

ה בָּנָה עָלַי וַיִּקָּר 5 he has piled troubles up against me,
 רֹאשׁ וּתְלָאָה: right round my head;
 ו בְּמַחֲשָׁכִים הוֹשִׁיבָנִי 6 he has made me dwell in the dark,
 כְּמֵתֵי עוֹלָם: like those long dead;
 ז גָּדַר בְּעָדַי 7 he has walled me round,
 וְלֹא יֵצֵא till I cannot go out,
 הִכְבִּיד נַחֲשָׁתַי: He has loaded me with chains;
 ח גַּם כִּי אֶזְעַק וְאֶשׁוּעַ 8 and when I fain would cry for help,
 שָׁתַם תְּפִלָּתִי: He stops my prayer;
 ט גָּדַר דְּרָכִי בְּגִזִּית 9 He blocks my way with boulders,
 נְתִיבַתִּי עֹוָה: till my course is twisted;
 י נָבֵא אֲרֹב הוּא לִי 10 He lurks for me like a bear,
 אֲרִי בְּמִסְתָּרִים: like a lion in ambush;
 יא וַיִּדְרֹכֵנִי סוּרָר וַיִּפְשְׁחֵנִי 11 He has chased and mangled me
 שָׁמְנִי שָׁמָם: and left me all forlorn;
 יב דִּבֶּךְ קִשְׁתּוֹ 12 He has bent his bow
 וַיַּצִּיבֵנִי כַּמִּטְרָא לַחֲץ: and made me target for his arrows;
 יג הֵבִיא בְּכִלְיוֹתָי 13 he has driven his shafts home,
 בְּנִי אֲשַׁפְתּוֹ: right into me;
 יד הֵיִיתִי שֹׁחַק לְכָל-עַמִּי 14 I am the butt of all nations,

נָעַר וְזָקֵן young and old,
 בָּתוּלֹתַי וּבָחוּרַי my girls and my boys,
 נָפְלוּ בַּחֶרֶב they fell by sword;
 הִרְגִּיתָ בְּיוֹם אַפְּךָ You murdered in the day of your anger.
 טִבַּחְתָּ לֹא חֲמִלְתָּ: You slaughtered, you had no pity.
 כב תִּקְרָא כְּיוֹם מוֹעֵד 22 You would call, like a festival day,
 מְגוּרֵי מְסָבִים (for) my neighbors from all around;
 וְלֹא הָיָה בְּיוֹם אַף-יְהוָה and (so) in YHVH's day of anger
 פָּלִיט וְשָׂרִיד there weren't any escaped or remaining
 אֲשֶׁר-טִפַּחְתִּי וְרָבִיתִי which I had nursed and raised –
 אִיבֵי כָלָם: my enemy finished them all.

CHAPTER 3

[Moffat translation begins here.]

א אֲנִי הַגָּבֵר רָאָה עָנִי 1 I am the man who has suffered
 בְּשִׁבְט עֲבָרָתוֹ: under the rod of his anger:
 ב אֹתִי נָתַג וַיִּלְךָ 2 I am the man he has been leading
 חֹשֶׁךְ וְלֹא-אֹר: on a dark, unlighted road;
 ג אֶךְ כִּי יָשָׁב יִהְיֶה יָדוֹ 3 he has baffled me over and again,
 כָּל-הַיּוֹם: all the day long;
 ד בָּלָה בְּשָׂרִי וְעוֹרִי 4 he has worn away my skin and flesh,
 שִׁבְר עֲצָמוֹתַי: and broken my bones;

אֶמְרָה נִפְשִׁי
עַל־כֵּן אוֹחִיל לוֹ:
I say,
therefore I will hope in him.

כֹּה טוֹב יְהוָה
לְקוֹ
לְנֶפֶשׁ תִּדְרֹשְׁנוּ:
25 The Eternal is good
to those who wait for him,
to a soul that seeks him.

כֵּן טוֹב וַיְחִיל וְדוֹמָם
לְתִשְׁוַעַת יְהוָה:
26 It is good to wait in silence
for the help of the Eternal;

כֵּן טוֹב לְגִבּוֹר
כִּי־יֵשָׂא עַל
בְּנֵעוֹרָיו:
27 it is good for a man
to bear without a word
the rebuke of the Eternal;

כֹּה יֵשֵׁב בְּדֶרֶךְ וַיִּדָּם
כִּי נָטַל עָלָיו:
28 Let him sit alone in silence,
since it is the Eternal's hand;

כֹּט יִתֵּן בְּעַפָּר פִּיהוּ
אוֹלֵי יֵשׁ תִּקְוָה:
29 let him lay his lips to the dust –
there may be hope for him;

ל יִתֵּן לְמַכֵּהוּ לֶחִי
יִשְׁבַּע בְּחֶרֶפָה:
30 let him offer his cheek to the striker,
and suffer all taunts.

