

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

17

All I Have Needed Thy Hand Hath Provided

Lamentations 1

FOR CHILDREN:

Read Lamentations 1:16. Have you ever done something wrong and then felt so bad that it made you cry? That is what is happening in this poem. The people of Israel were in a bad place because they had stopped listening to God and got themselves in trouble. Now they were in tears because they realized how much they had hurt God. What's worse, they recognize the distance they put between themselves and God and how lonely and frustrating life is without Him. What's important for us to realize is that if we feel distant from God, it's because we've tried to push Him away. He is always right there with us! And if we turn back toward Him, we'll find Him (*Acts 17:27*).

Weekly Memory Verse:

"See, Lord, for I am in distress;
My spirit is greatly troubled;
My heart is wrung within me,
For I have been very rebellious..."

Lamentations 1:20

Weekly Affirmation:

**God Will Be The
First Place I Turn!**

MAY 2025 GROWTH GOALS

- Read the Book of Lamentations
(plus final 50 Psalms).
- Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- Watch the Bible Project video on the
Book of Lamentations (available on the website).
- Express your relationship with God through
journaling, a poem, or writing out some prayers
this month.

FOR THE GROWING CHRISTIAN:

There is often a lot of word play in the original Hebrew that gets lost in translation. Lamentations 1 is no exception. In this case it's the word **רַב** (*rab*), meaning "great, large, many." It starts in verse 1: Jerusalem had been **great** [filled with many] people. And she was **great** among the nations. Now the people faced **great** servitude (verse 3) to their enemies because of their **great** sins (verse 5). Then the poem ends with nothing **great** about the people of Jerusalem but the number of their groans (verse 22).

This is not the only repetition in the Hebrew of this poem, but it leaves the reader contemplating the true source of greatness. It doesn't come from ourselves, nor from other created things. Greatness comes from God alone, and is found in humbling ourselves before Him. Prayerfully read and consider Matthew 23:11-12; James 4:6, 10; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.

FOR THE MATURE CHRISTIAN:

Read Lamentations 1:1-5. The people of Israel had become exiles in Babylon, taken captive by their enemy. They had turned to sources other than God for comfort, security, trust, and protection. Those sources could not stop the invasion of the enemy then, and they cannot rescue now. The poet of Lamentations recognizes that he and his people are captives with only one source of hope for a change of circumstances.

Now Read Romans 6:15-23 where Paul writes about spiritual captivity. Prayerfully answer these questions: What connections do you notice between the two readings? How is sin in Romans like the enemy that is Babylon in Lamentations? How does the solution for the exiles there compare with the solution for spiritual captives today? How can you live out this truth today?