
TISH B'AV, LAMENTATIONS AND AMERICA

Almighty God, our Father in heaven, we are made out of the dust of the earth and we are human flesh and have a great deal to learn to get things right. We have to realize that we have much to learn and overcome and we need your Holy Spirit, strength, mercy, the truth of your word. We ask for your insight and understanding, love and joy, patience with steadfastness, faith and endurance, and self-control. We commit our lives and this service into your hands. Please bless your people everywhere that are scattered around this world. Deliver us from temptation and this confused Babylonian world system which deceives all the nations. Thank you for cleaning us up with the washing of the water of your word and giving us your strength and Spirit that we may repent and turn to you. Be with us in the days, the months and the years that are coming that we will stand strong with vigilance to do your work and bear witness of your plan of salvation that we will walk humbly with you. Give us eyes to see, hearts to comprehend—your message, your word, your truth. In Yeshua's name, we pray for your guidance and direction.

Greetings! As of this morning, fires that started on 7/14 caused by dry lighting are approximately 72% contained. Fire is still raging five miles SW of Okanogan in the East Zone. The Incident Command Post for the East Zone (our area) has moved from the Stampede grounds to the Fairgrounds to make way for the Omak Stampede on August 7-10, 2014. National Weather Service issued red flag warning for Okanogan and surrounding areas today due to storm thunder cells coming through the area and bring dry lighting with heavy gusts of winds that down power lines, topple trees and will bring the danger of spot fires being ignited. The hottest month of the last 12 months was July with an average daily high temperature of 94°F. The hottest day of the last 12 months was July 29, with a high temperature of 105°F. In relative terms the warmest month was July, with an average high temperature of 94°F with twenty consecutive days warmer than average temperatures. Hopefully, this week the temperatures will be slowly coming down into the 90's as forecast. According to Omak's weather history, the hottest day on record since 2001 was 108 degrees in 2006 (July 23).

Av is the fifth month of the Hebrew calendar year. Today is Av 5, which is still “between or within the straights” (Hebrew: *bein ha-metzarim*) until the 9th of Av which is Tish B'Av and the last day of *between the straights* period. That is the day when Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon breached the walls of the first Sanctuary in 586-587 BC and the day that the Roman General Titus Vespasian broke down the walls of Jerusalem and burned the second temple down to the ground in 70 AD. The 9th of Av (1492) the Catholic monarchs, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella expelled all the Jews from Spain by the stroke of a pen, giving them three months' time to leave by the 8th of Av. Jews were no longer welcomed in Spain.

During this period in history, the Spanish Inquisition was in full force. The powerful Roman Catholic Church in Spain was arresting, imprisoning, torturing, and burning alive all Jews in Spain who refused to convert to Roman Catholicism. It is estimated that as many as 120,000

Jews fled from Spain to avoid the persecution. Christopher Columbus was not of Italian nationality as previously supposed. He was actually a Spanish Jew who went to great lengths to hide his Jewish-ness by obscuring his childhood records. However, much of Columbus' personal correspondence contained reference to King David of the Bible, the often used term "*Bet Hei*" (which is Hebrew for "with God's help") and his letters were written from right to left in the Hebrew reading fashion, instead of left to right. Many Jews who remained in Spain changed their Jewish names and identities to avoid persecution. They also pretended to convert to Roman Catholicism while practicing their own Jewish religion in secret.

So this was the same year, Christopher Columbus also left and sailed out upon the Atlantic Ocean. Because Muslim domination of land trade routes made travel to India and China difficult, Columbus came up with a plan to sail west in order to reach the East. Columbus accidentally stumbled upon the Americas, and his voyages led to the first lasting European contact with the Americas, inaugurating a period of European exploration, conquest, and colonization that lasted for several centuries.

According to tradition, this was the same day that Moses came down from Mount Sinai and smashed the tablets when he found the Israelites worshipping the golden calf. The Ninth of Av also marks the time when the Israelites rebelled against God and wanted to return to Egypt after hearing the reports from the spies sent by Moses to scout out the land of Canaan. Suffice it to say, many calamities befell the Jewish people throughout the generations. It was during this period of *between the straights* that both temples were destroyed. Therefore, this period was established as a time of mourning for the destruction of the temples. The 9th day of Av that is coming up is a day of lamentation and woe and Jews read the book of Lamentations in the synagogue that day.