לֹא כִּי לֹא יִזְנֶה
לְעוֹלָם אֲדֹנָי:
31 For the Lord [Adonai] will not
always discard life;

לֵב כִּי אִם־הוֹגָה וְרַחֵם
כָּרֵב חֶסֶדָּיו:
32 he wounds, but he has pity,
so rich is his love;

שְׁוֹא וְתַפֵּל
וְלֹא־גָלוּ עַל־עוֹנֶךָ
לְהָשִׁיב שְׁבוּתֶךָ
וַיַּחֲזוּ לָךְ
מִשְׁאוֹת שְׁוֹא וּמַדּוּקִים:
deception, and irrelevance,
revealing nothing for your wrong
to turn back your destiny / your captivity,
and they envisioned for you
a burden of deceit and dejections.

טו סָפְקוּ עֲלֶיךָ כַּפִּים
כָּל־עַבְרֵי דָרֶךְ
שָׁרְקוּ וַיִּנְעוּ רֹאשָׁם
עַל־בֵּת יְרוּשָׁלַם
הַזֹּאת
15 They struck their hands over you,
all who passed on the road,
they hissed and they shook their head
over daughter Jerusalem:

“Is this it?

The city they said (was)

beauty's completion,

joy's source for all the earth?”

טז פָּצּוּ עֲלֶיךָ פִּיהֶם
כָּל־אוֹיְבֶיךָ
16 They crack open their mouth over you,
all your enemies.

They hissed, gritting teeth.

They said: We swallowed;

Akh! This day that we hoped for,

we found, we saw!

יז עָשָׂה יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר זָמַם
בְּצַע אִמְרָתוֹ
17 YHVH did what he conspired;
He pushed through his saying

which he commanded from early days.

אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה מִימֵי־קֶדֶם
הָרָס וְלֹא חָמַל

He tore down and showed no pity.

אתָּה לֹא סָלַחְתָּ: and you – you have not pardoned;

מִגַּם סָכַתָּה בְּאַף 43 You have veiled your face in anger,
וְתִרְדְּפֵנוּ pursuing us,
תִּרְגַּתְּ לֹא חֲמֻלָּתְ: killing without pity;
מִדְּסָכַתָּה 44 you have covered
בְּעָנָן לְךָ yourself with a cloud
מִמַּעְבֹּר תִּפְלָה: no prayer can pierce;
מִחַ סְחִי וּמָאוֹס 45 you have made us
תְּשִׁימֵנוּ mere scum and refuse
בְּקֶרֶב הָעַמִּים: in the world.

מִן פָּצוּ עֲלֵינוּ פִּיהֶם 46 Our foes all yell
כָּל־אִיְּבֵינוּ: against us;
מִזַּפְחֵד וּפְחַת תִּהְיֶה לָנוּ 47 dismay and destruction befall us,
הַשָּׂאת וְהַשָּׁבֵר: ravage and ruin.
מִחַ פִּלְגֵי־מַיִם תִּהְיֶה עֵינַי 48 Tears are flooding from my eyes
עַל־שָׁבֵר בֵּת־עַמִּי: for the ruin of my people;

[Next 3 verses were reordered by Moffat: 51; 49; 50.]

מִטַּ עֵינַי נִגְרָה וְלֹא תִדְמָה 49 My eyes stream without ceasing,
מֵאֵין הַפְּגוֹת: without rest,
עַד־יִשְׁקֹף 50 till the Eternal will look down
וְיֵרָא יְהוָה מִשָּׁמַיִם: from heaven above,

