

# **Wycliffe Associates**

## **Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide**

### *Lamentations*

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# 1:1-4

**Background:** The person who wrote this book is unknown. Some people think Jeremiah the prophet wrote it. In this guide, we will refer to the author as “the author” or “the writer.”

In this book, the author wrote about the nation of Judah after an enemy nation destroyed it. Its capital city Jerusalem was also destroyed. Jerusalem was also called “Zion.” The enemy army forced the people of Judah to live in other nations. This was called “the exile.” The author often spoke about the destroyed nation as if it were a woman who was mourning.

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The author wrote about a nation after it had been destroyed and the people taken into slavery. [1:1]
- ☐ The people of the nation were mourning and those who were their friends had betrayed them and become their enemies. [1:2]
- ☐ The people of Judah were removed from their homes and forced to live in other nations. [1:3-4]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What had the city of Jerusalem become like even though it was once a mighty nation? [1:1]  
The city had become like a widow.
2. What do you think it meant for a city to become like a widow? [1:1]  
A widow was a woman whose husband had died. The city, which was talked about as if it were a woman, suffered great loss when the people were taken away. Many people were killed.
3. What did the friends of the city do to her? [1:2]  
They betrayed her and became her enemies.
4. Why do you think the author wrote that Judah could not find rest living among the nations? [1:3-4]  
The author probably meant that the people of Judah were very sad about being forced to live away from their home.
5. Why did Yahweh afflict the people of Judah? [1:5]  
He did this because the people had disobeyed him many times.
6. What do you think this meant about Yahweh’s attitude towards sin? [1:5]  
Yahweh hates sin and will punish people for it, even if it is his own people.

**Comment Section:**

## 3:19-33

**Background:** The author wrote before about the nation of Judah's suffering and loss because of its sin against Yahweh. In 3:19-33, the author began to write about hope and the character of Yahweh.

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The author said he continually remembered his suffering, and he asked Yahweh to remember it also. [3:19-20]
- ☐ The author was hopeful when he remembered that Yahweh's love and compassion never ends. [3:21-24]
- ☐ The author said a person can still be hopeful even when he is suffering. [3:27-30]
- ☐ The author said that Yahweh does not reject or punish his people forever. [3:31-33]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the author remember? [3:19-20]  
The author remembered his affliction, wanderings, wormwood, and bitterness.
2. How did the author feel as he remembered his affliction? [3:20]  
The author felt extreme sadness and despair.
3. What made the author hopeful? [3:21-22]  
The writer was hopeful when he remembered that Yahweh's love and compassions never end.
4. What did the writer say is new every morning? [3:22-23]  
The writer said that the steadfast love of Yahweh and his compassions are new every morning.
5. Why should a person wait on Yahweh? [3:25]  
Yahweh is good to those who wait on him and to the person that seeks him.
6. What do you think it meant to wait silently? [3:25-26]  
To wait silently probably meant to patiently trust in Yahweh.
7. What did the writer say was good for a man to bear in his youth? [3:27]  
The writer said it is good for a man to bear his yoke in his youth. That is, it is good for a person to suffer while he is young because it demonstrates that Yahweh sustains those who trust in him.
8. What did the author say a man should offer to the person who strikes him? [3:30]  
A man should offer his cheek to the one who strikes him.
9. What do you think it means that a man should offer his cheek to the person who struck him? [3:30-31]  
Perhaps it means that a person should accept affliction and insults, knowing that the Lord will save his people at the right time.

**Lamentations 3:19-33 continued**

10. From where did Yahweh not afflict or torment the children of mankind? [3:33]

Yahweh did not do these things from his heart.

11. What do you think the author meant when he said Yahweh did not do these things from his heart? [3:33]

The author probably meant that Yahweh did not enjoy punishing his people, but it was necessary for him to punish them when they sinned. [3:33]

**Comment Section:**

## 4:6-9

**Background:** In 4:2, the writer spoke about the “sons of Zion.” In this passage, the writer spoke about the “daughter of my people.” These were ways of talking about the people of Judah.

