

# LAMENTATIONS

## 4

### The people of Jerusalem <sup>a</sup>mourn

<sup>1</sup> Why did this happen?

Our gold does not shine anymore,  
and it has become dark.

The fine gold has become bad.

The <sup>b</sup>holy stones of the <sup>\*</sup>temple  
lie all over the <sup>c</sup>streets.

People have <sup>d</sup>thrown them away.

<sup>2</sup> The good people of Jerusalem  
were like gold, very <sup>e</sup>special,  
but now they are <sup>f</sup>worthless  
like <sup>g</sup>clay pots that the <sup>h</sup>potter  
has made with his hands.

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<sup>a</sup>**mourn:** to be <sup>\*</sup>sad and cry because something bad has happened or someone has died. [\*drawing # 50]

<sup>b</sup>**holy:** someone or something that <sup>\*</sup>belongs only to God, He can use it in a <sup>\*</sup>special way.

<sup>c</sup>**street:** the road where people walk or ride. [\*drawing # 100]

<sup>d</sup>**throw away:** when you don't keep something, you don't want it anymore.  
[\*drawing # 110]

<sup>e</sup>**special:** not the same as other things, they are better or more.

<sup>f</sup>**worthless:** something that is no good, you can <sup>\*</sup>throw it away. [\*drawing # 110]

<sup>g</sup>**clay pot:** a pot made of clay, wet <sup>\*</sup>ground that a <sup>\*</sup>potter used and baked in his <sup>\*</sup>oven. [\*drawing # 39]

<sup>h</sup>**potter:** a person who makes pots from <sup>\*</sup>clay. [\*drawing # 39]

<sup>3</sup> <sup>i</sup>Foxes let their babies drink milk,

but my people are as <sup>j</sup>cruel

as <sup>k</sup>ostriches in the <sup>l</sup>desert.

<sup>4</sup> Babies are very <sup>m</sup>thirsty,

and their <sup>n</sup>tongues are dry in their mouths.

They ask for food

but no one gives them

anything to eat.

<sup>5</sup> People who always had good food to eat

are <sup>o</sup>hungry, and they are dying in the <sup>p</sup>streets.

People who were <sup>q</sup>wearing the clothes of a \*king

are sitting on the <sup>r</sup>ash-heaps.

<sup>6</sup> My people have <sup>s</sup>sinned more

than the people of the city of <sup>t</sup>Sodom.

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<sup>i</sup>**fox:** a \*wild animal as big as a dog. [\*drawing # 132]

<sup>j</sup>**cruel:** doing bad things to someone and not feeling sorry for him.

<sup>k</sup>**ostrich:** a very big bird that can not fly.

<sup>l</sup>**desert:** a big, dry, hot place with lots of sand and very little water. [\*drawing # 136]

<sup>m</sup>**thirsty:** to need water because you have not had anything to drink for a long time.

<sup>n</sup>**tongue:** the part in your mouth that can move to help you talk or eat. [\*drawing # 131]

<sup>o</sup>**hungry:** to want food because you have not eaten for a long time.

<sup>p</sup>**street:** the road where people walk or ride. [\*drawing # 100]

<sup>q</sup>**wear:** to put on clothes or \*jewellery and keep it on for some time. [\*drawing # 34]

<sup>r</sup>**ash-heap:** a place where people \*throw away and burn things they do not want. [\*drawing # 110]

<sup>s</sup>**sinned:** when someone has done bad things \*which God hates.

<sup>t</sup>**Sodom and Gomorrah:** 2 \*sinful cities, God \*punished and burnt them. Read Genesis 19:23-29.

The \*Lord <sup>u</sup>destroyed Sodom <sup>v</sup>suddenly,  
and there was no one who  
put out his hand to help them.

<sup>7</sup>The <sup>w</sup>leaders in Jerusalem were  
as <sup>x</sup>pure as <sup>y</sup>snow and as white as milk.  
Their bodies were as red as <sup>z</sup>coral,  
and they were as beautiful as <sup>a</sup>sapphire.

