

## IS IT NOTHING TO YOU?

(Lam. 1:8-12)

### Introduction:

1. This despairing cry was uttered by the weeping prophet of Judah mourning over the destruction of Jerusalem. And sadly, God's people today must hear that same cry again.
2. We do not live in a destroyed city that had been God's chosen, but we live in a world of destruction that God would have saved.
3. Let us consider the historical setting of the question; and then let us make application to the church today.

### Discussion:

#### I. The Historical Setting.

- A. Most scholars believe that Lamentations was written by Jeremiah, the aptly named "weeping prophet". Jeremiah had been commissioned by God to preach to His people in the days leading up to the Babylonian captivity (Jer. 1:4-10ff). He warned them concerning their faithlessness to God who had done so much for them (Jer. 2:1-9). He warned them not to turn to other nations for their deliverance (Jer. 2:18, 36, 37). He warned them that they would be undone if they did not repent and return to God (Jer. 18:1-12ff). Finally he warned them that the only hope for Jerusalem was in surrendering to the Babylonians but they would not (Jer. 34:2, 3; 38:17, 18; Ezek. 12:13; Jer. 39:6, 7). Jeremiah prophesied of the 70 year Babylonian captivity of the Jews (Jer. 29:10; Dan. 9:2).
- B. Jeremiah escaped Jerusalem's destruction (Jer. 39:11-14) but could not escape the horrors of it; thus the book of Lamentations. Jeremiah wrote Lamentations after witnessing the terrible destruction of the City of David, the city chosen of God.
- C. Thus the sorrowful question of Lam. 1:12, "is it nothing to you?"
  1. Imagine the aftermath of such destruction on your own home town.
  2. Imagine the impact of the blackened, broken foundation stones of the temple Solomon had built.
  3. Imagine the despair of a Jewish scholar looking upon the deserted ruin of Holy Zion.
    - a. How would God bring forth His kingdom from this (Is. 2:2, 3)?
    - b. How would salvation come from here (Joel 2:32)?
    - c. How would the Messiah King come here (Zech. 9:9)?

#### II. The Modern-Day Application.

- A. Today we too face destruction as our nation, once a standard bearer of Christianity, is in full rebellion against God. We see the destruction all around us and more is sure to come. How will we respond to the moral decay of our country/culture? Is it nothing to us? Will we simply go along to get along? Or, will we make a stand for God and speak out?
- B. As goes the country/culture often so goes the church. It ought not be, but, there is reality that must be faced. The church is contracting as being faithful to our Lord puts us at greater odds with all around us. Faithfulness to the assembly and to the study of God's word is noticeably and quantitatively lessening. Is it nothing to us? That fewer and fewer of God's people are willing to worship God in spirit and in truth? Is it nothing to us that brethren are not willing to sacrifice in order to promote the assembly of our Lord or the building up of His people?
- C. False teachers and false teaching is praised for their works of self-righteousness, as all the while souls are damned for all eternity. Is it nothing to us? Are we not willing to make a stand for God and His righteousness to those around us? Is it nothing to us, to call evil good and good evil (Is. 5:20)?
- D. We are surrounded by multitudes of people who are "drawn towards death" and are "stumbling to the slaughter" (Prov. 24:11). Is it nothing to us? People we know and claim to love are marching day by day to eternal darkness, fire, torment, worms, and gnashing of teeth. Do we wave to or greet with a clean conscience those familiar strangers who have no hope?
- E. What about our world of ~7.4 billion and with the statistics that there are only ~2 million members of the Lord's church worldwide. Is it nothing to us?

### Conclusion:

1. God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son into the world to suffer and die that all might be saved and have the hope of eternal life in heaven. Is it nothing to us?
2. Let us wake up out of our slumber and face the reality of our existence with courage and determination (1 Cor. 15:58; 16:13). And, let us not be okay with the lost all around us remaining lost. Let us not be okay with our country/culture degrading into godlessness. Let us so conduct our lives that none will be able to say "it was nothing to us".
3. Invitation.