

A NATION ON ITS KNEES

Lamentations 5

Notice the details of Israel's condition

I. THEIR PERIL (2-16a)

A. THE PROBLEMS (2-10)

1. Remorse (2)
2. Vulnerability (3)
3. Despair (4)
4. Weariness (5)
5. Humiliation (6)
6. Bitterness (7)
7. Helplessness (8)
8. Anxiety (9-10)

B. THE PEOPLE (11-13)

1. Their women were being raped (11)
2. Their princes were being tortured (12a)
3. Their elders were being mistreated (12b)
4. Their young men were being abused (13)

C. THE PUBLIC SQUARE (14-16a)

1. No Magistrates (14a)
2. No Musicians (14b)
3. No Merriment (15)
4. No Majesty (16a)

II. THEIR PENITENCE (16b-18)

A. CONFESSION (16b)

1. We have suffered! Woe to us
2. Because we have sinned: We are faulty and guilty

B. COMPREHENSION (17-18)

1. Sin brings sickness (17a)
2. Sin brings sorrow (17b-18)

III. **THEIR PRAYER** (19-22)

A. RESPECTFUL (19)

1. God's rule is forever
2. God's reign is eternal

B. MINDFUL (20)

1. God is approachable - See James 1:5
2. They were unafraid to admit their confusion and ask for God's clarification

C. HOPEFUL (21-22)

1. The right plea: Restore us
2. The right recognition: God must initiate this
3. The right realization: God hadn't moved, they had - See James 4:8
4. The right faith: We will be restored if God does this
5. The right order: Spiritual restoration before the physical renewal
6. The right humility (22): Never presuming upon the goodness of God

CONCLUSION:

**Like Israel, we need to be a people on our knees confessing our sins
and calling on God for restoration**