

**Lamentations 5:1-22** Remember, O LORD, what has befallen us; look, and see our disgrace! **2** Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers, our homes to foreigners. **3** We have become orphans, fatherless; our mothers are like widows. **4** We must pay for the water we drink; the wood we get must be bought. **5** Our pursuers are at our necks; we are weary; we are given no rest. **6** We have given the hand to Egypt, and to Assyria, to get bread enough. **7** Our fathers sinned, and are no more; and we bear their iniquities. **8** Slaves rule over us; there is none to deliver us from their hand. **9** We get our bread at the peril of our lives, because of the sword in the wilderness. **10** Our skin is hot as an oven with the burning heat of famine. **11** Women are raped in Zion, young women in the towns of Judah. **12** Princes are hung up by their hands; no respect is shown to the elders. **13** Young men are compelled to grind at the mill, and boys stagger under loads of wood. **14** The old men have left the city gate, the young men their music. **15** The joy of our hearts has ceased; our dancing has been turned to mourning. **16** The crown has fallen from our head; woe to us, for we have sinned! **17** For this our heart has become sick, for these things our eyes have grown dim, **18** for Mount Zion which lies desolate; jackals prowl over it. **19** But you, O LORD, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations. **20** Why do you forget us forever, why do you forsake us for so many days? **21** Restore us to yourself, O LORD, that we may be restored! Renew our days as of old—**22** unless you have utterly rejected us, and you remain exceedingly angry with us.

### **I. Remember us (v1-18)**

#### *A. An appeal to God's character*

**Exodus 34:6** The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,

**Psalms 103:8** The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

#### *B. An appeal to God's promises*

**Hosea 1:7** But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the Lord their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen."

**Jeremiah 31:31-34** Behold the days are coming declares the Lord when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother saying, 'Know the Lord' for they shall all know me from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity and I will remember their sin no more.

#### *C. An appeal to God's compassion*

**Genesis 8:1** But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided.

**Deuteronomy 9:27** Remember your servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Do not regard the stubbornness of this people, or their wickedness or their sin,

**Psalms 25:6 & 7** Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. **7** Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

**1 Peter 5:6 & 7** Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

## II. Reign over us (v19 & 20)

### A. *The rock in the storm (v19)*

**Psalm 62:5–7** For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. 6 He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. 7 On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

**Malachi 3:6** “For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

### B. *The standard of trust (v19)*

**Jeremiah 31:1–3** “At that time, declares the Lord, I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people.” 2 Thus says the Lord: “The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, 3 the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

**Psalm 61:1–3** Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer; 2 from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I, 3 for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.

### C. *The call for submission (v20)*

**Psalm 56:1–3** Be gracious to me, O God, for man tramples on me; all day long an attacker oppresses me; 2 my enemies trample on me all day long, for many attack me proudly. 3 When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

**Isaiah 12:1–3** You will say in that day: “I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. 2 “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.” 3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

**Daniel 3:16–18** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

**Acts 2:23 & 24** this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

**Romans 8:28–32** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

## III. Restore us (v21 & 22)

### A. *The fountain of all grace (v21a)*

**Psalm 85:4–11** Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us! Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations? Will you not revive us

again, that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly. Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.

**John 1:11–13** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

**Psalms 51:10–13** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways and sinners will return to you.

*B. The focus of spiritual alignment (v21b)*

**Ephesians 2:8–10** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**Psalms 103:1–5** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! <sup>2</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, <sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, <sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, <sup>5</sup> who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

*C. Hope's concentration (v22)*

**Lamentations 3:21–24** But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: <sup>22</sup> The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; <sup>23</sup> they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup> "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

**Isaiah 49:13–16** Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted. But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me." "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.

**John 10:27–30** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

**Romans 8:32–39** He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.