The five chapters of Lamentations are about the prophet Jeremiah's grief-filled description of the destruction of the Sanctuary and exile. The book of Lamentations was written by Jeremiah under the inspiration of God. It is full of inspiration and full of woe and warning. Jeremiah is known in history as the "weeping prophet" who lamented the destruction of Jerusalem and Judah, God's people. **Jeremiah 1:5**—Jeremiah was ordained before conception by God to be a prophet unto the nations. God said "I will put my words in your mouth. You shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatsoever I command you shall speak." Tears poured down his cheeks, because he was just heart-broken with the intense burden of chastening and destruction that God discloses is going to occur to the people of Judah and the city of Jerusalem. This is a prophecy for the future, not just ancient history, but a warning for us today.

I look at what is going on in our country today and I am heart-broken and disgusted, amazed and horrified and ashamed of our people and leaders—our president and our former presidents, Congress and government administration. Wickedness abounds everywhere. **1 Samuel 24:13**—"wickedness proceeds from the wicked." The wicked will perish in judgment coming soon upon this earth. **Lamentations 1:1-2, 18-19**—"How lonely, sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow is she, who was great among the nations! The princess among the provinces has become a slave! She weeps bitterly in the night; her tears are on her cheeks. Among all her lovers she has none to comfort her. All her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they have become her enemies." This is a type of the United States and we are being forsaken by our friends (lovers) and no one will weep or wail, but will rejoice at our downfall. ¹⁸"The Lord is

righteous, for I rebelled against his commandment. Hear now, all peoples, and behold my sorrow. My virgins and my young men have gone into captivity. I called for my lovers but they deceived me. My priests and my elders breathed their last in the city, while they sought food to restore their life (starvation).”

Water is becoming a precious commodity. Governor Brown has declared a statewide drought emergency and is asking all Californians to reduce their water use by 20 percent. Two-thirds of California is experiencing “extreme” to “exceptional” drought conditions and the state will be challenged to meet its water needs in the upcoming year. Calendar year 2013 was the driest year in recorded history for many areas of California, and current conditions suggest no change is in sight for 2014. Nearly half of the country’s fruits, nuts and vegetables come from California. The Department of Food and Agriculture notes that California is the world’s fifth largest supplier of food and agriculture commodities, and often been referred to as the breadbasket of the world. **Lamentations 1:20**—“See, O Lord, that I am in distress; my soul is troubled. My heart is overturned within me, for **I have been very rebellious**. Outside the sword bereaves, at home it is like death.”

Lamentations 2:5, 14—“The Lord was like an enemy. He has swallowed up Israel. He has swallowed up all her palaces. He has destroyed her strongholds, and has increased mourning and lamentation in the daughter of Judah.” This includes America, Canada, Great Britain and the lost tribes of Israel and the people of Judah. ¹⁴“Your prophets have seen for you, false and deceptive visions. They have not uncovered your iniquity, to bring back your captives, but have envisioned for you false prophecies and delusions.” These are the teachers and ministers who have gone astray and don’t teach the word of God anymore. They are not preaching against homosexuality, adultery, pedophiles, bestiality, and sexual wickedness in high places. In fact, they are covering it up and participating in it. The Jesuits and Catholic Church and its priest are right in the middle.

Wikipedia.org (5.29.14)—“Child sexual abuse perpetrated by priests appears to have a long history within Christianity. Clergy sexual abuse was a story that had been around for a long time throughout the world. There was, for example, a more than six-fold increase in the number of reported acts of abuse of males 11 to 17 between the 1950’s and 1970’s. The cases received significant media and public attention throughout the world, especially in Canada, Ireland and the United States. In Ireland, the Irish government commissioned a study which took nine years to complete. The Boston Globe published a series of reports (2002) exposing widespread cases of sex abuse by clergy in Boston and efforts by the Catholic Church hierarchy to cover it up. There were reported acts of sexual abuse of minors in every year, however, the incidence of reported abuse increased by several orders of magnitude in the in the 1960’s and the 1970’s. On May 20, 2009, the commission released its 2600-page report, which drew on testimony from thousands of former inmates and officials from more than 250 institutions. The commission found that there were thousands of allegations of physical abuse of children of both sexes over a period of six decades. Over the same period there were also around 30 allegations of children who had suffered various forms of sexual abuse from religious institutions and others. The report also revealed that government inspectors had failed in their responsibility to detect and stop the abuse. The report characterized sexual molestation as ‘endemic’ in some church-run industrial schools and orphanages for boys.”

