

An open scroll of the Book of Lamentations, showing Hebrew text. The scroll is unrolled and rests on a wooden handle. The text is written in black ink on aged, yellowish paper. The scroll is set against a dark background.

# The Book of Lamentations

## Chapter 4

# Lamentations

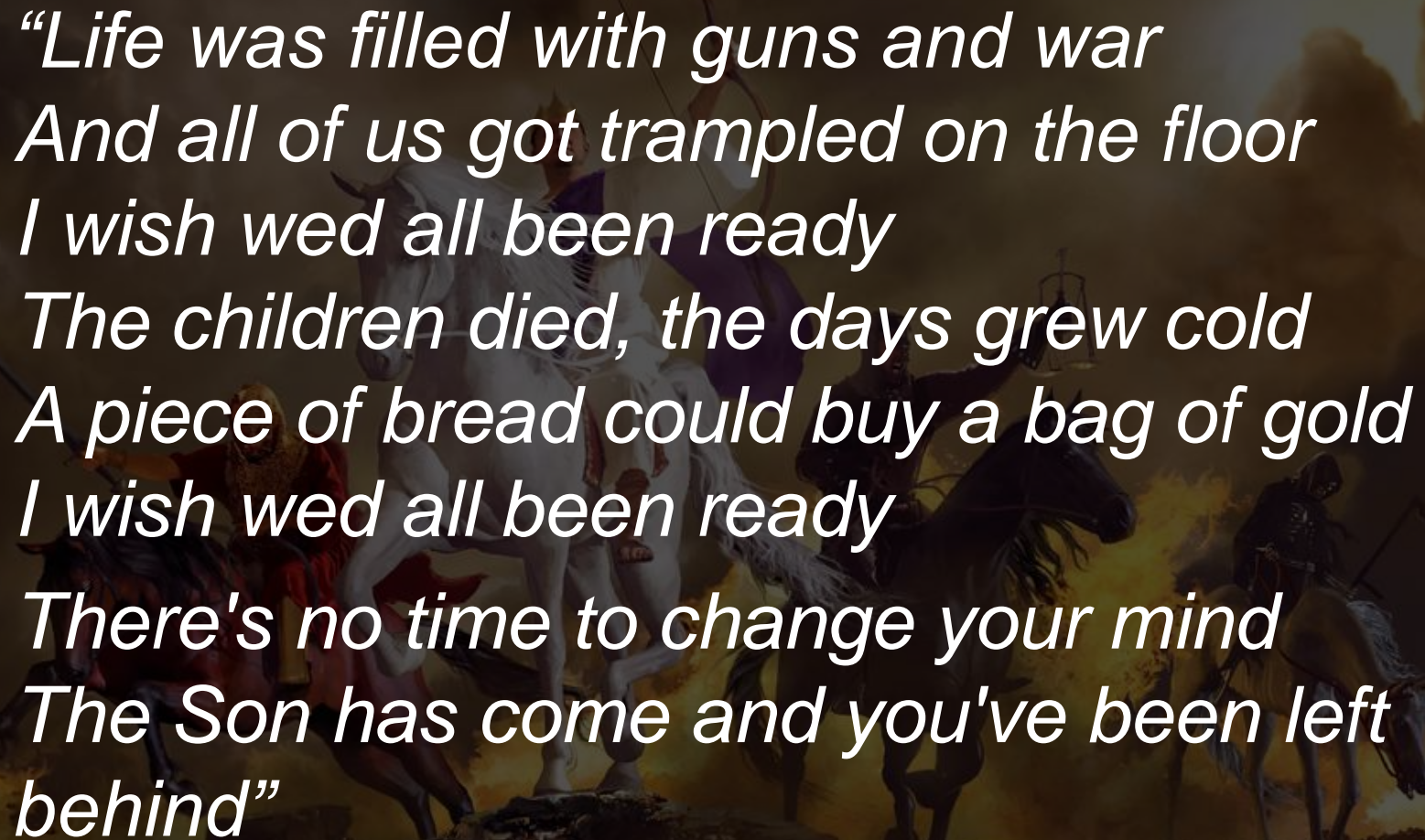
- Forth Stanza
- The City Represented as Gold, Tarnished and Dimmed in Her Desolation (4:1-22).
  - Horrors of the siege (4:1-10):
  - The cause of their judgment; corrupt religious leaders (4:11-16). God was justified in his judgments.
  - Vanity of human helpers and past achievements (4:17-20).
  - Edom shall not escape (4:21-22).

