

¹كَيْفَ اكْدَرَّ الذَّهَبُ، تَغَيَّرَ الْإِبْرِيذُ الْجَدِيدُ. انْهَالَتْ جِجَارَةُ
الْقُدْسِ فِي رَأْسِ كُلِّ شَارِعٍ. ²بَنُو صِهْيَوْنَ الْكَرَمَاءُ
الْمُؤْرُونُونَ بِالذَّهَبِ النَّعِيِّ، كَيْفَ حُسِبُوا أَتَارِقَ حَرْفِ
عَمَلِ يَدَيِّ فَخَّارِي. ³بَتَأْتُ أَوَى أَيْضاً أَخْرَجْتُ أَطْبَاءَهَا،
أَرْصَعْتُ أَجْرَاءَهَا. ⁴أَمَّا بِنْتُ سَعْيِي فَجَافِيَةٌ كَالنَّعَامِ فِي
الْبَرِّيَّةِ. ⁵لَصِقَ لِسَانُ الرَّاضِعِ بِحَنَكِهِ مِنَ الْعَطَشِ.
الْأَطْفَالُ يَسْأَلُونَ خُبْزاً وَلَيْسَ مَنْ يَكْسِرُهُ لَهُمْ. ⁶الَّذِينَ
كَانُوا يَأْكُلُونَ الْمَاكِلَ الْفَاحِرَةَ قَدْ هَلَكُوا فِي الشُّوَارِعِ.
الَّذِينَ كَانُوا يَبْتَزُّونَ عَلَى الْقَرْمِزِ اخْتَصَّصُوا الْمَرَابِلَ. ⁷وَقَدْ
صَارَ عِقَابُ بِنْتِ سَعْيِي أَعْظَمَ مِنْ قِصَاصِ حَطِيئَةِ سَدُومَ
الَّتِي انْقَلَبَتْ كَانَتْهُ فِي لَحْطَةٍ، وَلَمْ تُلقَ عَلَيْهَا آبَاءُ. ⁸كَانَ
يُذْرُهَا أَنْعَى مِنَ التَّلَجِّ وَأَكْثَرَ بَيَاضاً مِنَ اللَّبَنِ، وَأَجْسَامُهُمْ
أَشَدَّ حُمْرَةً مِنَ الْمَرْجَانِ. جَرَزَهُمْ كَالْيَافُوتِ
الْأَزْرَقِ. ⁹صَارَتْ صُورَتُهُمْ أَشَدَّ طَلَاماً مِنَ السَّوَادِ. لَمْ
يُعْرِفُوا فِي الشُّوَارِعِ. لَصِقَ جِلْدُهُمْ بِعَطْمِهِمْ. صَارَ بَابُهَا
كَالْحَسْبِ. ¹⁰كَانَتْ قَتَلَى السَّيْفِ خَيْراً مِنْ قَتَلَى الْجُوعِ.
لَأنَّ هَؤُلَاءِ يَذُوبُونَ مَطْعُونِينَ لِعَدَمِ أَثْمَارِ الْحَقْلِ. ¹¹أَيَادِي
النِّسَاءِ الْخَتَائِنِ طَبَحَتْ أَوْلَادَهُنَّ. صَارُوا طَعَاماً لَهُنَّ فِي
سَحْقِ بِنْتِ سَعْيِي. ¹²أَنَّهُمُ الرَّبُّ غَبِطُهُ، سَكَبَ حُمُومَ غَضَبِهِ
وَأَشْعَلَ تَاراً فِي صِهْيَوْنَ فَأَكَلَتْ أَسْهَتَهَا. ¹³لَمْ تُصَدِّقْ
مُلُوكُ الْأَرْضِ وَكُلُّ سُكَّانِ الْمَسْكُونَةِ أَنَّ الْعَدُوَّ وَالْمُنْغِصَ
يَذْخُلَانِ أَبْوَابَ أُورُشَلِيمَ. ¹⁴مِنْ أَجْلِ خَطَايَا أَنْبِيَائِهَا وَأَنَامِ
كَهَنَتِهَا السَّافِكِينَ فِي وَسْطِهَا دَمَ الصِّدِّيقِينَ، تَاهُوا
كَعَمِي فِي الشُّوَارِعِ، وَتَلَطَّخُوا بِالدِّمِ حَتَّى لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ
أَحَدٌ أَنْ يَمَسَّ مَلَابِسَهُمْ. ¹⁵جِيدُوا. تَجَسُّوا. يُتَادُونَ إِلَيْهِمْ.
جِيدُوا. جِيدُوا لَا تَمَسُّوْا. إِذْ هَرَبُوا تَاهُوا أَيْضاً. قَالُوا بَيْنَ
الْأَمَمِ إِنَّهُمْ لَا يَعُودُونَ يَسْكُنُونَ. ¹⁶وَجْهَ الرَّبِّ قَسَمَهُمْ. لَا
يَعُودُ يَنْظُرُ إِلَيْهِمْ. لَمْ يَرْقِعُوا وَجْهَ الْكَهَنَةِ، وَلَمْ يَبْتَازُوا
عَلَى الشُّبُوحِ. ¹⁷أَمَّا تَحْنُ فَقَدْ كَلَّتْ أَعْيُنُنَا مِنَ النَّظَرِ إِلَى
عَوْنِ الْبَاطِلِ. فِي بُرْجِنَا انْتِظَرْنَا أَمَةً لَا تَخْلُسُ. ¹⁸تَصَبَّوْا
فَخَاحاً لِحَطَوَاتِنَا حَتَّى لَا تَمُشِيَ فِي سَخَاتِنَا. قَرَبَتْ
نَهَابَتُنَا. كَمَلَتْ أَنْبَاؤُنَا لِأَنَّ نَهَابَتَنَا قَدْ أَتَتْ. ¹⁹صَارَ طَارِدُونَا
أَحَفَّ مِنْ نُسُورِ السَّمَاءِ. عَلَى الْجِبَالِ جَدُّوا فِي أَثَرِنَا.
فِي الْبَرِّيَّةِ كَمَتُوا لَنَا. ²⁰نَفْسُ أُنُوفِنَا، مَسِيحُ الرَّبِّ، أَخَذَ
فِي حَقْرِهِمْ، الَّذِي قُلْنَا عَنْهُ فِي ظِلِّهِ تَبِيشُ بَيْنَ
الْأَمَمِ. ²¹إِطْرِبِي وَافْرِجِي يَا بِنْتُ أَدُومَ يَا سَاكِنَةَ عُوصِ.
عَلَيْكَ أَيْضاً تُمَرُّ الْكَاسُ. تَسْكِرِينَ وَتَتَعَرِّينَ. ²²قَدْ تَمَّ إِنْصِلَافُ
يَا بِنْتُ صِهْيَوْنَ. لَا يَعُودُ بِسَبِيلِكَ. سُبُعَاؤُكَ إِنْصِلَافُ يَا بِنْتُ