This week I read the book, *Transformation of America* by Kathy O'Brien with Mark Phillips. She tells the most shocking story of what has been happening in America right under our noses and we have not known about it. O'Brien was born with a photographic memory and into an abusive family whose father abused all of his children. When she was about the age of eight years old, she was sold into white slavery to the U.S. CIA along with many other young people who had been traumatized already by sexual abuse and they were made into slaves and agents of the U.S. government. The CIA with the US army military employed German scientists after WWII was over to continue their medical experiments and mind control techniques developed in Germany. This included physical brutality, electric shocks and training their minds to disassociate and to develop multiple personalities all under the control of the puppet master. These children became government puppets "in service to their country." About the age of 30 she was told she was going to die because she had outlived her usefulness to the CIA program providing "elite" servicing to high level government and important international figures which included presidents of Mexico, Panama, and the U.S. which included president GHW Bush. She was informed she would shortly be giving her life "for her country" in an upcoming snuff film. On August 3rd, 1977 the 95th U.S. Congress opened hearings into the reported abuses concerning the CIA's TOP SECRET mind control research program code named MK-Ultra. On February 8th, 1988, a top-level MK-Ultra victim, Cathy O'Brien, was covertly rescued from her mind control enslavement by Intelligence insider Mark Phillips.

TRANCE Formation of America exposes the truth behind this covert government program and its ultimate goal: psychological control of a nation. She is the first documented autobiography of a victim of government mind control. Cathy O'Brien is the only vocal and recovered survivor of the Central Intelligence Agency's MK-Ultra Project Monarch operation. Tracing her path from child pornography and recruitment into the program to serving as a top-level intelligence agent and White House sex slave, *TRANCE Formation of America* is a definitive eye-witness account of government corruption that implicates some of the most prominent figures in U.S. politics. *ACCESS DENIED For Reasons of National Security* gives the rest of their true life's story, which documents details on how Mark and Cathy were able to survive the state, federal and Congressional judicial-criminal justice system long enough to expose the criminal acts of some of the most politically powerful people still in control. Their seven year pursuit of Justice was stopped for reasons of national security. We live in a corrupt country with corrupt leadership.

Isaiah 52:1-2—"Cry aloud, spare not. Lift up your voice like a trumpet. Tell my people their transgression and the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God. They take delight in approaching God." God is furious with the way our leaders and people are behaving. The ministers and preachers will not talk about it. **Lamentations 2:17-18**—"The Lord has done what he purposed; He has fulfilled His word which He purposed. He has fulfilled his word which he commanded in days of old. He has thrown down and has not pitied. And he has caused an enemy to rejoice over you; He has exalted the horn of your adversaries. Their heart cried out to the Lord, "O wall of the daughter of Zion, Let tears run down like a river day and night. Give yourself no relief. Give your eyes no rest." Great famine is coming, the economy is going crash and the people are not prepared.

Lamentations 3:2-19—“He has led me and made me walk in darkness and not in light. Surely he has turned his hand against me time and time again throughout the day. He has aged my flesh and my skin, and broken my bones. He has besieged me and surrounded me with bitterness and woe. He has set me in dark places like the dead of long ago.” This is what God is going to do to Israel. “He has hedged me in so that I cannot get out. He has made my chain heavy. Even when I cry and shout, he shuts out my prayer. He has blocked my ways with hewn stone. He has made my paths crooked. He has been to me a bear lying in wait, like a lion in ambush. He had turned aside my ways and torn me in pieces; He has made me desolate (modern America). He has bent His bow and set me up as a target for the arrow.” “Remember my affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall. My soul still remembers and sinks within me. This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope.” Remember beyond the affliction, the darkness and beyond the punishment there is hope. There is a new day coming. **Lamentations 3:22**—“**Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.** The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “*Therefore I hope in Him!*” Finally, Americans will turn and repent, and turn back to God and hope in Him. There is no hope anywhere else.