<sup>1</sup> **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.

<sup>2</sup> The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold, how are they esteemed as earthen pitchers, the work of the hands of the potter!

## Lamentations 4:1-2

- This chapter opens with 'how?'
  - The same as chapter 1 - 'eykah'
- How has it come to this?
- Material prosperity soon loses its value in the midst of calamity



*“Life was filled with guns and war  
And all of us got trampled on the floor  
I wish wed all been ready  
The children died, the days grew cold  
A piece of bread could buy a bag of gold  
I wish wed all been ready  
There's no time to change your mind  
The Son has come and you've been left  
behind”*



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!

## Lamentations 4:1-2

- That which was beautiful to look upon is now corrupt
- This is how God sees Israel at this point
- That which was sacred was scattered abroad to trampled underfoot

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

## Lamentations 4:3-4

When God wants to show you what human nature is like apart from Himself, He has to show it you in yourself. If the Spirit of God has given you a vision of what you are apart from the grace of God (and He only does it when His Spirit is at work), you know there is no criminal who is half so bad in actuality as you know yourself to be in possibility. - **Oswald Chambers**

5 They that did feed delicately are desolate in the streets: they that were brought up in scarlet embrace dunghills.

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.

**Lamentations 4:5-6**

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.

**Lamentations 4:7-8**



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.

**Lamentations 4:9-10**

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

**Lamentations 4:11-12**

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.

**Lamentations 4:13-14**

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.

**Lamentations 4:1-2**

<sup>17</sup> 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.

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

**Lamentations 4:17-18**



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

<sup>20</sup> 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.

**Lamentations 4:19-20**

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.

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.

**Lamentations 4:21-22**



# The Book of Lamentations

## Chapter 5

# Lamentations

- Fifth Stanza
- The City Represented as One Appealing for Mercy (5:1-22).
  - An appeal for mercy in their calamity (5:1-6).
  - The disasters of sin (5:7-18).
  - An appeal to the Lord of the universe (5:19-22).

- 1 Remember, O LORD, what is come upon us: consider, and behold our reproach.
- 2 Our inheritance is turned to strangers, our houses to aliens.
- 3 We are orphans and fatherless, our mothers are as widows.

**Lamentations 4:1-3**



- 4 We have drunken our water for money; our wood is sold unto us.
- 5 Our necks are under persecution: we labour, and have no rest.
- 6 We have given the hand to the Egyptians, and to the Assyrians, to be satisfied with bread.

**Lamentations 4:4-6**

7 Our fathers have sinned, and are not; and we have borne their iniquities.

8 Servants have ruled over us: there is none that doth deliver us out of their hand.

9 We gat our bread with the peril of our lives because of the sword of the wilderness.

10 Our skin was black like an oven because of the terrible famine.

**Lamentations 4:7-10**

11 They ravished the women in Zion, and the maids in the cities of Judah.

12 Princes are hanged up by their hand: the faces of elders were not honoured.

13 They took the young men to grind, and the children fell under the wood.

14 The elders have ceased from the gate, the young men from their musick.

**Lamentations 4:11-14**

15 The joy of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning.

16 The crown is fallen from our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned!

17 For this our heart is faint; for these things our eyes are dim.

18 Because of the mountain of Zion, which is desolate, the foxes walk upon it.

19 Thou, O LORD, remainest for ever; thy throne from generation to generation.

**Lamentations 4:15-19**

20 Wherefore dost thou forget us for ever, and forsake us so long time?

21 Turn thou us unto thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old.

22 But thou hast utterly rejected us; thou art very wroth against us.

**Lamentations 4:20-22**





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