Lamentations: Putting the Mouth before the Eye

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1. Lamentations 1:5-22

⁵Her enemies are now the masters, her foes are at ease, because the LORD has afflicted her for her many transgressions... ⁸Jerusalem has greatly sinned, therefore she is become a mockery... ¹⁴The yoke of my offenses is bound fast, lashed tight by His hand... ¹⁸The LORD is in the right, for I have disobeyed Him... ²⁰See, O LORD, the distress I am in! My heart is in anguish, I know how wrong I was to disobey... ²¹When they heard how I was sighing, there was none to comfort me; all my foes heard of my plight and exulted. For it is Your doing: You have brought on the day that You threatened. Oh, let them become like me! ²²Let all their wrongdoing come before You, and deal with them as You have dealt with me for all my transgressions. For my sighs are many, and my heart is sick.

איכה א :ה-כב

ָה) הָיוּ צֶבֶיהָ לְראשׁ אֹיְבֶיהָ שָׁלוּ כִּיהי הוֹגָהּ עַל רֹב־פְּשָׁעֶיהָ ...(ח) חֵסְא חְסְאָה יְרוּשָׁלַם עַל־כֵּן לְנִידָה הָיָתָה...(יד) נִשְׂקַדּ עֹל פְּשָׁעַי בְּיָדוֹ...(יח) צַדִּיק הוּא הי כִּי פִיהוּ מֶרִיתִי...(כ) רְאֵה הי כִּי־צַר־לִי מֵעַי חֲמַרְמָרוּ נֶהְפַּדְּ לִבִּי בְּקַרְבִּי כִּי מָרוֹ מָרִיתִי...(כא) שָׁמְעוּ כִּי נֶאֱנָחָה אָנִי אֵין מְנַחֵם לִי כָּל־אֹיְבִי שְׁמְעוּ רָעָתִי שְׁשוּ כִּי אַתָּה עָשִׂיתָ וֹלְבָּי דְּנָי: כָמוֹנִי: (כב) תָּבֹא כָל־רָעָתָם לִּבָּנִידְ וִעוֹלֵל לָמוֹ כַּאֵשֵׁר עוֹלַלָּתָּ לִי עַל כָּל־פִּשָּׁעֵי כִּירַבּוֹת אַנְחֹתֵי וְלִבִּי דְּנִי:

2. Lamentations 1:16-17

¹⁶For these things do I weep, my eyes flow with tears: Far from me is any comforter who might revive my spirit; my children are forlorn, for the foe has prevailed. ¹⁷Zion spreads out her hands, she has no one to comfort her; the LORD has summoned against Jacob his enemies all about him; Jerusalem has become among them a thing unclean. ¹⁸The LORD is in the right, for I have disobeyed Him. Hear, all you peoples, and behold my agony: My maidens and my youths have gone into captivity!

איכה א:טז-יז

(טז) עַל אֵבֶּה אֲנִי בּוֹכִיָּה עֵינִי עֵינִי יֹרְדָה מַּיִם כִּי רָחַק מִבֶּנִי מְנַחֵם מֵשִׁיב נַפְשִׁי הָיוּ בָנַי שׁוֹמֵמִים כִּי גָבַר אוֹיֵב : (יז) בֶּרְשָׂה צִיוֹן בָּיָדֵיהַ אֵין מָנַחֵם לָהּ צָוָּה ה׳ לִיַעֵקב סְבִיבִיו צָרַיו הַיִּתָּה יִרוּשַׁלַם לִנְדַּה בֵּינֵיהֵם :

3. Lamentations 2:1-7

¹Alas! The Lord in His wrath has shamed Fair Zion, has cast down from heaven to earth the majesty of Israel. He did not remember His Footstool on His day of wrath. ²The Lord has laid waste without pity all the habitations of Jacob; He has razed in His anger fair Judah's strongholds. He has brought low in dishonor the kingdom and its leaders. ³In blazing anger He has cut down all the might of Israel; He has withdrawn His right hand in the presence of the foe; He has ravaged Jacob like flaming fire, consuming on all sides. ⁴He bent His bow like an enemy, poised His right hand like a foe; He slew all who

delighted the eye. He poured out His wrath like fire in the Tent of Fair Zion...⁷The Lord has rejected His altar, disdained His Sanctuary. He has handed over to the foe the walls of its citadels; they raised a shout in the House of the LORD as on a festival day.