It is only in and through Christ our Savior and Almighty God the Father who are our only source of hope, redemption and salvation—perfection and deliverance. **Lamentations 3:25**—“The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth.” People today are without jobs and are not able to get one and stop looking because they feel hopeless. “*To bear the yoke*” means to work and learn discipline when you are young even if it doesn’t pay well. It is better to work, than to be lazy and waste your time.

Lamentations 3:31— “The Lord will not cast off forever. Though he causes grief, yet he will show compassion according to the multitude of His mercies. ³³ **For he does not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men.**” God only does it because we make it necessary by our sins and corruption and our leaders’ corruption. I cannot imagine the fear and horror that a young woman would experience by being traumatized by medical experiments by government trained psychologists with electroshock therapy, to split their brains and teach them to be an effective prostitute, to respond to certain mental triggers to do whatever the person wants them to do carrying drugs, even being used as a mule to go to Mexico and other countries to meet with presidents and others to deliver messages from the American government—dealing and importing drugs!

We think we have a problem with drugs coming over the border. Yes we do! It goes back to Mena, Arkansas, when Bill Clinton was governor of Arkansas and President George H.W. Bush. It goes to back to George Bush, Head of the CIA and drugs brought by plane from Mexico to Mena, Arkansas airport often by Barry Seal. Those drugs were sent throughout the country and sold on the streets making billions of dollars. What was done with the money? The money was used to buy weapons from Saudi Arabia and the Middle East and then the weapons were given to the Contras in Central America fighting in Nicaragua in exchange for drugs. Then the Contras kept the supply of drugs flowing into the U.S. The head of the operation was Vice President George Bush.

The Iran-Contra affair was a political scandal in the United States during the second term of the Reagan Administration. The scandal began as an operation to free the seven [American hostages](#) being held in [Lebanon](#) by a group with Iranian ties connected to the [Army of the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution](#). It was planned that [Israel](#) would ship weapons to [Iran](#), and then the United States would resupply Israel and receive the Israeli payment. The Iranian recipients promised to do everything in their power to achieve the release of the U.S. hostages. The plan deteriorated into an arms-for-hostages scheme, in which members of the [executive branch](#) sold weapons to Iran in exchange for the release of the American hostages. Large modifications to the plan were devised by Lieutenant Colonel [Oliver North](#) of the [National Security Council](#) in late 1985, in which a portion of the proceeds from the weapon sales was diverted to fund anti-[Sandinista](#) and [anti-communist](#) rebels, or [Contras](#), in [Nicaragua](#).

Since then books have come out including a book by Terry Reed entitled *Compromised: Clinton, Bush and the CIA* which analyzes that period and the involvement of the Bushes and how the Presidency was Co-opted by the CIA. Reed was a former CIA asset whose patriotism transformed him into a liability when he refused to turn a blind eye to the Agency's drug trafficking. Clinton's unbridled political ambitions sold out to the CIA in exchange for support in his bid for the Presidency. Reed puts Clinton directly in the "Iran-Contra loop". Both attended a secret meeting where CIA arms arrangements, illegal Contra training and money laundering were discussed. Involved with Clinton in this cabal were Colonel Oliver North, William Barr (George Bush's attorney general), Felix Rodriguez (Bay of Pigs veteran and George Bush's CIA contact) and CIA contract agent Barry Seal, who used the cover of a high-profile drug trafficker to carry out his missions.

Clinton permitted the Agency to use Arkansas factories to make untraceable weapons and he allowed CIA contract agents to train Contra pilots on rural airstrips in support of the war in Nicaragua – effectively evading the Congressional ban on military aid to the Contras. This Arkansas-CIA connection became Clinton's darkest secret – a secret he shared by then Vice-President Bush, who himself was compromised by his involvement in the Iran-Contra scandal. Their shared guilt kept them silent and tied their hands as they faced off in the 1992 Presidential election with neither mentioning Iran-Contra.

While helping the CIA set up its secret "black" operations, Reed unwittingly compromised his family's safety, ultimately forcing him and his family into hiding as fugitives. When the CIA learned Reed had more patriotism than they bargained for, forces within President Bush's Justice Department, the CIA and the State of Arkansas decided he had to be neutralized. Realizing that Reed witnessed the making of a counterfeit President and knew too much about its drug operations, the Agency set out to destroy him and his family. People close to Clinton conspired to set Reed up on false federal criminal charges.

