations 2:15) All who pass your way clap their hands at you; they scoff and shake their heads at Daughter Jerusalem: "Is this the city that was called the perfection of beauty, the joy of the whole earth?"

(lamentations 2:16) All your enemies open their mouths wide against you; they scoff and gnash their teeth and say, "We have swallowed her up. This is the day we have waited for; we have lived to see it."

(lamentations 2:17) The LORD has done what he planned; he has fulfilled his word, which he decreed long ago. He has overthrown you without pity, he has let the enemy gloat over you, he has exalted the horn of your foes.

(lamentations 2:18) The hearts of the people cry out to the Lord. You walls of Daughter Zion, let your tears flow like a river day and night; give yourself no relief, your eyes no rest.

(lamentations 2:19) Arise, cry out in the night, as the watches of the night begin; pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to him for the lives of your children, who faint from hunger at every street corner.

(lamentations 2:20) “Look, LORD, and consider: Whom have you ever treated like this? Should women eat their offspring, the children they have cared for? Should priest and prophet be killed in the sanctuary of the Lord?

(lamentations 2:21) “Young and old lie together in the dust of the streets; my young men and young women have fallen by the sword. You have slain them in the day of your anger; you have slaughtered them without pity.

(lamentations 2:22) “As you summon to a feast day, so you summoned against me terrors on every side. In the day of the LORD’s anger no one escaped or survived; those I cared for and reared my enemy has destroyed.”

This is the second lament of the prophet Jeremiah.

Following chapter 1, Jeremiah weeps bitterly over the devastating sight of Jerusalem, from which the glory of God has departed because of His wrath. He also calls the people to repentance and to return to God.

In the original text, this chapter also begins, like chapter 1, with the word “Alas” — a term used in dirges or funeral laments.

Chapters 1, 2, and 4 all begin with “*Alas*.”

In the Hebrew Bible, the title of a book is taken from its opening word.

Therefore, the Book of Lamentations is literally titled “*Alas (Lament)*.”

Jeremiah first describes the intensity of God’s wrath against Israel and the results of that judgment.

The wrath of God has overshadowed Zion (Jerusalem) like a dark storm cloud. No longer does the sunlight of God’s favor shine upon Jerusalem.

(lamentations 2:1) How the Lord has covered Daughter Zion with the cloud of his anger! He has hurled down the splendor of Israel from heaven to earth; he has not remembered his footstool in the day of his anger.

As a result, all of Judah was laid waste.

(lamentations 2:2) Without pity the Lord has swallowed up all the dwellings of Jacob; in his wrath he has torn down the strongholds of Daughter Judah. He has brought her kingdom and its princes down to the ground in dishonor.

(lamentations 2:3) In fierce anger he has cut off every horn of Israel. He has withdrawn his right and at the approach of the enemy. He has burned in Jacob like a flaming fire that consumes everything around it.

(lamentations 2:4) Like an enemy he has strung his bow; his right hand is ready. Like a foe he has slain all who were pleasing to the eye; he has poured out his wrath like fire on the tent of Daughter Zion.

(lamentations 2:5) The Lord is like an enemy; he has swallowed up Israel. He has swallowed up all her palaces and destroyed her strongholds. He has multiplied mourning and lamentation for Daughter Judah.

The walls were torn down, the nation was destroyed, and the king and leaders were taken captive.

It became a place with no king and no leaders.

The God who had always been Israel's protector now turned against them, becoming their enemy—burning the fortresses, the temple, and the houses, and striking down the people.

He tore down the temple, abolished the feasts and the Sabbaths, and brought contempt upon the king and the priests.

(lamentations 2:6) He has laid waste his dwelling like a garden; he has destroyed his place of meeting. The LORD has made Zion forget her appointed festivals and her Sabbaths; in his fierce anger he has spurned both king and priest.

(lamentations 2:7) The Lord has rejected his altar and abandoned his sanctuary. He has given the walls of her palaces into the hands of the enemy; they have raised a shout in the house of the LORD as on the day of an appointed festival.

(The translation may vary slightly depending on the version of the Bible.)

His tabernacle refers to the temple in Jerusalem.

The tabernacle was the tent of meeting, where the Ark of the Covenant was kept, and where God met with the people of Judah.

Likewise, the “festivals and Sabbaths” were the appointed times of meeting with God.

Therefore, the statements “He has torn down His tabernacle” and “He has caused the festivals and Sabbaths to be forgotten” mean that God would no longer meet with the people of Judah.

“He has despised king and priest” signifies that God no longer acknowledged them.

The walls and fortifications have been broken down, and the city gates have been consumed by fire, reduced to ashes.

The king and leaders have been taken as captives to Babylon.

The prophets no longer receive the word of God.

God’s judgment has been carried out precisely as He had planned, without the slightest deviation.

(lamentations 2:8) The LORD determined to tear down the wall around Daughter Zion. He stretched out a measuring line and did not withhold his hand from destroying. He made ramparts and walls lament; together they wasted away.

(lamentations 2:9) Her gates have sunk into the ground; their bars he has broken and destroyed. Her king and her princes are exiled among the nations, the law is no more, and her prophets no longer find visions from the LORD.

