

# Lamentations 5 - Fifth Dirge: The Remnant's Response

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## Lamentations 5

### V. Remnant's response (Lam 5:1-22)

#### (1) Remnant's prayer for God to remember them (5:1-18)

##### (A) Their reproach (5:1)

- 1** Remember, Lord, what has come upon us; Look, and see our disgrace!
- 1** Remember, O LORD, what has befallen us; Look, and see our reproach!
- 1** LORD, remember what has happened to us. Pay attention, and look at our shame!
- 1** Remember, O LORD, what is come upon us: consider, and behold our reproach.

##### (B) Their stolen property (5:2)

- 2 Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers, Our houses to foreigners.
- 2 Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers, Our houses to aliens.
- 2 Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers, and our homes to foreigners.
- 2 Our inheritance is turned to strangers, our houses to aliens.

(C) Their vulnerability (5:3)

- 3 We have become orphans, without a father; Our mothers are like widows.
- 3 We have become orphans without a father, Our mothers are like widows.
- 3 We are now orphans—without fathers— and our mothers are like widows.
- 3 We are orphans and fatherless, our mothers are as widows.

(D) Their costly necessities (5:4)

- 4 We have to pay for our drinking water, Our wood comes to us at a price.
- 4 We have to pay for our drinking water, Our wood comes *to us* at a price.
- 4 We pay to drink our own water, and our own wood is sold to us at high price.
- 4 We have drunken our water for money; our wood is sold unto us.

(E) Their lack of rest from their pursuers (5:5)

- 5 Our pursuers are at our necks; We are worn out, we are given no rest.
- 5 Our pursuers are at our necks; We are worn out, there is no rest for us.
- 5 Our pursuers breathe down our necks; we are weary, but there is no rest for us.
- 5 Our necks are under persecution: we labour, and have no rest.

(F) Their dependence upon their enemies for food (5:6)

- 6 We have submitted to Egypt and Assyria to get enough bread.
- 6 We have submitted to Egypt *and* Assyria to get enough bread.
- 6 We made a deal with the Egyptians and the Assyrians for the price of food.
- 6 We have given the hand to the Egyptians, and to the Assyrians, to be satisfied with bread.

(G) Their paying the penalty for the sins of their ancestors (5:7)

- 7 Our fathers sinned, and are gone; It is we who have been burdened with the punishment for their wrongdoings.
- 7 Our fathers sinned, *and* are no more; It is we who have borne their iniquities.
- 7 Our ancestors sinned and no longer exist yet we continue to bear the consequences of their sin.
- 7 Our fathers have sinned, and are not; and we have borne their iniquities.

(H) Their being ruled by mere slaves (5:8)

- 8 Slaves rule over us; There is no one to rescue us from their hand.
- 8 Slaves rule over us; There is no one to deliver us from their hand.
- 8 Slaves rule over us, and no one delivers us from their control.
- 8 Servants have ruled over us: there is none that doth deliver us out of their hand.

(I) Their vulnerability when they sought food (5:9)

- 9 We get our bread at the risk of our lives Because of the sword in the wilderness.
- 9 We get our bread at the risk of our lives Because of the sword in the wilderness.
- 9 We risk our lives to obtain our food, facing death in the desert.
- 9 We gat our bread with the peril of our lives because of the sword of the wilderness.

(J) Their physical adversity (5:10)

- 10 Our skin has become as hot as an oven, Because of the ravages of hunger.
- 10 Our skin has become as hot as an oven, Because of the burning heat of famine.
- 10 Our skin blisters as from an oven, due to ravaging blasts of the famine.
- 10 Our skin was black like an oven because of the terrible famine.

(K) Their women were abused (5:11)

- 11 They violated the women in Zion, The virgins in the cities of Judah.
- 11 They ravished the women in Zion, The virgins in the cities of Judah.
- 11 They have raped women in Zion, young women in the towns of Judah.
- 11 They ravished the women in Zion, and the maids in the cities of Judah.

(L) Their leaders were abused (5:12)

- 12 Leaders were hung by their hands; Elders were not respected.
- 12 Princes were hung by their hands; Elders were not respected.
- 12 Princes they have hung by their hands; elders they have disrespected.
- 12 Princes are hanged up by their hand: the faces of elders were not honoured.

