

LAMENTATIONS 1:1-4

21 MARCH 2021

ONCE UPON A TIME

nce upon a time, Jerusalem was a thriving and bustling city with a lot of people living in it. Jerusalem was one of the greatest cities in the world. But then it became a lonely, lifeless and deserted city.

Once upon a time, nations would have wanted to be friends with Jerusalem. But when it fell, no one came to comfort it. In fact, they left and turned their back on Jerusalem.

Once upon a time, Jerusalem used to be treated like a princess, well-respected and served. But then, it turned powerless and worthless, and no one came to its rescue. It was treated like a slave.

There is a saying, life is like a ferris wheel: sometimes you're up, sometimes you're down. Sometimes, you are at the top of the ferris wheel. Sometimes, you are at the bottom. Wherever your position is, be assured that God who gives the true joy and God who gives comfort of all troubles is with you!

Key verse:

James 4:14
But you do
not know what
will happen
tomorrow! Your
life is like a
mist. You can
see it for a short
time, but then it
goes away.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to keep my eyes on You and not to worry about anything in my life. I am well taken care of by You all the time. Amen.



LAMENTATIONS 3:22-32

PLEASE WAIT, GOD IS WORKING

Joseph waited for over 13 years before God's prophetic promise was fulfilled. In Egypt, he was made Pharaoh's Prime Minister at the tender age of 30 years.

Abraham and Sarah waited for 25 years for the fulfillment of God's promise, a son whom they named Isaac.

Noah waited patiently on God for around 100 years while working on the ark. His focus was on God alone, not on the mockery from the people around him. The ark saved him and his whole family.

Job's suffering seemed an eternity to him as his wealth, children and health were taken one by one from him. Yet, he stood firm in God and never once cursed God. As a result, God returned everything that he had lost in double portions.

In the midst of his agony, Jeremiah found hope in God. He claimed with faith that God is good to those who put their hope in Him, seek Him and wait for Him patiently.

Wait on God. God is working. God has promised that many untold blessings are reserved for those who wait on Him.

Key verse:

Lamentations 3:26 It is good to wait quietly for the Lord to save.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to be still in Your presence and to wait quietly and patiently before You. I need You more than before. Amen.





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LAMENTATIONS 5:19-21

FIND YOUR WAY BACK TO GOD

Zayn was jumping up and down on his parents' bed. Then he realized the mattress had moved out of the bed frame. Zayn tried to move it back but the mattress was bigger and heavier than him. Zayn called his dad to help. His dad helped him, after giving him an earful.

Jeremiah wrote that what makes people fall is their own sins. Only by turning back to God will they be restored. With a humble heart, Jeremiah prayed to God to help them to turn back to Him because he knew that the people's hearts were hardened and stubborn, and only by God's grace could they initiate repentance.

Just like Zayn, sometimes we are not strong enough to make everything right by ourselves. We should humbly ask God to change our hearts and help to bring us back in the right direction. We can have a complete faith that He will definitely help us find our way back to Him. This is what He desires from us.

Key verse:

Lamentations 5:21 Restore us to Yourself, Lord, that we may return; renew our days as of old

Prayer

Dear God, bring me back to Your way, Your love and Your direction. Hold my hand so that I will not go in the wrong direction. Amen.







AS SWEET AS HONEY

If you are given a bowl of salad and a bowl of chocolate chip cookies, which one would you choose to eat first? I bet most of us will choose the latter. Who does not love sweet snacks? Sweet foods are normally not too healthy if overconsumed. However, there is one so-called megafood named honey. Honey is sweet and nourishing if consumed in the right amount.

Who does not like hearing kind words that are as sweet as honey? Some of you might even be called 'honey' by your parents! It means you are special to them

The Bible says that God's words are sweet like honey. We taste its sweetness when we listen to our pastor or Sunday school teacher teaching the Word of God. We taste its sweetness when we read God's word, meditate on it and memorize it.

Honey can help us restore our strength, and likewise, God's word can restore our strength when we are weak or down. Taste the sweetness of God's Word by believing and obeying it.

Key verse:

Psalm 119:103 Your words are so sweet to me. like the taste of honev!

Praver

Dear God. I want to love Your Word. To hear Your voice. To love Your presence. Amen.







A TOOL IN GOD'S HAND

zekiel was the prophet who was willing to obey God's command, no matter how unusual it seemed. God asked Ezekiel to lie on his left side for 390 days and for extra 40 days on his right side. He had to bake some bread over a fire which was fueled with cow dung.

What did all this mean?

It meant God would punish Israel for 390 years and punish Judah for 40 years. The food part was to show how the Israelites would be eating defiled food among the nations where God would drive them.

The people of Israel would have seen Ezekiel daily, lying on his side, and also baking and eating bread. They would have been curious and started asking Ezekiel why he did all these things. This way, Ezekiel could explain to them what they would experience if they would not repent.

Just like Ezekiel, let us be willing to become a tool in God's hands to show God's purpose and share God's message to others.

Key verse:

2 Timothy 3:17 Using the Scriptures, those who serve God will be prepared and will have everything they need to do every good work.

Prayer

Dear God, I
believe in Your
Word as it is the
guide of my life.
Let me be Your
tool to deliver
Your word to the
people
around me.
Amen





DO NOT BLAME OTHERS

od showed Ezekiel the sins of His people ${\cal J}$ in Jerusalem. God took him in a vision to the temple where they looked inside at what the people were doing.

Verse 12 writes that the elders of Israel were acting as if God had forsaken the earth and He had no way to see them. Because of their silly assumption, the people of Israel had worshipped images of beasts and reptiles as if finding satisfaction in things other than God.

God never leaves his children. In fact, God had called and embraced them many times yet they refused Him. Eventually, they blamed God, saying that God had forgotten about them. How hurtful it was when God heard this! They were in a mess due to their own sins and led into finding false gods.

As part of our spiritual growth, we have to learn to admit our mistake or sin, and repent, instead of blaming others. Pointing fingers and placing blame on others will only drag you further in the wrong path.

Key verse:

Leviticus 5:5 When anyone is guilty of any of these things, he must tell how he sinned

Praver

Dear God. give me the courage to take responsibility for every action I take, always do what is right and confess my sin when I am in the wrong. Amen.





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EZEKIEL 10:1-20

THE MATCHLESS GLORY OF GOD

herubim is a symbolical angelic figure repeatedly mentioned in the Bible. In Ezekiel's vision, they appear as living creatures supporting the throne of God.

The presence of Cherubim represents the likeness of the glory of God that comes above them. Ezekiel fell on his face when he first saw the glory of God (Ezekiel 1:28). It was so magnificent and majestic that one's eyes couldn't handle it.

The glory of God can't be simply put into words. But, there is no doubt that His glory is so much beyond what we can imagine. What is our problem as compared to His glory? Surrender all of our struggles and worries to Him. He will take care of them all.

Key verse:

Romans 8:18
I consider that
our present
sufferings
are not worth
comparing with
the glory that
will be revealed
in us.

Prayer

Dear God, all my worries and problems are nothing compared to Your Glory. I believe You are more than able to take care of them.
Amen.