

Bible Studies in Lamentations

Study 5: Restore Us O Lord

Discuss: Have you ever restored anything? What? How did it go? What things in your life might need restoration at the moment?

READ Lamentations chapter 5

1. Is there anything that strikes or puzzles you? Comment and discuss ...
2. When the author says in verse 1 “Remember, O Lord, what has befallen us ...”, and in verse 20 “Why do you forget us forever ...?”, do you think God has forgotten them? What do you think they mean?
3. What do you think is meant in verse 7 about the current generation bearing the iniquities of their fathers? [see Exodus 34:7; Deuteronomy 24:16; Ezekiel 18:19-20; Jeremiah 31:29-34]
4. According to verse 16, why has this disaster befallen Jerusalem and her people?
5. Does the fall of Jerusalem mean that God and his plans have failed? (see verse 19) How do you explain the fact that God is still sovereign when his people are suffering?
6. In the New Testament, too, we often see the church suffering while maintaining the vision of God seated on the throne of heaven and still in command. [See for example Revelation 1:9; 2:9; chapter 4]. Is the situation of the church in Revelation different to that of Israel in Lamentations? If so, how?
7. On what basis does the author hope that God will restore Jerusalem and her people? Does she deserve to be restored? What lessons can we learn from this, when we turn to God and ask for restoration?
8. What do you make of the note that this book finishes on (verse 22)? Have you ever felt this way yourself? How would you respond to someone who feels this way? [See Deuteronomy 31:8; 31:6; Hebrews 13:5-6; Matthew 28:20; Romans 8:28-35]