

## Talk 2 (Lamentations 2)

### Weep for the church under the judgment of God

#### 2:1-10 Look at the church under the judgment of God

<sup>2</sup>How the Lord in his anger  
has set the daughter of Zion under a cloud!  
He has cast down from heaven to earth  
the splendor of Israel;  
he has not remembered his footstool [1 Chron. 28:2; Isa. 66:1; Pss. 99:5; 132:7]  
in the day of his anger.

<sup>2</sup>The Lord has swallowed up without mercy  
all the habitations of Jacob;  
in his wrath he has broken down  
the strongholds of the daughter of Judah;  
he has brought down to the ground in dishonor  
the kingdom and its rulers.

<sup>3</sup>He has cut down in fierce anger  
all the might of Israel;  
he has withdrawn from them his right hand  
in the face of the enemy;  
he has burned like a flaming fire in Jacob,  
consuming all around.

<sup>4</sup>He has bent his bow like an enemy,  
with his right hand set like a foe;  
and he has killed all who were delightful in our eyes [Ezek. 24:21]  
in the tent of the daughter of Zion;  
he has poured out his fury like fire.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord has become like an enemy;  
he has swallowed up Israel;  
he has swallowed up all its palaces;  
he has laid in ruins its strongholds,  
and he has multiplied in the daughter of Judah  
mourning and lamentation.

<sup>6</sup>He has laid waste his booth like a garden,  
laid in ruins his meeting place;  
the LORD has made Zion forget  
festival and Sabbath [Isa. 1:13; Hosea 2:11],  
and in his fierce indignation has spurned king and priest.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord has scorned his altar,  
disowned his sanctuary;  
he has delivered into the hand of the enemy  
the walls of her palaces;  
they raised a clamor in the house of the Lord  
as on the day of festival. [cf. Psalm 74]

<sup>8</sup>The LORD determined to lay in ruins  
the wall of the daughter of Zion;  
he stretched out the measuring line;  
he did not restrain his hand from destroying;  
he caused rampart and wall to lament;  
they languished together.

<sup>9</sup>Her gates have sunk into the ground;  
he has ruined and broken her bars;  
her king and princes are among the nations;  
the law is no more,  
and her prophets find  
no vision from the LORD.

<sup>10</sup>The elders of the daughter of Zion  
sit on the ground in silence;  
they have thrown dust on their heads  
and put on sackcloth;  
the young women of Jerusalem  
have bowed their heads to the ground

## 2:11-12 Feel the grief of the church under the judgment of God

<sup>11</sup>My eyes are spent with weeping;  
my stomach churns;  
my bile [liver] is poured out to the ground  
because of the destruction of the daughter of my people,  
because infants and babies faint  
in the streets of the city.

<sup>12</sup>They cry to their mothers,  
“Where is bread and wine?” [Deut. 28:51]  
as they faint like a wounded man  
in the streets of the city,  
as their life is poured out  
on their mothers' bosom.

## 2:13-22 Hear the call to move from grief to prayer

<sup>13</sup>What can I say for you, to what compare you,  
O daughter of Jerusalem?  
What can I liken to you, that I may comfort you,  
O virgin daughter of Zion?  
For your ruin is vast as the sea;  
who can heal you?

<sup>14</sup>Your prophets have seen for you  
false and deceptive visions; [Jer. 6:14; 8:11; 28:9; Ezek. 13:10; 22:28]  
they have not exposed your iniquity  
to restore your fortunes,  
but have seen for you oracles  
that are false and misleading.

<sup>15</sup>All who pass along the way  
clap their hands at you; [Num. 24:10; Job 34:26]  
they hiss and wag their heads  
at the daughter of Jerusalem:  
“Is this the city that was called  
the perfection of beauty, [Psalm 50:2]  
the joy of all the earth?” [Psalm 48:2]

<sup>16</sup>All your enemies  
rail against you;  
they hiss, they gnash their teeth,  
they cry: “We have swallowed her!  
Ah, this is the day we longed for;  
now we have it; we see it!”

<sup>17</sup>The LORD has done what he purposed;  
he has carried out his word,  
which he commanded long ago;  
he has thrown down without pity;  
he has made the enemy rejoice over you  
and exalted the might of your foes.

<sup>18</sup>Their heart cried to the Lord.  
O wall of the daughter of Zion,  
let tears stream down like a torrent [wadi]  
day and night!  
Give yourself no rest,  
your eyes no respite!

<sup>19</sup>“Arise, cry out in the night,  
at the beginning of the night watches!  
Pour out your heart like water  
before the presence of the Lord!  
Lift your hands to him  
for the lives of your children,  
who faint for hunger  
at the head of every street.”

<sup>20</sup>Look, O LORD, and see!  
With whom have you dealt thus?  
Should women eat the fruit of their womb,  
the children of their tender care?  
Should priest and prophet be killed  
in the sanctuary of the Lord?

<sup>21</sup>In the dust of the streets  
lie the young and the old;  
my young women and my young men  
have fallen by the sword;  
you have killed them in the day of your anger,  
slaughtering without pity.

<sup>22</sup>You summoned as if to a festival day  
my terrors on every side,  
and on the day of the anger of the Lord  
no one escaped or survived;  
those whom I held and raised  
my enemy destroyed.

## Responding to Lamentations 2

‘For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?’ (1 Peter 4:17)

The perils of ungodly sorrow – Luke 13:1-5

Why the purity of the church matters so deeply (Psalm 80:8-13)

Hope in Lamentations 2?