איכה ב:א-ז

(ֹא) אֵיכָה יָעִּיב בְּאַפּוֹ אֲ-דֹנָי אֶת־בַּת־צִּיּוֹן הִשְׁלִידְ מִשְּׁמֵיִם אֶרֶץ תִּפְאֶרֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל וְלֹא־זָכַר הֲדֹם־ רַגְלָיו בְּיוֹם אַפּוֹ : (ב) בְּלַע אֲ-דֹנָי לֹא וְלֹא חָמַל אֵת כָּלִינְאוֹת יַצְלְב הָרַס בְּעֶבְרָתוֹ מִבְצְרֵי בַּת־יְהוּדָה הִגִּיעַ לָאָרֶץ חִלֵּל מַמְלֶכָה וְשָׁרֶיהָ : (ג) גָּדַע בָּחֲרִיאַף כֹּל קֶרֶן יִשְׂרָאֵל הַשִּׁיב אָחוֹר יְמִינוֹ מִפְּנֵי אוֹנֵב וַיִּבְעַר בְּיַעֲלִב כְּאֵשׁ לֶהָבָה אָכְלָה סָבִיב : (ד) דְּרַדְּ קַשְּׁתּוֹ כְּאוֹנֵב נִצָּב יְמִינוֹ כְּצָר וַיַּהֲרֹג כֹּל מַחְמַדֵּיעִיוִ בְּאֹהֶל בַּתִּצִּיוֹן שְׁפַדְּ כָּאֵשׁ חֲמָתוֹ :...(ז) זָנַח אֲ-דֹנָי מִוְבְּחוֹ נִאֵר מִקְּדָּשׁוֹ הִסְגִּיר בָּיֵד־אוֹיֵב חוֹמת אַרְמִנוֹתֵיהָ קּוֹל נָתָנוֹ בָּבֵית־הִי כִּיוֹם מוֹעֵד :

4. Lamentations 2:16-17

¹⁶All your enemies jeer at you; they hiss and gnash their teeth, and cry: "We've ruined her! Ah, this is the day we hoped for; we have lived to see it!" ¹⁷The LORD has done what He purposed, has carried out the decree that He ordained long ago; He has torn down without pity. He has let the foe rejoice over you, has exalted the might of your enemies.

<u>איכה ב:טז-יז</u>

ָעשָׂה (טז) פָּצוּ עָלַיִדְ פִּיהֶם כָּל־אוֹיְבַיִדְ שָׁרְקוּ וַיַּחַרְקוּ־שֵׁן אָמְרוּ בִּלָּעְנוּ אַדְ זֶה הַיּוֹם שֶׁקּוִּינֵחוּ מָצָאנוּ רָאִינוּ : (יז) עָשָׂה ה׳ אֲשֶׁר זַמֵּם בָּצֵע אֵמָרַתוֹ אֲשֶׁר צָוָּה מִימֵי־קָדֶם הָרַס וְלֹא חָמֵל וַיִשְׁמֵּח עַלִיִדְ אוֹיֶב הָרִים קָרָן צַרִידְ:

5. Sanhedrin 104b

Rabbah said in R. Johanan's name: Why did he place the pe before the ayin? Because of the Spies who spoke with their mouths what they had not seen with their eyes.