<sup>8</sup>But now they are as black as <sup>b</sup>coal,  
and no one \*knows who they are  
when they walk in the <sup>c</sup>streets.

They have become very thin,  
and they are as dry as wood.

<sup>9</sup>I wish that I had been one of the people  
who died in the <sup>d</sup>war.

It \*would have been better for me

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<sup>u</sup>**destroyed:** when the people were killed and everything was broken down.

[\*drawing # 103]

<sup>v</sup>**suddenly:** when something happens \*quickly, when you did not think it \*would happen.

<sup>w</sup>**leaders:** people who lead other people and tell them what they must do.

[\*drawing # 120, 136]

<sup>x</sup>**pure:** clean, good, as God wants it.

<sup>y</sup>**snow:** soft white ice that falls from the \*sky like rain when it is very cold.

<sup>z</sup>**coral:** a beautiful and colourful stone \*found in the sea.

<sup>a</sup>**sapphire:** a very \*expensive blue \*gemstone, you can see \*through it.

<sup>b</sup>**coal or charcoal:** black \*pieces of burnt wood that become red when burning.

[\*drawing # 1]

<sup>c</sup>**street:** the road where people walk or ride. [\*drawing # 100]

<sup>d</sup>**war:** when \*soldiers fight \*against \*enemy soldiers and they kill each other.

[\*drawing # 62]

than to die from <sup>e</sup>hunger.

The people have become hungry  
and have died because they \*could  
not <sup>f</sup>harvest any <sup>g</sup>wheat,  
and they had nothing to eat.

<sup>10</sup> Women who loved their children  
before, and <sup>h</sup>cared for them,  
have now cooked their children and eaten them.  
Children have become food  
<sup>i</sup>since the <sup>j</sup>enemies <sup>k</sup>defeated my people.

<sup>11</sup> The \*Lord became very angry,  
and He did not stop <sup>l</sup>punishing them.  
He started a fire in Jerusalem  
and the whole city burnt down.

<sup>12</sup> The \*kings of the <sup>m</sup>earth,  
and all the people in the world,  
<sup>n</sup>thought that <sup>o</sup>enemies \*would never

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<sup>e</sup>**hunger:** when someone had no food to eat.

<sup>f</sup>**harvest:** to cut off all the \*wheat or \*barley when it is \*ripe. [\*drawing # 83]

<sup>g</sup>**wheat:** wheat \*plants or \*seeds that they \*grind to make bread. [\*drawing # 83]

<sup>h</sup>**care:** to help and \*protect someone or look after something.

<sup>i</sup>**since:** from that time.

<sup>j</sup>**enemies:** people who hate you or fight \*against you.

<sup>k</sup>**defeat:** when \*soldiers win a \*war \*against another \*land, \*king or \*army.

<sup>l</sup>**punish:** to make someone \*suffer because he has done wrong or to make him stop  
doing it. [\*drawing # 54]

<sup>m</sup>**earth:** the world, the \*land and sea. [\*drawing # 172]

<sup>n</sup>**thought:** today I think, yesterday I thought.

<sup>o</sup>**enemies:** people who hate you or fight \*against you.

come <sup>p</sup>through the <sup>q</sup>gates of Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup> But it happened.

It happened because of the <sup>r</sup>sin of the <sup>s</sup>prophets,  
and because of the wrong things  
that the <sup>t</sup>priests did.

They <sup>u</sup>caused <sup>v</sup>innocent people to die in the city.

<sup>14</sup> People walked all over the <sup>w</sup>streets  
like blind people.

They were full of blood,  
and no one wanted to <sup>x</sup>touch their clothes.

<sup>15</sup> Other people <sup>y</sup>shouted to them:

‘Go away. You are <sup>z</sup>impure.

Go away, go away. Don't <sup>a</sup>touch us.’

They went away and they wanted to go  
and live <sup>b</sup>among other <sup>c</sup>nations,  
but those people said:

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<sup>p</sup>**through:** to start at one side and go to the other side. [\*drawing # 99]

<sup>q</sup>**gate:** a big door where people went into or out of a city. [\*drawing # 99]

<sup>r</sup>**sin:** bad things that people do \*which God hates.