But Reed was acquitted. Found innocent by a court of law, Reed was then convicted by TIME Magazine, which aligned itself with a Clinton campaign consumed with protecting its candidate from scandals. Terry Reed, who performed intelligence services for the US Air Force, FBI, and CIA, came forward to set the record straight and to clear his name.

He names all who were involved in one of the most clandestine operations in recent U.S. history, including these faceless power brokers now in positions of public prominence in Washington, D.C. Reed's behind the scenes insight exposed the sordid world of intelligence, where things are seldom what they seem and powerful people disguise greed and ambition behind the convenient mask of national security.

Barry Seal was a legendary CIA drug smuggler and ace pilot who had literally worked for the Agency since he was a teenage pilot prodigy in the late 1950's. By 1986 Barry Seal was having legal problems (criminal and a huge IRS tax liability) that not even his CIA connections could protect him from and according to Seal's lawyer Lewis Unglesby, Barry Seal was a threat to testify against Vice President George Herbert Walker Bush. In fact, in early 1986 Barry Seal was threatening GHW Bush to get the IRS off his back or he (Seal) was going to blow the whistle on the Contra scheme and CIA drug smuggling. Two weeks after his argument with Vice President George Herbert Walker Bush, Barry Seal was pumped full of bullets and murdered outside his Baton Rouge halfway house on Feb. 19, 1986. The three Columbians who were convicted of the crime thought they were working for Lt. Col. Oliver North of the National Security Council. North's alias in the 1980's was "John Cathey." The personal phone number of George Herbert Walker Bush was found in Seal's possessions.

We know this, God is going to bring every work into judgment and he is going to straighten out all things. Only those who repent and turn to God will be saved. Those who are guilty will be condemned to pay the penalty for their sins. **Keep in mind verse 33.** God does show compassion according to the multitude of His mercies and does not afflict or willingly cause grief. ³⁴“To crush under one's feet all the prisoners of the earth, **to turn aside the justice due a man before the face of the Most High, or subvert a man in his cause**—the Lord does not approve.” God sees what is being done by men and women today—justice is not being given. Kathy O'Brien was virtually made a sex slave for the CIA, but a way of escape was made for her. Many will ignore or dismiss her story as a mental case. The U.S. government has also used an iron fist in wielding its power to force other nations into compliance to the international monetary fund, the Federal Reserve and to make the world dependent on the U.S. dollar. The economy of the world is now collapsing around us.

Lamentations 3:37—“Who is he who speaks and it comes to pass, when the Lord has not commanded it? **Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that woe and well-being proceed? Why should a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?” If we suffer woes or blessings, both come from God. Man deserves death. If a man or woman repents, they will be spared. ⁴⁰“Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to the Lord. Let us lift our hearts and hands to God in heaven. We have transgressed and rebelled. You have not pardoned.”**

How do we return to God? We return to God through his word, through his commandments—the Torah—through His teachings and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ the Lord, Yeshua. ⁴¹“Let us lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven. ⁴² We have transgressed and rebelled; you have not pardoned. ⁴³You have covered yourself with your anger and pursued us. You have slain and not pitied. ⁴⁴You have covered yourself with a cloud that prayer should not pass through. ⁴⁵You have

made us an offscouring (dung) and refuse in the midst of the peoples.” **Lamentations 3:46-54**—
“All our enemies have opened their mouths against us. ⁴⁷Fear and a snare have come upon us,
desolation and destruction. ⁴⁸My eyes overflow with rivers of water for the destruction of the
daughter of my people. ⁴⁹ My eyes flow and do not cease, without interruption, ⁵⁰ Till the Lord
from heaven looks down and sees. ⁵¹My eyes bring suffering to my soul because of all the
daughters of my city. ⁵²My enemies without cause hunted me down like a bird. ⁵³They silenced
my life in the pit and threw stones at me. ⁵⁴The waters flowed over my head; I said, ‘I am cut
off!’ ”

People have to go through judgment and be corrected like small children to get their attention so
they will not repeat the offense or harm themselves. **Proverbs 26:6**—“Train up a child in the
way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Psalms 94:10—“He, who instructs the nations, shall He not **correct**, He who teaches man
knowledge?” **Proverbs 3:11** –“My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor detest
His correction;”

Proverbs 3:12 –“For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he
delights.”

