

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Confronted by
Consequences

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Lamentations 1

Theme: You must own your guilt if you would know God's grace.

Introduction: In Deuteronomy 28, the Lord described for Israel the blessings and the curses of the covenant that he made with them. As we know, they did not remain faithful to the covenant. The Babylonian overthrow of Jerusalem in 586BC was a prominent part of God's judgment on Israel for failing to uphold the covenant. The Book of Lamentations is a long, hard look at the destruction of Jerusalem at the hands of Babylon. It is a piece of acrostic literature: the first four chapters contain 22 verses (or in chapter 3, 66 verses), with each sentences starting with the subsequent letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

The author's lament in Lamentations 1 can be broken into two equal sections:

1. The lament of a guilty people (1–11)

- Jerusalem is compared to a widow, stripped of her people, and to a princess, reduced to the status of a slave.
- Six times it is lamented that Jerusalem "has none to comfort her."
- The word "all" is used 16 times in this first lament, highlighting the totality of destruction and abandonment.
- The language of sexual immorality is used to describe idolatry, since it is unfaithfulness to God in worship.
- What is unclear in the lament is if the sorrow is worldly or godly sorrow.

2. The lament that longs for consolation (12–22)

- This lament is an appeal to those who witnessed the destruction ("Look and see", v. 12).
- The Lord is identified as the source of the sorrow.
- God is the Judge of all the earth, and one day his justice will be full and final and terrible.
- If you are wise, you do not want fairness—you want mercy.

Questions:

1. How are you tempted to think "That's not fair"?
2. What would fairness mean for you—and everyone—according to Scripture? How does that change your thoughts about fairness?
3. Where are you focused more on the wrongs of others than your own?