

Distress of the Siege Described

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

12 The kings of the earth did not believe,
 Nor *did* any of ^athe inhabitants of the world,
 That the adversary and the enemy
 Could ^benter the gates of Jerusalem.
 13 Because of the sins of her ^aprophets
 And the iniquities of her priests,
 Who have shed in her midst
 The ^bblood of the righteous,
 14 They wandered, ^ablind, in the streets;
 They were defiled with ^bblood
 So that no one could touch their ^cgarments.
 15 “Depart! ^aUnclean!” ¹they cried of themselves. “Depart, depart, do not touch!”
 So they ^bfled 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 ¹ ^ahonor the priests,
 They did not favor the elders.
 17 Yet our eyes failed;
Looking for ¹ ^ahelp was ^auseless.
 In our watching we have watched
 For a ^bnation that could not save.
 18 They ^ahunted our steps
 So that we could not walk in our streets;
 Our ^bend drew near,
 Our days were ¹ finished
 For our end had come.
 19 Our pursuers were ^aswifter
 Than the eagles of the sky.
 They chased us on the mountains;
 They waited in ambush for us in the wilderness.
 20 The ^abreath of our nostrils, the ^bLORD’S ^aointed,
 Was ^captured in their pits,
 Of whom we had said, “Under his ^dshadow
 We shall live among the nations.”
 21 Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of ^aEdom,
 Who dwells in the land of Uz;
But the ^bcup will come around to you as well,
 You will become drunk and make yourself naked.
 22 *The punishment* of your iniquity has been ^acompleted, O daughter of Zion;
 He will exile you no longer.
But He ^bwill punish your iniquity, O daughter of Edom;
 He will expose your sins!
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^a Ezek. 7:19-22

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

^a Jer. 37:7; Lam. 1:7

^b Ezek. 29:6, 7, 16

^a Jer. 16:16

^b Jer. 5:31; Ezek. 7:2-12; Amos 8:2

^l Lit., *full*

^a Is. 5:26-28; 30:16, 17; Jer. 4:13; Hab. 1:8

^a Gen. 2:7

^b 2 Sam. 1:14; 19:21

^c Jer. 39:5; 52:9

^d Dan. 4:12

^a Ps. 137:7; Jer. 25:21

^b Obad. 16

^a Is. 40:2; Jer. 33:7, 8

^b Jer. 49:10; Mal. 1:3, 4

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