



# WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

## The Eikhah Project 5777

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### Eikhah 1:1-10

1. Alas!

Lonely sits the city  
Once great with people!  
She that was great among nations  
Is become like a widow;  
The princess among states  
Is become a thrall.

2.

Bitterly she weeps in the night,  
Her cheeks wet with tears.  
There is none to comfort her  
Of all her friends.  
All her allies have betrayed her;  
They have become her foes.

3.

Judah has gone into exile  
Because of misery and harsh oppression;  
When she settled among nations,  
She found no rest;  
All her pursuers overtook her  
In the narrow places.

4.

Zion's roads are in mourning,  
Empty of festival pilgrims;  
All her gates are deserted.  
Her priests sigh,

Her maidens are unhappy--  
She is utterly disconsolate!

5.

Her enemies are now the masters,  
Her foes are at ease,  
Because the LORD has afflicted her  
For her many transgressions;  
Her infants have gone into captivity  
Before the enemy.

6.

Gone from Fair Zion are all  
That were her glory;  
Her leaders were like stags  
That found no pasture;  
They could only walk feebly,  
Before the pursuer.

7.

All the precious things she had  
In the days of old  
Jerusalem recalled  
In her days of woe and sorrow,  
When her people fell by enemy hands  
With none to help her;  
When the enemies looked on and gloated  
Over her downfall.

8.  
Jerusalem has greatly sinned,  
Therefore she is become a mockery.  
All who admired her despised her,  
For they have seen her disgraced;  
And she can only sigh and shrink back.

9.  
Her uncleanness clings to her skirts.  
She gave no thought to her future;  
She has sunk appallingly,  
With none to comfort her.

See, O LORD my misery;  
How the enemy jeers!

10.  
The foe has laid hands  
On everything dear to her.  
She has seen her Sanctuary  
Invaded by nations  
Which You have denied admission  
Into Your community.

## **Discussion questions for Eikhah 1: 1- 10**

In this first chapter of Eikhah describing the destruction of Jerusalem, the author provides a collection of searing images. This introductory chapter creates a mood that prevails throughout the entire book.

1. How would you describe that mood?
2. How does Jeremiah describe Jerusalem physically?
3. How does Jeremiah describe Jerusalem metaphorically?
4. Why employ two types of descriptors?
5. Which presentation do you think is more unsettling, the physical or the metaphorical? Or do you see them as equivalent?
6. How does Jeremiah understand God's role in Jerusalem's destruction?