### Lamentations

## Chapter 2

1‘O how dark was the rage of Jehovah  
 When it came to the daughter of Zion.  
 For He pulled IsraEl’s glory out of the heights  
 And threw it down to the ground…  
 Yes, in the day of His rage,  
 He forgot the stool for His feet.  
  
 2‘[He] didn’t hold back, nor did He spare  
 Jacob’s beautiful things.  
 In His rage, He destroyed all the forts  
 Of the virgin daughter of Judah.  
 He cut them down to the ground,  
 And profaned our rulers and king.  
  
 3‘He broke them to pieces in anger and rage,  
 Taking all of IsraEl’s strength…  
 He turned His hand from the enemy’s face  
 And allowed them to set Jacob ablaze…  
 To consume everything that’s around him.  
  
 4‘As an enemy, He stretched tight His bow,  
 And as an opponent, he stiffened His hand  
 To destroy all the things that my eyes had desired.  
 On the Tents of the daughters of Zion,  
 He poured out the flames of His rage.  
  
 5‘So Jehovah became our enemy…  
 He sunk IsraEl and all its estates.  
 He also destroyed all its forts…  
 The strongholds of the daughters of Judah.  
  
 ‘He multiplied those who were humbling us,  
 And increased the numbers of humbled.  
  
 6‘Like a grapevine, He spread out His Tent,  
 And His holiday feasts, He corrupted.  
 He forgot all the things He’d appointed for Zion…  
 The holiday feasts and the Sabbaths.  
 He did this, because we’d provoked Him,  
 Then He threatened our king and our priests in His rage.  
  
 7‘[He] thrust away His own Altar…  
 His Holy Place, He’s brushed aside.  
 So our enemies broke down our walls,  
 And shouted in the House of Jehovah  
 As we used to do on our holiday feasts.  
  
 8‘Jehovah made plans to ruin the walls  
 Of the virgin daughter of Zion.  
 First, He stretched out His ruler,  
 Then His hand sent a trampling upon us,  
 Which caused us to mourn around all our walls,  
 Because the walls were destroyed,  
 9And the gates had been cut to the ground…  
 They broke and destroyed the bars for our gates!  
  
 ‘So now, her king and her rulers  
 Have been scattered among all the nations,  
 And there’s no longer a Law,  
 Nor do our prophets see visions.  
  
 10‘They silently sit on the ground  
 (The elders of the daughter of Zion)  
 As they throw dust on their heads…  
 As they’re dressing in sackcloth…  
 As the heads of JeruSalem’s virgins  
 Are being pushed to the ground.  
  
 11‘Then the tears in my eyes started to fail,  
 Because my heart had become so disturbed.  
 My glory had just been poured on the ground  
 By the destruction of all the daughters  
 And the nursing mothers with babies,  
 There in our city squares.  
  
 12‘From the mothers, they demanded their grain and their wine  
 When they were as weak as the wounded.  
 Then, in those squares, they poured out the lives  
 [Of the babies] that nursed at their breasts.  
  
 13‘And now, what more can I say,  
 O virgin daughter of JeruSalem…  
 To what can you be compared?  
 Who can now come and save you,  
 O virgin daughter of Zion…  
 Since the cup of destruction was widened for you,  
 Who can now bring you healing?  
  
 14‘Although your prophets saw all of your folly,  
 They refused to uncover your sins  
 And save you from this captivity…  
 Even though they were concerned about your foolish ways,  
 And they knew that you had to be purged!  
  
 15‘Now, people clap hands as they’re passing,  
 And whistle as they shake their heads  
 Over JeruSalem’s daughter:  
  
 ‘Isn’t she the one who was called glory’s crown…  
 The most joyful place on the earth?’  
  
 16‘But your enemies opened their mouths  
 And whistled, as they ground their teeth.  
 They said:  
  
 ‘We’ll swallow her down,  
 And this is the day that we planned…  
 We found it and [we made it happen]!’  
  
 17‘So Jehovah did what He’d decided…  
 He finished what He said must be done…  
 The things that He said [He must do] long ago.  
 So He didn’t spare, He demolished…  
 He brought your enemies joy over you,  
 And raised the trumpets of those who attacked you!  
  
 18‘Before Jehovah, they were yelling:  
  
 ‘We’ll tear down all of Zion’s walls  
 And make its people stream tears day and night!  
 Don’t allow them the time to get sober,  
 Or to let their eyes become still!’  
  
 19‘So, during the night, awaken and think…  
 At the start of each watch, pour out your hearts  
 Before the face of Jehovah!  
 Raise your arms up before Him  
 On behalf of the children who are starving,  
 Which are found on every street corner!  
  
  
 20‘Behold, O Lord…  
  
 ‘See what You’ve gleaned!  
 Should women eat the fruit of their bellies?  
 Should the babies be murdered as they’re nursing on breasts?  
 Will you kill the priests and the prophets  
 Inside the Holy Place of Jehovah?  
  
 21‘Young boys must now sleep in the streets  
 Along with the old men and virgins.  
 My young men were all taken captive,  
 And then killed by the famine and swords.  
 For, in the day of Your rage,  
 You slashed and You haven’t spared any!  
  
 22‘As a festival day (as no other day),  
 You called to those living around us.  
 Then because of Your rage, no one was saved…  
 They left no one behind…  
 My enemies were filled, and You won.’