

September 1 Answers

- 1) God concluded Lamentations by telling the people why their judgment had been so horrible: “The guilt of my people is greater than that of **Sodom**, where utter disaster struck in a moment and no hand offered help” (Lam 4:6 NLT). The destruction of Sodom had been **sudden**; the destruction of Jerusalem was **slow** and full of horrible **suffering** (mothers boiled and ate their own children). “A high calling flouted by low living results in deep suffering” (Life Application Study Bible). How true that is! Are we living in a way that brings glory and honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ? This was because their sin was **worse** than Sodom. Indeed, they made Sodom look **righteous** by comparison! (Ezek 16:48–51). Next, God told the people to bring their sorrow and grief to him in prayer: “Remember, O Lord, what has befallen us; **look**, and see our disgrace!” (Lam 5:1). They must bear their punishment without complaint, but it was appropriate for them to lay their suffering at God’s feet and beg for **mercy** (Lam 5:16). Lastly, God urged them to ask for restoration: “Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored! **Renew** our days as of old” (Lam 5:21). This was an appeal for God to bring them back into covenant faithfulness and love, for true restoration is found only in a loving, obedient **relationship** with God. Thus Lamentations ends with a call to find **healing** in the one, true God.