

LET US SEARCH AND TRY
OUR WAYS AND TURN
AGAIN UNTO THE LORD
LAMENTATION 3:40

Text: Lamentation 3:40

Lament. 3:40

Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord.

Introduction:

Even though the verses above are the key to this message, I believe that God's dealings with Israel throughout the entirety of the Book of Lamentations are a picture perfect example of His dealings with our nation today.

Israel was under judgment from God. Because of her great apostasy, Israel had played the harlot in her spiritual adultery with the idols of Canaan and the surrounding nations. Israel, God's chosen nation, is often referred to in terms of being the wife of God upon this earth. In this sermon I will attempt, under the leading of the loving Holy Spirit, to show you how God's hand of love brings correction to a rebellious

nation who has forsaken Him and went whoring after other gods.

God's ultimate purpose in bringing judgment upon man for his sin is to turn man from that sin in true acts of repentance, the judgments that God allows to befall a rebellious nation or individual are never pleasant and often misunderstood in their purpose.

While our Just, Righteous and Holy God must judge sin and cannot allow it continue, His judgments are always tempered with mercy and a promise of ultimate deliverance if those under judgment would only turn back to Him.

In the years prior to and immediately following World War II, America was looked upon as the friend of the world and the protector of all that was good and the bastion of freedom by every nation on the face of the earth. Every nation, even our enemies, had a healthy respect and awe for the blessings of God and the things that were good about our nation.

Since the 60's with the Vietnam Conflict, and continuing to this day, our power, prestige, and will, as a nation has been on a fast slide into oblivion. Multitudes of sermons and studies from the secular world have paralleled our slide to destruction with that of the Roman Empire as it began to crumble, not from

attacks of outside enemies, but from the corruption, degradation and sin within.

The Book of Lamentations is a graphic example of what a nation experiences as it faces God's judgments. I want to example those examples and show why I believe that America is already under judgment from God for its corruption and sin.

1. WHY

Lament. 1:9

Her filthiness is in her skirts; she remembereth not her last end; therefore she came down wonderfully: she had no comforter. O Lord, behold my affliction: for the enemy hath magnified himself.

A. Sin - We too have strayed from God's ways.

B. Self assurance - We feel as if we are immune to God's punishment.

Illustration:

Recently TV Preachers have made statements about God's judgment on our land and have been criticized for making the statements. I don't agree with most things that they say, but we can't ignore that many of the things that are happening today could be and probably is God's hand of judgment.

C. Situation - We are lying in the gutter and the enemy has afflicted us.

The Shape That We Are In Should Make Us ...

2. WEEP

Lament. 1:16

For these things I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water, because the comforter that should relieve my soul is far from me: my children are desolate, because the enemy prevailed.

We should feel:

- A. Tearful - Because of the things we have done.
- B. Terrified - For what we are going to face.
- C. Terminate - What is the next generation going to have and what will they have to face?

Tough The Enemy May Prevail Over Us, He Cannot Prevail Over GOD - Therefore We Should Have Hope And ...

3. WANT

Lament. 3:25-26

The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. [26] It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.

Lament. 3:40-50

Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord. [41] Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens. [42] We have transgressed and have rebelled: thou hast not pardoned. [43] Thou hast covered with anger, and persecuted us: thou hast slain, thou hast not pitied. [44] Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud, that our prayer should not pass through. [45] Thou hast made us as the offscouring and refuse in the midst of the people. [46] All our enemies have opened their mouths against us. [47] Fear and a snare is come upon us, desolation and destruction. [48] Mine eye runneth down with rivers of water for the destruction of the daughter of my people. [49] Mine eye trickleth down, and ceaseth not, without any intermission, [50] Till the Lord look down, and behold from heaven.

We should -

A. Ask God to Reveal - search and try our ways

B. Acknowledge our Rebellion

C. At once Return

D. Abide by Resolute - Till the Lord look down
and behold from Heaven.

We should desire -

- God's goodness
- God's guidance