<sup>s</sup>**prophets:** men and women of God who tell people what God says. [\*drawing # 16]

<sup>t</sup>**priests:** people who worked for God and \*served Him. [\*drawing # 9]

<sup>u</sup>**cause:** to make something happen.

<sup>v</sup>**innocent:** when a person did not do anything wrong.

<sup>w</sup>**street:** the road where people walk or ride. [\*drawing # 100]

<sup>x</sup>**touch:** to put your hand or finger onto something. [\*drawing # 52]

<sup>y</sup>**shout:** to speak very \*loudly so that people can hear you from far away.

<sup>z</sup>**impure:** not as God wants it, not good, clean or \*holy, but full of \*sin.

<sup>a</sup>**touch:** to put your hand or finger onto something. [\*drawing # 52]

<sup>b</sup>**among:** \*between others, with others. [\*drawing # 138]

<sup>c</sup>**nations:** the people from \*countries or \*lands.

‘You may not come here and live  
as <sup>d</sup>strangers among us.’

<sup>16</sup> It was the \*Lord Himself who  
<sup>e</sup>chased them away and made them <sup>f</sup>flee.  
He didn't want to see them anymore.  
He didn't want to talk to the <sup>g</sup>priests.  
He didn't want to feel sorry for the <sup>h</sup>leaders.

<sup>17</sup> We kept on looking to see if there was  
anyone that \*could come and help us,  
but no one came.

We waited and waited,  
but not one <sup>i</sup>nation came to help us.

<sup>18</sup> The <sup>j</sup>enemies <sup>k</sup>followed us like <sup>l</sup>hunters,  
and we \*could not walk in the <sup>m</sup>streets of our city.

We were <sup>n</sup>almost dead.

Our days were over. Our end had come.

<sup>19</sup> Our <sup>o</sup>enemies were faster

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<sup>d</sup>**stranger**: someone who stays in another \*country or city, not with his own people.

<sup>e</sup>**chase away**: to make someone run away or \*flee. [\*drawing # 178]

<sup>f</sup>**flee**: to run away or try to \*escape. [\*drawing # 178]

<sup>g</sup>**priests**: people who worked for God and \*served Him. [\*drawing # 9]

<sup>h</sup>**leaders**: people who lead other people and tell them what they must do.

[\*drawing # 120, 136]

<sup>i</sup>**nation**: the people from a \*country or \*land.

<sup>j</sup>**enemies**: people who hate you or fight \*against you.

<sup>k</sup>**follow**: to walk or run \*behind or after someone. [\*drawing # 179]

<sup>l</sup>**hunter**: someone who \*shoots or \*catches \*wild animals.

<sup>m</sup>**street**: the road where people walk or ride. [\*drawing # 100]

<sup>n</sup>**almost**: to be near something, but you are not there \*yet. [\*drawing # 176]

<sup>o</sup>**enemies**: people who hate you or fight \*against you.

than <sup>p</sup>eagles in the <sup>q</sup>sky.

They <sup>r</sup>chased us on the <sup>s</sup>mountains,  
and they waited for us in the <sup>t</sup>desert.

<sup>20</sup> The <sup>u</sup>anointed of the \*Lord,  
the man who was as <sup>v</sup>important to us  
as the <sup>w</sup>breath in our noses,  
became a <sup>x</sup>prisoner in the <sup>y</sup>jail of the <sup>z</sup>enemies.

We had said about that man:

‘He will <sup>a</sup>protect us when we  
have to live <sup>b</sup>among the <sup>c</sup>gentiles.’

<sup>21</sup> People of Edom,

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<sup>p</sup>**eagle:** a very big and strong bird. [\*drawing # 153]

<sup>q</sup>**sky:** above us, where the \*clouds, sun and stars are. [\*drawing # 57]

<sup>r</sup>**chase:** to \*attack people and make them run away and \*flee.

