

Thy Compassions, They Fail Not

Lamentations 2

FOR CHILDREN:

The Book of Lamentations is made up of five poems. These poems express the sadness of the people of Israel. They are sad because they have not been living the way that God asked them to, and that has caused a lot of problems in their life. At the same time the poems express repentance. That means the people are ready to turn back to God. They trust that God cares about them and that living His way will turn out for their best. The first four poems are acrostic. That means that when they were written in Hebrew, each line started with the next letter in the alphabet. Try writing your own acrostic poem this week. Write down what comes to mind when you think about God or Jesus starting with the letter "A", then "B", and so on. Each line can be a short sentence or just one word.

Weekly Memory Verse:

"...For your collapse is as vast as the sea;
Who can heal you?"

Lamentations 2:13

Weekly Affirmation:

**Even In The Tears,
God Is There.**

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:

Read Lamentations 2:10-13. The siege by the Babylonians on Jerusalem took 18 months. Men in the prime of life lost their lives in battle, food supplies were cut off and families began to starve, then sickness spread rapidly through the confined city. The suffering was indeed great. This poem looks back on that traumatic period, and considers how the present circumstances aren't much better.

There is much suffering in life because of our own poor choices and because of other's poor choices. But suffering has benefits. It teaches us endurance (*James 1:2-4*). It refines our faith which leads to an assurance of our salvation (*1 Pet. 1:6-9*). It teaches us to depend increasingly on God (*2 Cor. 12:7-10*). And suffering (especially when we're innocent) allows us to grow in intimacy and identity with Jesus (*1 Pet. 2:21-25*). Don't hesitate to feel the pain and grief of suffering, yet also prayerfully consider how God is teaching and building you through your suffering.

FOR THE MATURE CHRISTIAN:

Read Lamentations 2:18-19. God, as perfect Creator, designed humanity as a combination of spiritual and physical. The body, and its functions, were created for our good, and will often express what is happening spiritually. So, when we face times of great emotional stress, God has given us tears as a release valve. Embrace tears as a merciful blessing from God. Jesus was no stranger to grief and tears: John 11:33-35; Luke 19:41; Mark 14:32-34, neither should we be: Romans 12:15.

Do not be hesitant to shed tears often throughout life, and be encouraged with the psalmist, "Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your hearts before Him; God is a refuge for us." (62:8). God created tears for a good purpose.