

### *Distress of the Siege Described*

4:1 **H**ow <sup>a</sup>dark the gold has become,  
How the pure gold has changed!  
The sacred stones are poured out  
At the <sup>1</sup>corner of every street.  
2 The precious sons of Zion,  
Weighed against fine gold,  
How they are regarded as <sup>a</sup>earthen jars,  
The work of a potter's hands!  
3 Even <sup>a</sup>jackals offer the breast,  
They nurse their young;  
*But* the daughter of my people has become <sup>b</sup>cruel  
Like <sup>c</sup>ostriches in the wilderness.  
4 The <sup>a</sup>tongue of the infant cleaves  
To the roof of its mouth because of <sup>b</sup>thirst;  
The little ones <sup>c</sup>ask for bread,  
*But* no one breaks *it* for them.  
5 Those who ate <sup>a</sup>delicacies  
Are desolate in the streets;  
Those <sup>1</sup>reared in purple  
Embrace ash pits.  
6 For the <sup>1</sup>iniquity of the daughter of my people  
Is greater than the <sup>2</sup>sin of Sodom,  
Which was <sup>b</sup>overthrown as in a moment,  
And no hands were <sup>3</sup>turned toward her.  
7 Her <sup>1</sup>consecrated ones were <sup>a</sup>purier than snow,  
They were whiter than milk;  
They were more ruddy *in* <sup>2</sup>body than corals,  
Their polishing *was* like <sup>3</sup>lapis lazuli.  
8 Their appearance is <sup>a</sup>blacker than soot,  
They are not recognized in the streets;  
Their <sup>b</sup>skin is shriveled on their bones,  
It is withered, it has become like wood.  
9 Better are those <sup>1</sup>slain with the sword  
Than those <sup>1</sup>slain with hunger;  
For they <sup>2</sup>pine away, being stricken  
For lack of the fruits of <sup>3</sup>the field.  
10 The hands of compassionate women  
<sup>a</sup>Boiled their own children;  
They became <sup>b</sup>food for them  
Because of the destruction of the daughter of my people.  
11 The LORD has <sup>a</sup>accomplished His wrath,  
He has poured out His fierce anger;  
And He has <sup>b</sup>kindled a fire in Zion  
Which has consumed its foundations.

12 The kings of the earth did not believe,  
 Nor *did* any of <sup>a</sup>the inhabitants of the world,  
 That the adversary and the enemy  
 Could <sup>b</sup>enter the gates of Jerusalem.  
 13 Because of the sins of her <sup>a</sup>prophets  
 And the iniquities of her priests,  
 Who have shed in her midst  
 The <sup>b</sup>blood of the righteous,  
 14 They wandered, <sup>a</sup>blind, in the streets;  
 They were defiled with <sup>b</sup>blood  
 So that no one could touch their <sup>c</sup>garments.  
 15 “Depart! <sup>a</sup>Unclean!” <sup>1</sup>they cried of themselves. “Depart, depart, do not touch!”  
 So they <sup>b</sup>fled and wandered;  
*Men* among the nations said, “They shall not continue to dwell *with* us.”  
 16 The presence of the LORD has scattered them;  
 He will not continue to regard them.  
 They did not <sup>1</sup> <sup>a</sup>honor the priests,  
 They did not favor the elders.  
 17 Yet our eyes failed;  
*Looking* for <sup>1</sup> <sup>a</sup>help was <sup>a</sup>useless.  
 In our watching we have watched  
 For a <sup>b</sup>nation that could not save.  
 18 They <sup>a</sup>hunted our steps  
 So that we could not walk in our streets;  
 Our <sup>b</sup>end drew near,  
 Our days were <sup>1</sup> <sup>a</sup>finished  
 For our end had come.  
 19 Our pursuers were <sup>a</sup>swifter  
 Than the eagles of the sky.  
 They chased us on the mountains;  
 They waited in ambush for us in the wilderness.  
 20 The <sup>a</sup>breath of our nostrils, the <sup>b</sup>LORD’S <sup>a</sup>ointed,  
 Was <sup>c</sup>aptured in their pits,  
 Of whom we had said, “Under his <sup>d</sup>shadow  
 We shall live among the nations.”  
 21 Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of <sup>a</sup>Edom,  
 Who dwells in the land of Uz;  
*But* the <sup>b</sup>cup will come around to you as well,  
 You will become drunk and make yourself naked.  
 22 *The punishment* of your iniquity has been <sup>a</sup>completed, O daughter of Zion;  
 He will exile you no longer.  
*But* He <sup>b</sup>will punish your iniquity, O daughter of Edom;  
 He will expose your sins!  
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<sup>a</sup> Ezek. 7:19-22