<sup>s</sup>**mountain:** where the \*ground is not flat, it goes up high. [\*drawing # 156]

<sup>t</sup>**desert:** a big, dry, hot place with lots of sand and very little water. [\*drawing # 136]

<sup>u</sup>**anointed:** a \*king or \*prophet who works for God after they have \*poured \*olive oil over him.

<sup>v</sup>**important:** something or someone that you think about all the time and don't forget.

<sup>w</sup>**breath:** the air that you take in and blow out, when your \*chest goes up and down. [\*drawing # 131]

<sup>x</sup>**prisoners:** people who have been \*caught by \*enemies and have to live in another \*land.

<sup>y</sup>**jail:** a place with strong walls where \*guards keep bad people and \*prisoners. [\*drawing # 51]

<sup>z</sup>**enemies:** people who hate you or fight \*against you.

<sup>a</sup>**protect:** to help someone, keep him \*safe and stop his \*enemies. [\*drawing # 57]

<sup>b</sup>**among:** \*between others, with others. [\*drawing # 138]

<sup>c</sup>**gentiles:** people who were not \*Jews and were not \*circumcised.

you must be happy and <sup>d</sup>rejoice.  
You who live in the <sup>e</sup>land of Uz,  
you must show that you are happy,  
but the <sup>f</sup>cup\_of\_suffering  
will also come to you.  
You will become <sup>g</sup>drunk and  
take off your clothes and you will be <sup>h</sup>naked.  
<sup>22</sup> People of <sup>i</sup>Zion, the \*Lord  
has <sup>j</sup>punished you.  
You have paid for your <sup>k</sup>sins and now it is over.  
You will not be <sup>l</sup>prisoners anymore.  
You will go back home.  
But people of Edom,  
the Lord will punish you now.  
He will show your sins to everyone.

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<sup>d</sup>**rejoice:** to be happy and sing and dance.

<sup>e</sup>**land:** a \*country, like Egypt or Arabia. [\*map # 1]

<sup>f</sup>**cup\_of\_suffering:** to \*suffer a lot, like drinking a cup of very bitter \*poison.

<sup>g</sup>**drunk:** when someone has had too much wine to drink and doesn't \*know what he is doing.

<sup>h</sup>**naked:** when you have no clothes on and people can see your body. [\*drawing # 45]

<sup>i</sup>**Zion:** the city of Jerusalem.

<sup>j</sup>**punish:** to make someone \*suffer because he has done wrong or to make him stop doing it. [\*drawing # 54]

<sup>k</sup>**sins:** bad things that people do \*which God hates.

<sup>l</sup>**prisoners:** people who have been \*caught by \*enemies and have to live in another \*land.

## The people of Jerusalem <sup>m</sup>pray

<sup>1</sup> \*Lord, please remember about  
what has happened to us.

Look how the people <sup>n</sup>mock us.

<sup>2</sup> °Strangers have taken our <sup>p</sup>land,  
and people from other <sup>q</sup>nations  
are living in our homes.

<sup>3</sup> We have become like <sup>r</sup>orphans  
who do not have a father.

We are like children whose mother is a <sup>s</sup>widow.

<sup>4</sup> If we want water,  
we have to buy it,  
and we have to pay for the wood we use.

<sup>5</sup> The people who <sup>t</sup>chase us  
have put <sup>u</sup>yokes on our <sup>v</sup>necks.

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<sup>m</sup>**pray:** talk to God and ask Him for help. [\*drawing # 16]

<sup>n</sup>**mock:** to \*laugh at a person and make him feel bad.

<sup>o</sup>**stranger:** someone who comes from another \*land or city, whom people don't  
\*know.

<sup>p</sup>**land:** the \*country of \*Israel \*which God gave to his people. [\*map # 2]

<sup>q</sup>**nations:** the people from \*countries or \*lands.

<sup>r</sup>**orphans:** children who do not have a father or mother.

<sup>s</sup>**widow:** a woman whose \*husband has died.

<sup>t</sup>**chase:** to \*attack people and make them run away and \*flee.