:סנהדרין קד

6. Lamentations 3:1-6, 19-25

¹I am the man who has known affliction under the rod of His wrath; ²me He drove on and on in unrelieved darkness; ³On none but me He brings down His hand again and again, without cease. ⁴He has worn away my flesh and skin; He has shattered my bones. ⁵All around me He has built misery and hardship; ⁶He has made me dwell in darkness, like those long dead... ¹⁹To recall my distress and my misery was wormwood and poison; ²⁰whenever I thought of them, I was bowed low. ²¹But this do I call to mind, therefore I have hope: ²²The kindness of the LORD has not ended, His mercies are not spent. ²³They are renewed every morning—ample is Your grace! ²⁴"The LORD is my portion," I say with full heart; therefore will I hope in Him. ²⁵The LORD is good to those who trust in Him, to the one who seeks Him.

איכה ג:א-ו, יט-כה

(א) אֲנִּי הַגֶּבֶר רָאָה עֲנִי בְּשֵׁבֶט עֶבְרָתוֹ: (ב) אוֹתִי נָהַג וַיֹּלֵדְ חֹשֶׁדְּ וְלֹא־אוֹר: (ג) אַדְּ בִּי יָשֶׁב יַהְפֹּדְ יָדוֹ כְּלֹהַיּוֹם: (ד) בְּלָה בְשָׁרִי וְעוֹרִי שִׁבַּר עַצְמוֹתָי: (ה) בָּנָה עָלַי וַיַּקַף ראשׁ וּתְלָאָה: (ו) בְּמַחֲשַׁכִּים הוֹשִׁיבַנִי כְּמֵתֵי עוֹלָם :...(יט) זְּכָר־עָנְיִי וּמְרוּדִי לַעֲנָה וְראשׁ: (כ) זָכוֹר תִּזְכּוֹר ותשיח וְתָשׁוֹחַ עַלֵי וַבְּשִׁי: (כא) זאת אָשִׁיב אֶל־לָבִי עַל־כֵּן אוֹחִיל: (כב) חַסְדֵי ה׳ כִּי לא־תָמְנוּ כִּי לא־כָלוּ רַחֲמָיו: (כג) חֲדָשִׁים לַבְּקָרִים רַבָּה אֱמוּנֶתֶך: (כד) חֶלְקִי ה׳ אָמְרָה וַבְּשִׁי עַל־כֵּן אוֹחִיל לוֹ: (כה) טוֹב ה׳ לְקֹוָו לְנֶפֶשׁ תִּדְרְשָׁנּוּ:

7. Lamentations 3:46-51

⁴⁶All our enemies loudly rail against us. ⁴⁷Panic and pitfall are our lot, death and destruction. ⁴⁸My eyes shed streams of water over the ruin of my poor people. ⁴⁹My eyes shall flow without cease, without respite, ⁵⁰until the LORD looks down and beholds from heaven. ⁵¹My eyes have brought me grief over all the maidens of my city.

איכה ג:מו-נא

ָמוֹ) פָּצוֹ עָלֵינוּ פִּיהֶם כָּל־אֹיְבֵינוּ : (מז) פַּחַד וָפַחַת הָיָה לָנוּ הַשֵּׁאת וְהַשְּׁבֶר : (מח) פַּלְגֵי־מַיִם תֵּרַד עֵינִי עַל־שֶּׁבֶר בַּת־עַמִּי : (מט) עֵינִי נִגְּרָה וְלֹא תִדְמֵה מֵאֵין הַפָּגוֹת : (ג) עַד־יַשִּׁקִיף וְיֵרֵא ה׳ מִשְּׁמָיִם : (נא) עֵינִי עוֹלְלָה לְנַפְשִׁי מִכּּל בְּנוֹת עִירִי :

8. Lamentations 4:9-13

⁹Better off were the slain of the sword than those slain by famine, who pined away, [as though] wounded, for lack of the fruits of the field. ¹⁰With their own hands, tenderhearted women have cooked their children; such became their fare, in the disaster of my poor people. ¹¹The LORD vented all His fury, poured out His blazing wrath; He kindled a fire in Zion which consumed its foundations... ¹³It was for the sins of her prophets, the iniquities of her priests, who had shed in her midst the blood of the just.

