### Lamentations

## Chapter 4

1‘O how the gold’s lost its luster  
 And how the silver’s been tarnished;  
 For the [Temple’s] holy stones have been tossed in the streets.  
  
 2‘For because the sons of Zion esteemed  
 And gained their courage from things made of gold,  
 They came to be looked on as earthenware pots…  
 And as works in the hands of a potter.  
  
 3‘Then, nursing cubs were stripped from the breasts  
 By those who’d become like the Dragon,  
 And the daughters of my people were abandoned  
 Like sparrows that are lost in the desert.  
  
 4‘Now the tongues of the nursing, stick to the breasts,  
 In hope that their thirst can be quenched.  
 And as the infants are crying for bread,  
 It’s being snatched from their mouths.  
  
 5‘So from those who once ate the best,  
 All been taken away…  
 And those who were raised wearing purple  
 Are found in the streets embracing manure.  
  
 6‘For the lawless ways of my people’s daughters  
 Proved to be greater than Sodom…  
 That place which none tried to save  
 When it was being wiped away.  
  
 7‘Her Nazarites were once like the snow…  
 Radiant and whiter than milk…  
 Yes, even better than sapphires!  
 8But now, their appearance is darker than soot,  
 And they’re unrecognized in the streets.  
 For their skin is now stuck to their bones,  
 And they’ve dried up like lumber.  
  
 9‘It was better for those who were killed by the sword  
 Than for those who’ve been pierced by starvation…  
 Those in want of the produce of fields.  
  
 10‘And the hands of women [who were known for their] pity,  
 Then boiled their own children as food…  
 So amid the destruction of the daughters of my people,  
 11Jehovah completed His rage.  
  
 ‘Then, as He poured out the wrath of His rage,  
 He lit a fire throughout Zion,  
 Which burned her to her foundations.  
  
 12‘To the kings of the earth who lived in that time,  
 It was hard to believe…  
 That an enemy could enter JeruSalem’s gates  
 And then bring so much devastation.  
  
 13‘But it happened because of the sins of her prophets…  
 The failures of all her priests…  
 And the shedding of innocent blood in her midst.  
  
 14‘Then, in her streets, her watchmen were stunned;  
 For, they became [spattered] with blood…  
 It was something that they couldn’t avoid,  
 Since the clothes that they wore had to touch it.  
  
 15‘So, people started shouting:  
  
 ‘Get away… Get away,  
 Because you’re all now unclean!  
 Get away… Get away… Don’t touch them!’  
  
 ‘Then, after we fled and wandered about,  
 The gentiles said:  
  
 ‘You can’t stay among us!’  
  
 ‘Yes the gentiles shouted at us:  
  
 ‘There’s no way that we want you to come here!’  
  
 16‘Even though our portion was the person of [God],  
 He no longer kept watch over us,  
 For the people had shown no respect  
 To their elders or Priests.  
  
 17‘So our eyes had started to fail  
 As we were searching for aid…  
 They just watched us and offered no help…  
 A nation with no one to save them.  
  
 18‘Now, stay away from our city squares,  
 For they’re hunting our young…  
 Our time has approached and our days are fulfilled,  
 So our end is now close at hand!  
  
 19‘For, those who chase us are even more agile  
 Than eagles [that attack from] the mountains…  
 They’re sitting there and waiting for us  
 From their perches high over the desert.  
  
 20‘Jehovah’s anointed (our life’s breath and lord)  
 Has also been seized and carried away  
 Because we became so corrupt…  
 Yes, this one about whom we’d once said:  
  
 ‘Among the nations, we’ll dwell in his shadow.’  
  
 21‘So rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom…  
 The one who’s residing in Uz!  
 Yet you’ll also go into the cup of the Lord,  
 Where, after you’re drunk, you’ll be poured.’  
  
 22‘O great daughter of Zion;  
 Your lawless acts have now reached their end,  
 And [God] won’t be in the places you’re sent.  
  
 ‘And you, O daughter of Edom;  
 He’ll also examine your lawless ways,  
 And reveal your unrighteous deeds.