The writer also spoke about “Sodom” in this passage. Sodom was a city with very wicked people. God destroyed this city.

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The writer said the people of Jerusalem sinned worse than the people of Sodom. [4:6]
- ☐ The princes of God’s people were once beautiful, but they became filthy and could not be recognized. [4:7-8]
- ☐ The writer said that those who were killed quickly with the sword were better off than those who died slowly from hunger. [4:9]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. How great was the sin of God’s people? [4:6]  
Their sin was greater than the sin of Sodom.
2. How did the writer describe the princes in 4:7?  
They were purer than snow, whiter than milk, their bodies were ruddy, and their form was like sapphire.
3. What do you think the author meant by the description in 4:7?  
Perhaps the author meant that the people’s form or appearance was very beautiful.
4. What were the princes like when the author was writing? [4:8]  
Their appearance was blackened, they were unrecognizable, and their skin shriveled on their withered bones.
5. What do you think it meant that their skin had shriveled on their bones? [4:8]  
It probably meant that they were sick and dying from a lack of food.
6. What did the author say about those who were killed by hunger compared to those killed by the sword?  
Those killed by the sword were better off than those who were killed by hunger.
7. What do you think the writer meant when he said that those who were killed by the sword were better than those killed by hunger? [4:9]  
The writer probably meant that those who were killed by the sword did not suffer for a long time like those who starved to death.

**Comment Section:**

# 5:1-8

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The writer spoke to Yahweh, asking him to remember what happened to his people and to see their disgrace. [5:1]
- ☐ The people's land and homes were given over to strangers and foreigners, and they had become like orphans and widows. [5:2-3]
- ☐ The people in Zion had to pay to get water and wood. [5:4]
- ☐ The people could not find rest and had to turn to their enemies to get enough food to eat. [5:5-6]
- ☐ God was punishing them because of the sins of their ancestors, and no one was there to rescue them. [5:7-8]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the writer ask Yahweh to remember? [5:1]  
The writer asked Yahweh to remember what happened to them and to see their disgrace.
2. What do you think the writer meant when he asked God to remember what happened to them? Do you think God forgot what happened?  
No, the writer was asking God to show concern for them and what they were suffering.
3. To whom had the people's inheritance and houses been given over? [5:2]  
The people's inheritance and houses had been given over to strangers and foreigners.
4. What had the people become like? [5:3]  
The people had become like orphans and widows.
5. What were the people required to pay for with silver? [5:4]  
They had to pay silver to get water to drink and wood to cook their food.
6. How did the people feel knowing that their enemies were coming after them? [5:5]  
The people felt weary.
7. Who did the people give themselves to in order to get enough food? [5:6]  
They gave themselves to the people of Egypt and Assyria.
8. What were the people saying about sin? [5:7]  
They were saying that God was punishing them because their ancestors had sinned.
9. Who ruled over God's people? [5:8]  
Slaves ruled over them.

**Comment Section:**

# 5:19-22

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The writer described Yahweh as the one who reigned forever. [5:19]
- ☐ The writer asked Yahweh why he had abandoned his people. [5:20]
- ☐ The writer asked Yahweh to restore his people to himself, unless his anger was too great, and he had rejected them forever [5:21-22]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the writer say about Yahweh's reign and throne? [5:19]  
The writer said Yahweh reigns forever and sits on his throne throughout all generations.
2. What did the writer ask Yahweh? [5:20]  
He asked Yahweh whether he was forgetting his people and abandoning them forever.
3. What did the writer ask Yahweh to do for the people? [5:21]  
He asked Yahweh to restore them to himself and renew their days. That is, he asked Yahweh to make the people and their relationship with him like it was in the past.
4. What did the writer think could be a reason that Yahweh would not restore and renew them? [5:22]  
Yahweh might not restore them if he had completely rejected them in his anger.

**Comment Section:**