<sup>u</sup>**yoke:** a pole on someone's \*neck to show that he is a \*prisoner and \*oppressed.  
[\*drawing # 140]

<sup>v</sup>**neck:** the part of your body under your head. [\*drawing # 32]

We are <sup>w</sup>tired, but we can not <sup>x</sup>rest.

<sup>6</sup> We have put out our hands  
and <sup>y</sup>begged the Egyptians  
and the Assyrians to get food for us to eat.

<sup>7</sup> It was our <sup>z</sup>forefathers who <sup>a</sup>sinned,  
but all of them are dead,  
and now we are <sup>b</sup>suffering  
for the things they did wrong.

<sup>8</sup> The people who <sup>c</sup>rule over us  
were <sup>d</sup>slaves and no one  
can free us from them.

<sup>9</sup> When we look for food in the <sup>e</sup>desert,  
they are waiting for us,  
and they want to kill us.

<sup>10</sup> We are so <sup>f</sup>hungry  
that we have become sick with <sup>g</sup>fever,

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<sup>w</sup>**tired:** how you feel when you have worked very hard, or run far, or want to sleep. [\*drawing # 87]

<sup>x</sup>**rest:** to stop working or to lie down or sleep. [\*drawing # 51]

<sup>y</sup>**beg:** to ask someone humbly to listen to you or to help you.

<sup>z</sup>**forefathers:** the first fathers of the \*grandfathers of a \*tribe or \*nation.

<sup>a</sup>**sinned:** when someone has done bad things \*which God hates.

<sup>b</sup>**suffering:** having pain or worry because you have big problems. [\*drawing # 50]

<sup>c</sup>**rule:** when the \*leader or \*king of the people tells them what to do. [\*drawing # 27]

<sup>d</sup>**slave:** someone who \*belonged to another person and had to work for him.  
[\*drawing # 29]

<sup>e</sup>**desert:** a big, dry, hot place with lots of sand and very little water. [\*drawing # 136]

<sup>f</sup>**hungry:** when you have not eaten for a long time.

<sup>g</sup>**fever:** when your body becomes very hot because you are sick.

and our <sup>h</sup>skin is as hot as an <sup>i</sup>oven.

<sup>11</sup> The people who <sup>j</sup>rule over us  
have <sup>k</sup>raped our <sup>l</sup>wives and <sup>m</sup>young girls  
in <sup>n</sup>Zion and the cities of <sup>o</sup>Judah.

<sup>12</sup> The people who <sup>p</sup>rule over us  
have hanged our <sup>q</sup>officials by their hands.  
They did not <sup>r</sup>respect our <sup>s</sup>leaders.

<sup>13</sup> Our <sup>t</sup>young men must <sup>u</sup>grind <sup>v</sup>wheat  
with a <sup>w</sup>grinding-stone and our <sup>\*</sup>sons  
must <sup>x</sup>carry wood that is too heavy for them.

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<sup>h</sup>**skin:** the thin outside part of your body. [\*drawing # 36]

<sup>i</sup>**oven:** a hot box made of \*iron or \*clay to cook or bake food in. [\*drawing # 88]

<sup>j</sup>**rule:** when the \*leader or \*king of the people tells them what to do. [\*drawing # 27]

<sup>k</sup>**rape:** when a man has sex with a woman after she has said ‘no’ and she tries to stop him.

<sup>l</sup>**wives:** the women who are married to men, their \*husbands. [\*drawing # 34]

<sup>m</sup>**young:** not old. [\*drawing # 132]

<sup>n</sup>**Zion:** the city of Jerusalem.

<sup>o</sup>**Judah:** the \*province in the \*south of \*Israel, where Jerusalem is. [\*map # 2]

<sup>p</sup>**rule:** when the \*leader or \*king of the people tells them what to do. [\*drawing # 27]

<sup>q</sup>**officials:** people who work for the \*king or \*government. [\*drawing # 38]

<sup>r</sup>**respect:** to show someone that he is \*important to you and you listen to him.

<sup>s</sup>**leaders:** people who lead other people and tell them what they must do.