Proverbs 23:13—“Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he
will not die.”

Proverbs 29:17; 19—“Correct your son and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to
your soul.” ¹⁹“A servant will not be **corrected** by mere words; for though he understands, he will
not respond.”

Jeremiah 2:9—“Your own wickedness will correct you, and your backslidings will rebuke you.
Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing that you have forsaken the LORD your
God, and the fear of me is not in you says the Lord GOD of hosts.”

Jeremiah 10:24—“O Lord correct me, but with justice; Not in Your anger, lest you bring me to
nothing.”

Jeremiah 30:11—“ ‘For I am with you,’ says the LORD, ‘to save you; though I make a full end
of all nations where I have scattered you. Yet, I will not make a complete end of you. But I
will correct you in justice, and will not let you go altogether unpunished.’ ”

Jeremiah 46:28—“Do not fear, O Jacob My servant,” says the LORD, “For I am with you; for I
will make a complete end of all the nations to which I have driven you. But I will not make a
complete end of you. I will rightly correct you, for I will not leave you wholly unpunished.”

America, as we know it, is being weakened and destroyed by the Obama Administration. I am
not pointing blame. I don’t know whether it is weakened through stupidity and blindness or
whether it is deliberate. The result is the same, chaos, confusion and leading toward the
destruction of our country. It used to be a city sitting on a hill, a bright shining light and a
beacon of freedom and liberty for all mankind. Now America is becoming a widow, hated and
despised because of wickedness.

Lamentations 3:55-66—“I called on your name, O Lord, from the lowest pit. You have heard
my voice: Do not hide your ear from my sighing, from my cry for help. **You drew near on the
day I called on you**, and said, ‘Do Not Fear!’ ” Jeremiah, God’s servant, went through this
period of destruction of ancient Jerusalem and Judea the same way we, God’s servants are going
through this period of the destruction of America in modern Israel today. We are witnessing the

end of days beginning to escalate. God says to us, if we draw near to him and pray with our arms outstretched to heaven as Jeremiah did and confess our sins, asking God not to hide his ear from our sighing and crying out for help, then God will deliver us one by one. Jeremiah says, ⁵⁸“O Lord you have pleaded the case for my soul; you have redeemed my life. ⁵⁹O Lord, you have seen how I am wronged; judge my case. ⁶⁰You have seen all their vengeance, all their schemes against me. ⁶¹You have heard their reproach, O Lord, All their schemes against me, ⁶²The lips of my enemies and their whispering against me all the day. ⁶³Look at their sitting down and their rising up; I am their taunting song. Repay them, O Lord, according to the work of their hands. Give them a veiled (sorrow of heart) heart; your curse be upon them from under the heavens of the Lord!”

How bad is it going to get? **Lamentations 4:4-14**(NKJV)—“The tongue of the infant clings to the roof of its mouth for thirst; the young children ask for bread, but no one breaks it for them. Those who ate delicacies (rich foods) are desolate in the streets. Those who were brought up in purple embrace ash heaps. The punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, which was overthrown in a moment, with no hand to help her! Now their appearance is blacker than soot. They go unrecognized in the streets; their skin clings to their bones; it has become as dry as wood.” Famine, hunger and lack of nutrition cause the skin to dry up and become dark. ⁹“Those slain by the sword are better off than those who die of hunger. For these pine away, stricken for lack of the fruits of the field. ¹⁰ The hands of the compassionate women have *cooked their own children*; they became food for them in the destruction of the daughter of my people.” The famine will be so bad that people will turn to cannibalism.

Because of our sins, ¹¹“The Lord has fulfilled his fury, he has poured out his fierce anger. He kindled a fire in Zion and it has devoured its foundations. The kings of the earth, and all inhabitants of the world would not have believed that the adversary and the enemy could enter the gates of Jerusalem—because of the sins of her prophets and the iniquities of her priests, who shed in her midst the blood of the just.” ¹⁴“They wandered blind in the streets; they have defiled themselves with blood, so that no one would touch their garments.”