Israel had enjoyed the privilege of receiving the Law from God on ritual, moral, and civic levels.

Yet, by rejecting and breaking it, they were expelled from the land God had given them and came under the rule of Gentiles who had no law.

As a result, the elders who had once served as advisors to the nation and the king were left with nothing to do and sank into sorrow, while the young people lost all hope

(lamentations 2:10) The elders of Daughter Zion sit on the ground in silence; they have sprinkled dust on their heads and put on sackcloth. The young women of Jerusalem have bowed their heads to the ground.

Jeremiah mourns as he witnesses Judah being judged and brought to ruin.

He is especially heartbroken as he thinks of the little children who suffered from hunger and starved to death during the siege of Jerusalem.

(lamentations 2:11) My eyes fail from weeping, I am in torment within; my heart is poured out on the ground because my people are destroyed, because children and infants faint in the streets of the city.

(lamentations 2:12) They say to their mothers, “Where is bread and wine?” as they faint like the wounded in the streets of the city, as their lives ebb away in their mothers’ arms.

From 588 B.C., in the ninth year of King Zedekiah, Jerusalem was besieged by Babylon for about two years, and since no food could be supplied, the people suffered greatly.

Little children and infants died of hunger because there was nothing to eat.

Jeremiah laments that there is no one to comfort Judah in the midst of the suffering brought by judgment.

(lamentations 2:13) What can I say for you? With what can I compare you, Daughter Jerusalem? To what can I liken you, that I may comfort you, Virgin Daughter Zion? Your wound is as deep as the sea. Who can heal you?

No one can heal them.

Jeremiah declares that the false prophets played a major role in the destruction of Jerusalem.

He also sharply rebukes the spiritual foolishness of the people who followed those false prophets.

(lamentations 2:14) The visions of your prophets were false and worthless; they did not expose your sin to ward off your captivity. The prophecies they gave you were false and misleading.

The false prophets of Judah were only concerned with maintaining their own vested interests and failed to lead the people in the right way.

Moreover, the people themselves did not want to hear the word of God but preferred to listen to words that pleased their ears, so they followed the false prophets.

The surrounding nations looked upon Judah's downfall and mocked and rejoiced

(lamentations 2:15) All who pass your way clap their hands at you; they scoff and shake their heads at Daughter Jerusalem: "Is this the city that was called the perfection of beauty, the joy of the whole earth?"

(lamentations 2:16) All your enemies open their mouths wide against you; they scoff and gnash their teeth and say, "We have swallowed her up. This is the day we have waited for; we have lived to see it."

The surrounding nations, once envious of the glory of God's chosen people Israel, rejoiced as if they themselves had destroyed Israel when it finally fell.

Jeremiah makes it clear that it was God who carried out this event.

He urges the people to cry out to Him with tears and earnest supplication.

(lamentations 2:17) The LORD has done what he planned; he has fulfilled his word, which he decreed long ago. He has overthrown you without pity, he has let the enemy gloat over you, he has exalted the horn of your foes.

(lamentations 2:18) The hearts of the people cry out to the Lord. You walls of Daughter Zion, let your tears flow like a river day and night; give yourself no relief, your eyes no rest.

(lamentations 2:19) Arise, cry out in the night, as the watches of the night begin; pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to him for the lives of your children, who faint from hunger at every street corner.

Jeremiah once again reflects on the tragedy of Judah and sings a sorrowful lament.

(lamentations 2:20) “Look, LORD, and consider: Whom have you ever treated like this? Should women eat their offspring, the children they have cared for? Should priest and prophet be killed in the sanctuary of the Lord?

(lamentations 2:21) “Young and old lie together in the dust of the streets; my young men and young women have fallen by the sword. You have slain them in the day of your anger; you have slaughtered them without pity.

(lamentations 2:22) “As you summon to a feast day, so you summoned against me terrors on every side. In the day of the LORD’s anger no one escaped or survived; those I cared for and reared my enemy has destroyed.”

Beloved members of Church of Godly Dreams,

The people of Israel did not fear the Lord.

They did not revere Him and broke their covenant with Him.

They arrogantly thought that since they were God’s chosen people, surely He would not punish them — and so they ignored every warning of judgment.

But contrary to their expectations, God departed from Israel for breaking His covenant.

The glory of the Lord left Judah, and what remained was utter devastation.

All the splendor they once enjoyed under God’s protection vanished, leaving only desolation.

Enemies came and devoured them like roaring lions, yet no one came to their aid.

The city walls were torn down; the temple, the palaces, and the houses were burned.

Many were killed, and the king, leaders, and people were taken captive.

Once-proud Jerusalem, who had lived in luxury like a princess, became an empty, desolate city.

The surrounding nations mocked and rejoiced at Judah's downfall.

This is the reality of Judah after God had left them.

This is the tragedy that befalls those from whom God's presence has departed.

Do not take God's words of warning lightly!

Cast away the complacent thought that a loving God would never judge you!

Remember the God who also judged Israel!

Repent and return to God before judgment comes!

Then you will be able to enjoy the blessing of **Jehovah Shammah** — "The Lord is there."