[\*drawing # 120, 136]

<sup>t</sup>**young:** not old. [\*drawing # 132]

<sup>u</sup>**grind:** to break \*seeds into fine \*flour for baking bread. [\*drawing # 87]

<sup>v</sup>**wheat:** wheat \*plants or \*seeds that they \*grind to make bread. [\*drawing # 83]

<sup>w</sup>**grinding-stone:** a big stone that they use to \*grind \*wheat to make \*flour.

[\*drawing # 87]

<sup>x</sup>**carry:** to take something from one place to another place. [\*drawing # 29]

<sup>14</sup> Our <sup>y</sup>leaders do not sit at the <sup>z</sup>gate anymore,  
and our <sup>a</sup>young men have stopped playing <sup>b</sup>music.

<sup>15</sup> There is no more happiness in our hearts.  
We have stopped dancing, and we cry and <sup>c</sup>mourn.

<sup>16</sup> We don't feel like <sup>\*</sup>kings anymore.  
We are <sup>d</sup>suffering because we have <sup>e</sup>sinned.

<sup>17</sup> That is why we are <sup>f</sup>sad,  
and that is why our eyes have become full of <sup>g</sup>tears.

<sup>18</sup> We are <sup>h</sup>sad when we think of <sup>i</sup>Mount\_Zion.  
No one lives there anymore,  
and only <sup>j</sup>foxes go there.

<sup>19</sup> <sup>\*</sup>Lord, You <sup>k</sup>rule <sup>l</sup>forever.

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<sup>y</sup>**leaders:** people who lead other people and tell them what they must do.

[\*drawing # 120, 136]

<sup>z</sup>**gate:** where people came into a city and talked together about <sup>\*</sup>important things.

[\*drawing # 99]

<sup>a</sup>**young:** not old. [\*drawing # 132]

<sup>b</sup>**music:** beautiful <sup>\*</sup>sounds that hearing people listen to when they sing and dance.

[\*drawing # 71]

<sup>c</sup>**mourn:** to be <sup>\*</sup>sad and cry because something bad has happened or someone has died. [\*drawing # 50]

<sup>d</sup>**suffering:** having pain or worry because you have big problems. [\*drawing # 50]

<sup>e</sup>**sinned:** when someone has done bad things <sup>\*</sup>which God hates.

<sup>f</sup>**sad:** when you are not happy, you want to cry. [\*drawing # 50]

<sup>g</sup>**tears:** the water drops that come out of your eyes when you cry.

<sup>h</sup>**sad:** when you are not happy, you want to cry. [\*drawing # 50]

<sup>i</sup>**Mount\_Zion:** the name of the <sup>\*</sup>mountain on <sup>\*</sup>which the city of Jerusalem was built.

<sup>j</sup>**foxes:** <sup>\*</sup>wild animals as big as dogs. [\*drawing # 132]

<sup>k</sup>**rule:** when God is <sup>\*</sup>King over all people.

<sup>l</sup>**forever:** it will go on and on, it will never stop.

You rule over all <sup>m</sup>generations.

<sup>20</sup> Why do You forget us all the time?

Why did You <sup>n</sup>leave us for so long?

<sup>21</sup> \*Lord, please let us come back to You,

so that we can change

and live like You want us to.

Give us a new <sup>o</sup>life like we had long ago.

<sup>22</sup> Or have You <sup>p</sup>left us

<sup>q</sup>completely and <sup>r</sup>thrown us away?

Are You so angry with us?

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<sup>m</sup>**generation:** the people who are living now are this generation, their children are the next generation.

<sup>n</sup>**leave:** to go away from a person or from something.

<sup>o</sup>**life:** to live with God and \*serve Him.

<sup>p</sup>**left:** when you went away from something, you did not take it, it stayed \*behind.

[\*drawing # 178]

<sup>q</sup>**completely:** everything to the end, nothing is \*left out. [\*drawing # 176]

<sup>r</sup>**throw away:** when you don't keep something, you don't want it anymore.

[\*drawing # 110]