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- <sup>1</sup> Lit., *head*  
<sup>a</sup> Is. 30:14; Jer. 19:1, 11  
<sup>a</sup> Is. 13:22; 34:13  
<sup>b</sup> Is. 49:15; Ezek. 5:10  
<sup>c</sup> Job 39:14-17  
<sup>a</sup> Ps. 22:15  
<sup>b</sup> Jer. 14:3  
<sup>c</sup> Lam. 2:12  
<sup>a</sup> Jer. 6:2; Amos 6:3-7  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *established in crimson*  
<sup>1</sup> Or, *punishment for iniquity*  
<sup>2</sup> Or, *punishment for sin*  
<sup>a</sup> Gen. 19:24  
<sup>b</sup> Gen. 19:25; Jer. 20:16  
<sup>3</sup> Or, *wrung over her*  
<sup>1</sup> Or, *Nazirites*  
<sup>a</sup> Ps. 51:7  
<sup>2</sup> Lit., *bones*  
<sup>3</sup> Heb., *sappir*  
<sup>b</sup> Ex. 24:10; Job 28:16  
<sup>a</sup> Job 30:30; Lam. 5:10  
<sup>b</sup> Job 19:20; Ps. 102:3-5  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *pierced*  
<sup>a</sup> Jer. 16:4  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *pierced*  
<sup>2</sup> Lit., *flow away*  
<sup>b</sup> Lev. 26:39; Ezek. 24:23  
<sup>3</sup> Lit., *my fields*  
<sup>a</sup> Lev. 26:29; Deut. 28:57; 2 Kin. 6:29; Jer. 19:9; Lam. 2:20; Ezek. 5:10  
<sup>b</sup> Deut. 28:53-55  
<sup>a</sup> Jer. 7:20; Lam. 2:17; Ezek. 22:31  
<sup>b</sup> Deut. 32:22; Jer. 17:27  
<sup>a</sup> Deut. 29:24  
<sup>b</sup> Jer. 21:13  
<sup>a</sup> Jer. 5:31; 6:13; Lam. 2:14; Ezek. 22:26-28  
<sup>b</sup> Jer. 2:30; 26:8, 9; Matt. 23:31  
<sup>a</sup> Deut. 28:28, 29; Is. 29:10; 56:10; 59:9, 10  
<sup>b</sup> Is. 1:15  
<sup>c</sup> Jer. 2:34  
<sup>a</sup> Lev. 13:45, 46  
<sup>1</sup> Or, *they (men) cried to them*  
<sup>b</sup> Jer. 49:5  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *lift up the faces of*  
<sup>a</sup> Is. 9:14-16; Jer. 52:24-27  
<sup>1</sup> Lit., *our help*

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<sup>a</sup> Jer. 37:7; Lam. 1:7

<sup>b</sup> Ezek. 29:6, 7, 16

<sup>a</sup> Jer. 16:16

<sup>b</sup> Jer. 5:31; Ezek. 7:2-12; Amos 8:2

<sup>l</sup> Lit., *full*

<sup>a</sup> Is. 5:26-28; 30:16, 17; Jer. 4:13; Hab. 1:8

<sup>a</sup> Gen. 2:7

<sup>b</sup> 2 Sam. 1:14; 19:21

<sup>c</sup> Jer. 39:5; 52:9

<sup>d</sup> Dan. 4:12

<sup>a</sup> Ps. 137:7; Jer. 25:21

<sup>b</sup> Obad. 16

<sup>a</sup> Is. 40:2; Jer. 33:7, 8

<sup>b</sup> Jer. 49:10; Mal. 1:3, 4

<sup>i</sup> *The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.