איכה ד:ט-יג

ָט) טוֹבִים הָיוּ חַלְלֵיחֶרֶב מֶחַלְלֵי רָעָב שֶׁהֵם יָזוּבוּ מְדֻקְּרִים מִתְּנוּבֹת שָׁדִי: (י) יְדֵי נָשִׁים רַחֲמָנִיּוֹת בִּשְׁלוּ יַלְדֵיהֶן הָיוּ לְבָרוֹת לָמוֹ בְּשֶׁבֶר בַּתעַמִּי: (יא) כָּלָּה ה׳ אֶת־חֲמָתוֹ שְּׁפַדְּ חֲרוֹן אַפּוֹ וַיַּצֶּת־אֵשׁ בְּצִיּוֹן וַתּאֹכַל יְסוֹדֹתֶיהָ :...(יג) מֵחַטאׁת נְבִיאֵיהַ עֵוֹנוֹת כֹּהֵנִיהַ הַשִּׁבָּכִים בָּקרבַּהּ דָּם צַדִּיקִים :

9. <u>Lamentations 4:16-17</u>

¹⁶The LORD's countenance has turned away from them, He will look on them no more. They showed no regard for priests, no favor to elders. ¹⁷Even now our eyes pine away in vain for deliverance. As we waited, still we wait for a nation that cannot help.

איכה ד:טז-יז

ָּנִי הֹי חִקְּקָם לֹא יוֹסִיף לְהַבִּיטָם פְּנֵי כֹהֲנִים לֹא נָשָׂאוּ זקנים וּזְקֵנִים לֹא חָנָנוּ : (יז) עודינה עוֹדֵינוּ תִּכְלֶינָה עֵינֵינוּ אַלעַזְרַתֵנוּ הָבֶל בִּצִפִּיָתֵנוּ צִפִינוּ אֵלֹגוֹי לֹא יוֹשָׁעַ :

10. Lamentations 5:1, 15-18

¹Remember, O LORD, what has befallen us; behold, and see our disgrace!...¹⁵Gone is the joy of our hearts; our dancing is turned into mourning. ¹⁶The crown has fallen from our head; woe to us that we have sinned! ¹⁷Because of this our hearts are sick, because of these our eyes are dimmed: ¹⁸Because of Mount Zion, which lies desolate; jackals prowl over it.

איכה ה:א, טו-יח

ָא) זְכֹר ה׳ מֶה־הָיָה לָנוּ הביט הַבִּיטָה וּרְאֵה אֶת־חֶרְפָּתֵנוּ :...(טו) שָׁבַת מְשׁוֹשׁ לְבֵּנוּ נֶהְפַּדְּ לְאֵבֶל מְחֹלֵנוּ : (טז) נָפְלָה עֲטֶרֶת רֹאשׁנוּ אוֹינָא לָנוּ כִּי חָטָאנוּ : (יז) עַל־זֶה הָיָה דָּוֶה לְבֵּנוּ עַל־אֵלֶה חָשְׁכוּ עֵינֵינוּ : (יח) עַל הַר־צִיּוֹן שְׁשָּׁמֵם שּוּעָלִים הַלְכוּרבוֹ :

11. Lamentations 5:19-22

¹⁹But You, O LORD, are enthroned forever, Your throne endures through the ages. ²⁰Why have You forgotten us utterly, forsaken us for all time? ²¹Take us back, O LORD, to Yourself, and let us come back; renew our days as of old! ²²For truly, You have rejected us, bitterly raged against us.

איכה ה:יט-כב

(יט) אַתָּה ה׳ לְעוֹלֶם תֵּשֵׁב כִּסְאֲךְּ לְדֹר וָדוֹר : (כ) לָפָּה לָנֶצַח תִּשְׁכָּחֵנוּ תַּעַזְבֵנוּ לְאֹרֶךְ יָמִים : (כא) הֲשִׁיבֵנוּ ה׳ אֵלֶיךּ ונשוב וְנָשׁוּבָה חַדֵּשׁ יָמֵינוּ כְּקֶדֶם : (כב) כִּי אִם מָאֹס מְאַסְתָּנוּ קַצַפְתָּ עָלֵינוּ עַד מְאֹד :