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The Book of Lamentations

Introduction

The book of Lamentations talks about the oracles and prophets, the destruction of Jerusalem, the sufferings of the kingdom of Judah under King Nebuchadnezzar's reign and the Babylonians. The kingdom of Judah suffered deportation during their devastation. Thirst and starvation decimated the population, leadership and most of the population were carried away captive and this devastation was deeply spiritual and theological, the fall of Jerusalem brought about desolation and sufferings that captured the hearts of their inhabitants thereby pleading to God to come to their rescue and alongside the city of Jerusalem, the Mesopotamian gods also wept and grieved over their most loved city that was also devastated.

What does the Book of Lamentations teach about suffering?

The book of Lamentations teaches that, suffering comes about when the Lord rejects his altar and abandoned his sanctuary, he multiples mourning and lamentations, he was determined to tear down the wall around Daughter Zion, he brings grief to the people of Jerusalem, he swallowed up Israel and he became an enemy. The suffering of Jerusalem was at the same time a momentous event in a way that it teaches the general importance of the city in the ancient Near East and the sense of security that the cities tended to offer. The lord brought the city of

Jerusalem grief because of their many sins, the book teaches that, when one sins greatly against God, they become unclean therefore incurring suffering in their lives. The Lord sapped the strength in the city and the kingdom of Judah wept uncontrollably because the Lord rejected them and summoned an army against them and their neighbors became their foes due to their uncleanliness. Rebelling against the Lords command incurs suffering because he is the righteous one and the Alpha and Omega.

How we can respond to suffering in our own lives?

We can respond to suffering in our lives by praying earnestly to God for forgiveness of our great sin against him. By also not turning to lesser Gods in times of trouble. Embracing change and believing that nothing is impossible God cannot do. Trusting in the Lord God that he is the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, mightier and committing our ways to him that he is the solver and creator of all things in the world. We can also respond by been rebellious towards God and he will bless us abundantly in due time. We must examine our ways and test them and return to the Lord by lifting our hearts and our hands to God in heaven and saying, “We have sinned and rebelled and you have not forgiven us until the Lord looks down from heaven and sees” (Lam 3:42-50).

Do you think suffering is inevitable for Christians, or can we avoid it all through prayer? Use quotations and examples from the book to explain your answers.

Yes, suffering is inevitable for Christians even though we still pray to God. This is because, God test our faith in him by incurring a little suffering on mankind to see if they will turn away from him. An example is Job in the Bible, he was very loyal and free from sin but God tested him to see if Job loved him genuinely or he was just a follower of God and does not

practice what God requires from man. Job lost everything but after the test of time, he restored everything he had in abundance and in multiplies so this confirms that, as a Christian we cannot avoid suffering even if we pray without ceasing. Another biblical character of suffering that was unavoidable in the Bible was Abraham, God tested him to see if he will obey and follow his commandments even though Abraham was God's eyes and he loved him immensely, he prayed all the time but was still put to test and suffered to sacrifice his son Isaac which he obeyed. From the book of Lamentations, the people of Jerusalem cried their heart out to God in times of their desolation but was not answered immediately by God, "Even when I call out or cry for help, he shuts out my prayer" (Lam 3:8). This explains that, after all their wailing and praying to God, their suffering could not be avoided but was rather increased day after day because their ways was the ways of the devil and it was not examined and tested well, though God brought grief he showed compassion at the right time because his love is unending. We pray all the time for divine intervention but God knows best and he acts accordingly so we cannot avoid suffering in our lives because it is bound to happen and is a way of Gods redemption and testimony to us.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the book teaches us that, God does not willingly bring affliction to his people but he wants us to see his goodness and mercies, his divine interventions and our lives can be redeemed when we obey him and avoid sinning against him. Humans must be careful not to sin against God because his wrath of punishment is extreme and cannot be avoided at all cost even though he is a forgiving God, he reigns forever and to see his glory, one must remember him that he is the creator of the universe and obey his commandments.