

March 24, 2025: (originally prepared by Julie Waldvogel for March 16, 2022)



205 Thy Rebuke-Behold And See-Arioso.mp3

Lamentations 1:12 *"Is this nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see!
Is there any pain like mine, which was dealt out to me, which the Lord made me suffer on the
day of his burning anger?"*

Lamentations invites us to meet God in the midst of our suffering and teaches us the language of prayer. Instead of offering a set of techniques, easy answers, or inspiring slogans for facing pain and grief, the book gives voice to our pain through lament, reorients our focus to the faithfulness of God, and affirms that He is able to sustain us.

Jerusalem (she) is calling out in this verse to those passing by, wondering if there is any pity for her or concern for themselves. Then the pain which she is suffering is described; a pain "which the LORD made me suffer on the day of his burning anger." Is there any other pain worse than the Lord's righteous anger? The writer is expressing Jerusalem's sorrow and acute pain which happened during the overthrow by the Babylonian army that destroyed Jerusalem (2 Kings 25).

The sin is acknowledged and felt deeply. That is the first step of repentance. There is hope still. God is that hope and he is our hope today as well. Christ died on the cross and blotted all our sins away (Romans 6:10). Let all our sorrows lead us to the cross of Christ, lead us to mark his example, and cheerfully follow him. We will still have repenting to do, and we will still have sorrows to face, even from God himself (due to *our* disobedience and *our* sin), but Christ is in heaven interceding for us, even now (Romans 8:34). Amen!