BIBLE STUDY

1/17/13

Lamentations and Prayer

1:9b “See, Yahweh, my affliction, For the enemy has magnified himself!”

1:11b “See, Yahweh, and look, For I am despised.”

1:20-22“See, Yahweh, for I am in distress; My spirit is greatly troubled; My heart is overturned within me,’ For I have been very rebellious, …For my groans are many and my heart is faint.”

2:20 “See, Yahweh, and look! With whom have You dealt thus? Should women eat their offspring, The little ones who were born healthy?”

3:55-56 “I called on Your name, Yahweh, Out of the lowest pit. You have heard my voice, Do not hide Your ear from my prayer for relief, From my cry for help.”

5:19 “You, Yahweh, rule forever; Your throne is from generation to generation. Why do You forget us forever? Why do You forsake us so long? Restore us to You, Yahweh, that we may be restored; Renew our days as of old, Unless You have utterly rejected us And are exceedingly angry with us.”

**2 KINGS 25:1-15** And in the ninth year of King Zedekiah’s reign, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came with all his army against Jerusalem and laid siege to it. And they built siege-works all around it. **2**So the city was besieged till the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. **3**The famine was so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. **4**Then a breach was made in the city, and all the men of war fled by night…and the Chaldeans were around the city. **5**The army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho, and all his army was scattered from him. **6**Then they captured king Zedekiah and brought him up to the king of Babylon, and they passed sentence on him. **7**They slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah and bound him in chains and took him to Babylon. **8**In the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard, came to Jerusalem. **9**And he burned the house of the Lord,  and the king's house and every great house he burned. **10**And all the army of the Chaldeans, who were with the captain of the guard, broke down the walls around Jerusalem. **11**And the rest of the people who were left in the city, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried into exile.  **12**But the captain of the guard left some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and plowmen. And the pillarsof bronze that were in the house of the Lord, and the stands and the bronze sea that were in the house of the Lord, the Chaldeans broke in pieces and carried the bronze to Babylon. **14**And they took away the pots and shovels and snuffers and dishes for incense and all the vessels of bronze used in the temple service.

 **LAMENTATIONS AND THE CAPTIVITY 1:3** Judah has gone into exile under afflictionAnd under harsh servitude;She dwells among the nations,But she has found no rest;All her pursuers have overtaken her… **1:4** The roads of Zion are in mourningHer priests are groaning,Her virgins are afflictedAnd she (Jerusalem) is bitter. **1:10** The adversary has stretched out his handOver all her (Jerusalem’s) precious things,For she has seen the nations enter her sanctuary… **1:11** All her people groan seeking bread;They have given their precious things for food… **1:18** …Hear now, all peoples,And behold my pain;My virgins and my young men Have gone into captivity. **1:20** See, O LORD, for I am in distress;My spirit is greatly troubled;My heart is overturned within me,…In the street the sword slays;In the house it is like death. **2:3** In Yahweh’s fierce anger He has cut offAll the strength of IsraelHe has drawn back His right handFrom before the enemy.He has burned in Jacob like a flaming fireConsuming round about. **2:9** Her gates have sunk into the ground,He has destroyed and broken her bars Her king and her princes are [scattered] among the nations… **2:11** My eyes fail because of tearsMy spirit is greatly troubled;My heart is poured out on the earth…When little ones and infants faint …As their life is poured out On their mother’s bosom.

Ruth

**Narrator**: In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

**Narrator**: Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them bread (lehem). So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. **Naomi** (to her two daughters-in-law): Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband! **Narrator**: Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. **Ruth and Orpah**: No, we will return with you to your people. **Naomi**: Return, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Return, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me. **Narrator**: Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. **Naomi**: See, your sister-in-law has returned to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law. **Ruth**: Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you. **Narrator**: And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more. So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. **The women of Bethlehem**: Is this Naomi? **Naomi**: Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went away full, and the LORD has returned me empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?” **Narrator**: So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

RUTH AND LAMENT

**3**Then Elimelech, Naomi’s husband, died; and she was left with her two sons. **4**They took for themselves Moabite women *as* wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. And they lived there about ten years. **5**Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died, and the woman was bereft of her two children and her husband.

 “Do not call me Naomi (pleasant); call me Mara (bitter),

A.for the Almighty/Shaddai has dealt very bitterly with me.

B.I went out full, but Yahweh has brought me back empty.

Why do you call me Naomi,

B.since Yahweh has witnessed against me

A.and the Almighty/Shaddai has afflicted me?”

Chiastic Arrangement of Ruth 1:3-5

A. **And died** Elimelech, the husband of Naomi

 **and was left alone she with her two sons**.

 B. **And took they** Moabite wives [in the hope of seed/life]

 C. **The name** of one, Orpah

 C. **The name** of the other, Ruth.

 B**. And lived they** there about ten years [no seed/life]

A. **And died** also both Mahlon and Kilion

 **and was left alone the woman without her two sons**

 **and without her husband.**