Lamentations 5:1-22—“Remember, O Lord what has come upon us, look, and see our disgrace”—the devastation and destruction. “Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers, our homes to foreigners. We have become fatherless, our mothers are widows. We must buy the water we drink; our wood can be had only at a price. Those who pursue us are at our heels; we are weary and find no rest. We submitted to Egypt and Assyria to get enough bread. ⁷Our ancestors sinned and are no more, and we bear their punishment. Slaves rule over us, and there is no one to free us from their hands. ⁹We get our bread at the risk of our lives because of the sword in the desert. ¹⁰Our skin is as hot as an oven, feverish from hunger. Women have been violated in Zion, and virgins in the towns of Judah. Princes have been hung up by their hands; elders are shown no respect. Young men toil at the millstones; boys stagger under loads of wood. ¹⁴ The elders are gone from the city gate; the young men have stopped their music. ¹⁵Joy is gone from our hearts; our dancing has turned to mourning. The crown has fallen from our head. Woe to us, for we have sinned! ¹⁷ Because of this our hearts are faint,

because of these things our eyes grow dim for Mount Zion, which lies desolate, with the jackals prowling over it.”

¹⁹You, Lord, reign forever; your throne endures from generation to generation. Why do you always forget us? Why do you forsake us so long? Restore us to yourself, Lord, that we may return; renew our day as of old, ²² unless you have utterly rejected us and are angry with us beyond measure.”

Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV)—God says in reply, “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness. I will build you up again, and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt. Again you will take up your timbrel and go out to dance with the joyful. Again you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria; the farmers will plant them and enjoy their fruit. There will be a day when watchmen cry out on the hills of Ephraim, Come let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.” **Jeremiah 31:10-29**—“hear the word of the Lord, you nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd. For the Lord will deliver Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they. They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord—the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more. Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow. I will satisfy the priests with abundance, and my people will be filled with my bounty,” declares the Lord.

¹⁵This what the Lord says: “A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” This is what the Lord says: “Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded,” declares the Lord. Your children will return from the land of the enemy. So there is hope for your descendents,” declares the Lord. “Your children will return to their own land. I have surely heard Ephraim’s moaning: ‘You disciplined me like an unruly calf, and I have been disciplined. Restore me, and I will return, because you are the Lord my God. After I strayed, I repented; after I came to understand, I beat my breast. I was ashamed and humiliated because I bore the disgrace of my youth.’ Is not Ephraim my dear son, the child in whom I delight? Though I often speak against him, I still remember him. Therefore my heart yearns for him, I have great compassion for him,” declares the Lord. “Set up the road signs; put up guideposts. Take note of the highway the road that you take. Return, Virgin Israel, return to your towns. ²²How long will you wander unfaithful daughter Israel? The Lord will create a new thing on earth—the woman will return to the man.”

²³“This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel says: “When I bring them back from captivity, the people in the land of Judah and in its towns will once again use these words: ‘The Lord bless you, you prosperous city, you sacred mountain. ²⁴ “People will live together in Judah and all its towns—farmers and those who move about with their flocks. ²⁵I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint.” The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will plant the kingdoms of Israel and Judah with the offspring of

people and of animals. ²⁸ Just as I watched over them to uproot and tear down, and to overthrow, destroy and bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant,” declares the LORD. ²⁹ “In those days people will no longer say, ‘the parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’ ”

Jeremiah 31:30--“Instead everyone will die for their own sin; whoever eats sour grapes—their own teeth will be set on edge. The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant though I was a husband to them, declares the Lord. This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel. After that time, declares the Lord. I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘know the Lord, because they will all know me from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. ³⁴For I will forgive their wickedness and remember their sins no more. ³⁵This is what the Lord says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the Lord Almighty is his name: ³⁶Only if these decrees vanish from my sight, declares the Lord, will Israel ever cease being a nation before me. ³⁷This is what the Lord says: Only if the heavens above can be measured and the fountains of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done, declares the Lord.”

“The days are coming, declares the Lord, when this city will be rebuilt for me from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. The measuring line will stretch from there straight to the hill of Gareb and then turn to Goah. The whole valley where dead bodies and ashes are thrown, and all the terraces out to the Kidron Valley on the east as far as the corner of the Horse Gate, will be holy to the Lord. The city will never again be uprooted or demolished.”

America is Ephraim and modern day Samaria, the head of the ten lost ten tribes.

Habakkuk 3:1-2;18-19—“A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet. LORD, LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy. Make your work known and heard.”¹⁸“I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.¹⁹ The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer’s feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills.”