

August 30 Answers

- 1) Lamentations answers this question: 'How should God's people respond to the terrible judgment that had fallen on them because of their wickedness?' First, they should realize how **low** they had fallen. In the past, Jerusalem had been "full of people," "great among the nations," "a **princess** among the provinces," "the perfection of beauty," "a **joy** to all the earth," filled with "precious things," and mighty in its "strongholds." This greatness had not come from their own strength or power; it had come from God's **blessing**. Second, they should recognize what had brought about their destruction: "The LORD has afflicted her for the multitude of her **transgressions**" (Lam 1:5). The city's devastation was not due to the sin of one generation. It was the result of generation after generation of wickedness, where **children** embraced their parents' legacy of idolatry, murder and perversion. Third, they should **own** the pain of God's judgment. This was not a punishment to be shrugged off. This was a grief to be **felt**, a grief that should cause their eyes to run with **weeping** (Lam 1:16). 'Remember this pain,' Lamentations cries, 'Let it soak into your hearts. May the memory of the anger of God for your sin be always in your minds!'