



## **Tears Can Turn to Joy Lamentations**

*How lonely sits the city  
that was full of people!  
How like a widow has she become,  
she who was great among the nations!  
She who was a princess among the provinces  
has become a slave.*

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**The Point: God, his mercy, and touch are there even in his silence.**

**The Question: When you are empty and alone, where do you turn?**

**The lament of Lady Zion “How deserted.”**

**The word of the prophet “you did it to yourself.”**

**The realization of Mercy Lamentations 3.17-33**

**A touch in the silence.**

How terrible to watch all that you have built and loved pass away. The prophet is a patriot, poet, citizen of the country, and the mouthpiece of God. Forty years of proclaiming the word of the LORD, warning the people, and advising kings, now it is all over. The King is blinded and walking in chains to Babylon with his people. Once Israel was protected by a pillar of smoke, the capital city is a pillar of smoke.

The word is proclaimed to you every time you read it or hear it preached. When one willfully disobeys the word, their city is deserted.

This prophet, patriot, and poet opens his work with “how deserted.” That is the Hebrew name of the book we call Lamentations. Next, he spells out the woe that is the city once called: beautiful, 1.1-11a. The Lady Zion speaks for herself, “Look, O LORD, and see for I am despised.” She uses first-person pronouns 36 times: Me, my, and I. She admits her sin. Look at 1.20. Self-examination and confession are good for the soul. 1.11b-22.

The prophet agrees with Zion’s fault (1.8). God promised destruction for their willful disobedience 2.17 and now complete—so, now repent 2.10 and 19. Repentance has cleansing power. You are not out of reach of his touch.

“My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is.” 3.17  
“But this I call to mind and therefore I have hope” 3.21. His love never ceases, mercies never end; they are new every morning. He is reaching out to me, so I should extend my hand to his. What can separate us from the love of God? Rom 8.37-39.

God can touch us in his silence. The prophet expresses his feelings about the foreboding silence 3.44-45. But silence is good; it is a lost spiritual discipline. Go into your secret closet and pray. Reach out and connect and tear can turn to joy. The relationship between you and God can be restored, 3.55-56 and 4.22. One can be saved and have a poor connection. God wants you to have the joyful, full one.