¹How is the gold become dim! how is the most fine gold changed! the stones of the sanctuary are poured out in the top of every street. ²The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold, how are they esteemed as earthen pitchers, the work of the hands of the potter! ³Even the sea monsters draw out the breast, they give suck to their young ones: the daughter of my people is become cruel, like the ostriches in the wilderness. ⁴The tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst: the young children ask bread, and no man breaketh it unto them. ⁵They that did feed delicately are desolate in the streets: they that were brought up in scarlet embrace dunghills. ⁶For the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, that was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her. ⁷Her Nazarites were purer than snow, they were whiter than milk, they were more ruddy in body than rubies, their polishing was of sapphire. ⁸Their visage is blacker than a coal; they are not known in the streets: their skin cleaveth to their bones; it is withered, it is become like a stick. ⁹They that be slain with the sword are better than they that be slain with hunger: for these pine away, stricken through for want of the fruits of the field. ¹⁰The hands of the pitiful women have sodden their own children: they were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my people. ¹¹The LORD hath accomplished his fury; he hath poured out his fierce anger, and hath kindled a fire in Zion, and

أَدُوْمَ وَبُعْلَيْنِ حَطَايَاكَ.

it hath devoured the foundations thereof.¹² The kings of the earth, and all the inhabitants of the world, would not have believed that the adversary and the enemy should have entered into the gates of Jerusalem.¹³ For the sins of her prophets, and the iniquities of her priests, that have shed the blood of the just in the midst of her,¹⁴ They have wandered as blind men in the streets, they have polluted themselves with blood, so that men could not touch their garments.¹⁵ They cried unto them, Depart ye; it is unclean; depart, depart, touch not: when they fled away and wandered, they said among the heathen, They shall no more sojourn there .¹⁶ The anger of the LORD hath divided them; he will no more regard them: they respected not the persons of the priests, they favoured not the elders.¹⁷ As for us, our eyes as yet failed for our vain help: in our watching we have watched for a nation that could not save us .¹⁸ They hunt our steps, that we cannot go in our streets: our end is near, our days are fulfilled; for our end is come.¹⁹ Our persecutors are swifter than the eagles of the heaven: they pursued us upon the mountains, they laid wait for us in the wilderness.²⁰ The breath of our nostrils, the anointed of the LORD, was taken in their pits, of whom we said, Under his shadow we shall live among the heathen.²¹ Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, that dwellest in the land of Uz; the cup also shall pass through unto thee: thou shalt be drunken, and shalt make thyself naked.²² The punishment of thine iniquity is accomplished, O daughter of Zion; he will no more carry thee away into

Lamentations 4

captivity: he will visit thine iniquity, O daughter of Edom; he will discover thy sins.