



WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

The Eikhah Project 5777

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?