(M) Their enslaved youth (5:13)

- 13 Young men worked at the grinding mill, And youths staggered under loads of wood.
- 13 Young men worked at the grinding mill, And youths stumbled under *loads* of wood.
- 13 Our young men must grind grain with a millstone; our youths stumble under the weight of wood.
- 13 They took the young men to grind, and the children fell under the wood.  
- Their women were ravished, and their princes hanged; they had lost everything. The young men who survived were put into slavery.

(N) Their normalcy removed (5:14)

- 14 Elders are absent from the gate, Young men from their music.
- 14 Elders are gone from the gate, Young men from their music.
- 14 Our elders have ceased ruling at the gate; our young men have abandoned their music.
- 14 The elders have ceased from the gate, the young men from their music.

(O) Their cessation of joy (5:15)

- 15 The joy of our hearts has ended; Our dancing has been turned into mourning.
- 15 The joy of our hearts has ceased; Our dancing has been turned into mourning.
- 15 The joy of our hearts has ceased, and our dancing has turned into dirges.
- 15 The joy of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning.

(P) Their prominence removed (5:16)

- 16 The crown has fallen from our head; Woe to us, for we have sinned!
- 16 The crown has fallen from our head; Woe to us, for we have sinned!
- 16 The crown has fallen from our head— woe to us, because we have sinned!
- 16 The crown is fallen from our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned!

(Q) Their heavy hearts (5:17)

- 17 Because of this our heart is faint, Because of these things our eyes are dim;
- 17 Because of this our heart is faint, Because of these things our eyes are dim;
- 17 This is why our hearts faint, and why our eyes grow dim:
- 17 For this our heart is faint; for these things our eyes are dim.

(R) Their desolate city (5:18)

- 18 Because of Mount Zion which lies desolate, Jackals prowl in it.
- 18 Because of Mount Zion which lies desolate, Foxes prowl in it.
- 18 Because Mount Zion is desolate; foxes roam around it.
- 18 Because of the mountain of Zion, which is desolate, the foxes walk upon it.

(2) The remnant's plea for restoration (5:19-22)

- 19** You, Lord, rule forever; Your throne is from generation to generation.
- 19** You, O LORD, rule forever; Your throne is from generation to generation.
- 19 You, LORD, are forever— your throne endures from generation to generation.
- 19 Thou, O LORD, remainest for ever; thy throne from generation to generation.
  
- 20 Why will You forget us forever? Why do You abandon us for so long?

20 Why do You forget us forever? Why do You forsake us so long?  
20 So why have you completely forgotten us, forsaking us for so long?  
20 Wherefore dost thou forget us for ever, and forsake us so long time?

21 Restore us to You, Lord, so that we may be restored; Renew our days as of old,  
21 Restore us to You, O LORD, that we may be restored; Renew our days as of old,  
21 Restore us to yourself, LORD, so that we may return. Renew our days as before,  
21 Turn thou us unto thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old.

22 Unless You have utterly rejected us And are exceedingly angry with us.  
22 Unless You have utterly rejected us *And* are exceedingly angry with us.  
22 unless you have utterly rejected us and are angry with us without limit.  
22 But thou hast utterly rejected us; thou art very wroth against us.

- This is the prayer of Jeremiah for his people. We could learn a lesson from this: before it is too late, we had better turn to the Lord. This was not a doubting cry from a discouraged remnant; rather, it was the response of faith from those captives who had mastered the lessons of Deut 28, prophesied 600 years earlier by Moses.

### **Hardships Prophesied by Moses**

The author of the Lamentations was attempting to show the fulfillment of the curses presented in Deut 28 600 years earlier: Cf. John A. Martin, Th.M. "The Contribution of the Book of Lamentations to Salvation History," thesis, Dallas Theological Seminary, 1975, p. 44.

Lamentations	Deuteronomy
1:3	28:65
1:5	28:44
1:5	28:32
1:6	28:25
1:18	28:41
2:15	28:37
2:20	28:53
2:21	28:50
4:10	28:56,57
5:2	28:30
5:5	28:65
5:10	28:48
5:11	28:30
5:12	28:50
5:18	28:56

*If religious books are not circulated among the masses and the people do not turn to God, I do not know what is to become of us as a nation. If truth be not diffused, error will be. If*

*God and His Word are not received, the devil and his works will gain the ascendancy. If the evangelical volume does not reach every hamlet, the pages of a corrupt and licentious literature will. If the power of the Gospel is not felt through the length and the breadth of the land, anarchy, misrule, degradation, misery, corruption, and darkness will reign without mitigation or end. — Daniel Webster*

*The longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of the truth that God governs in the affairs of men. — Benjamin Franklin*