

# ***Ēkāh* (Lamentations) - אֵיכָה**

**4** How is the gold become dim! How is the finest gold changed! The stones of the sanctuary are poured out in the top of every street.

**2** The precious sons of Tsîyôn, comparable to fine gold, how are they esteemed as earthen pitchers, the work of the hands of the potter!

**3** Even 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.

**4** The tongue of the sucking child cleaves to the roof of his mouth for thirst: the young children ask bread, and no man breaks it unto them.

**5** They that did feed delicately are desolate in the streets: they that were brought up in scarlet embrace dunghills.

**6** For the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sedôm, that was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her.

**7** Her Nâzîyr (נָזִיר) were purer than snow, they were whiter than milk, they were more ruddy in body than rubies, their polishing was of sapphire:

**8** Their visage is blacker than a coal; they are not known in the streets: their skin cleaves to their bones; it is withered, it is become like a stick.

**9** They 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.

**10** The hands of the pitiful women have sodden their own children: they were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my people.

**11** YAHUAH (יְהוָה) has accomplished his fury; he has poured out his fierce anger, and hath kindled a fire in Tsîyôn, and it has 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 Yerûshâlim.

**13** For the sins of her prophets, and the iniquities of her kôhên, 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 you; 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 YAHUAH (יהוה) has divided them; he will no more regard them: they respected not the persons of the kôhên, they favored 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 Mâshîyach of YAHUAH (יהוה), 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 Ĕdôm that dwell in the land of Ūts; the cup also shall pass through unto you: you shall be drunken, and shall make yourself naked.

**22** The punishment of your iniquity is accomplished, O daughter of Tsîyôn; he will no more carry you away into captivity: he will visit your iniquity, O daughter of Ĕdôm; he will discover your sins.