

1) The Anger of God

Lamentations 2:1 (NIV) - How the Lord has covered Daughter Zion with the cloud of his anger!

Lamentations 2:17 (ESV) - The LORD has done what he purposed; he has carried out his word, which he commanded long ago; he has thrown down without pity; he has made the enemy rejoice over you and exalted the might of your foes.

1) GOD'S ANGER IS JUST

J. I. Packer in Knowing God

"In the first place, God's wrath in the Bible is always *judicial*-that is, it is the wrath of the Judge, administering justice...those who experience the fullness of God's wrath...each receives precisely what he deserves." (151)

"In the second place, God's wrath in the Bible is something which people *choose* for themselves. Before hell is an experience inflicted by God, it is a state for which a person himself opts by retreating from the light which God shines in his heart to lead him to himself." (152)

2) GOD IS SLOW TO ANGER

Exodus 34:6-7 (ESV) - 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, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

2) Utterly Lost Without God

Destruction of the temple and the walls of Jerusalem, kings and princes are exiled, prophets find no vision from the Lord and the law is no more (2:6-9)

TREMENDOUS LOSS: worship, word, presence, protection, guidance, vision

Lamentations 2:13 (ESV) - What can I say for you, to what compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? What can I liken to you, that I may comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For your ruin is vast as the sea; who can heal you?

3) "Pour Out Your Heart" Before God

Lamentations 2:18-19a (ESV) - 18 Their heart cried to the Lord. O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears stream down like a torrent day and night! Give yourself no rest, your eyes no respite!

19a "Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the night watches! Pour out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord!

Pastor Steven W. Smith

"In prayer, ironically perhaps, they are suggesting that the one who is destroying them is the only one who can save them. The one who is the enemy is now their only hope and salvation. Thus we see this beautiful cry come from this destitute wasteland."