הִסְגִּיר בְּיַד־אֹיֵב He turned over to an enemy's hand
חוֹמַת אֲרָמְנוֹתֶיהָ the walls of her citadels.
קוֹל נָתַנוּ בְּבֵית־יְהוָה They gave a shout in YHVH's house
כְּיוֹם מוֹעֵד: like a festival day.
חַ חֲשֵׁב יְהוָה | לְהַשְׁחִית 8 YHVH determined to ruin
חוֹמַת בֵּית־צִיּוֹן daughter Zion's wall.
נָטָה קוֹ He stretched a line,
לֹא־הִשִּׁיב יָדוֹ he didn't turn his hand back
מִבִּלְעַ from swallowing up,
וַיַּאֲבֵל־חָל וְחוֹמָה and he made rampart and wall,
יַחְדָּו אִמְלָלוּ: mourn together, wretched.
ט טָבְעוּ בָאָרֶץ שְׁעָרֶיהָ 9 They drowned in the earth, her gates.
אֶבֶד וּשְׁבַר בְּרִיחֶיהָ He smashed and broke her bars.
מִלְכָּה וּשְׂרָיָה בְּגוֹיִם Her king and her ministers in the nations,
אֵין תּוֹרָה there is no Torah / no teaching.
גַּם־נְבִיאֶיהָ Also her prophets,
לֹא־מָצְאוּ חֲזוֹן מִיְהוָה: They found no vision from YHVH.
י יֹשְׁבוּ לָאָרֶץ יְדֻמוּ 10 They sat down to the earth, silenced,
זְקֵנֶי בֵּת־צִיּוֹן daughter Zion's elders,
הֵעִלוּ עָפָר עַל־רֹאשָׁם they lifted dust over their head,
חָגְרוּ שָׁקִים tied on sackcloth.
הוֹרִידוּ לָאָרֶץ רֹאשָׁן They let their head down to the earth,
בְּתוֹלַת יְרוּשָׁלַם: Jerusalem's girls.

כָּל־מַחְשַׁבְתָּם לִי: they have plotted against me.

סא שְׁמַעְתָּ חֲרָפָתָם יְהוָה
כָּל־מַחְשַׁבְתָּם עָלַי: 61 You have heard all the insults
they plotted against me,

סב שִׁפְתַי קָמִי וְהִגִּיוֹנָם עָלַי
כָּל־הַיּוֹם: 62 the talk of the ones who attack me,
their muttering all the day long.

סג שְׁבַתָּם וְקִמַּתָּם הִבִּיטָה
אֲנִי מִגִּינָתָם: 63 Look at them, sitting or rising –
I am the burden of their satire!

סד תִּשְׁלִיב לָהֶם גְּמוּלָה יְהוָה
כְּמַעֲשֵׂה יְדֵיהֶם: 64 You will requite them, O Eternal,
for all they have done;

סה תִּתֵּן לָהֶם מְגִנַת־לֵב
תִּתְּנָהּ לָהֶם: 65 you will blind their vision –
your curse be upon them!

סו תִּרְדֵּף בָּאֵף וְתִשְׁמִדָם
מִתַּחַת שָׁמַיִם יְהוָה: 66 You will chase them angrily,
and crush them

out of life.

CHAPTER 4

א איכָה 1 Eikhah! Ah!

יוֹעַם זָהָב how the gold is dimmed,

יִשְׁנָא הַכֶּתֶם הַטּוֹב how changed the gold so pure!

תִּשְׁתַּפְּכְנָה אֲבִי־קֹדֶשׁ the sacred gems are scattered

בְּרָאשׁ כָּל־חוֹצוֹת: over every street;

כִּי־רַבּוֹת אֲנַחְתִּי For so much are my sighs,
וְלִבִּי דָוָי: and my heart is sickened.

CHAPTER 2

א איכָה 1 Eikhah! How can it be!

יַעֲיֵב בָּאָפוֹ | In his anger

אֲדֹנָי אֶת־בֵּת־צִיּוֹן Adonai darkened daughter Zion.

הִשְׁלִיךְ מִשָּׁמַיִם אֶרֶץ He cast down, from skies (to) earth,

תִּפְאֶרֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל Israel's glory,

וְלֹא־זָכַר and didn't remember

הַדָּם־רַגְלִי his foot's resting place

בְּיוֹם אָפוֹ: in his day of anger.

ב בָּלַע אֲדֹנָי 2 Adonai devoured

לֹא חֲמֵל —he had no pity—

אֶת כָּל־נְאוֹת יַעֲקֹב all of Jacob's pastures.

הָרָס בְּעִבְרָתוֹ He tore down with his burning

מִבְצָרֵי־בֵת־יְהוּדָה daughter Judah's fortifications;

הִגִּיעַ לָאָרֶץ he reached to the very ground.

חָלַל מַמְלָכָה וְשָׂרֶיהָ: He violated kingdom and her ministers.

ג גָּדַע בְּחִיר־אֵף 3 With ferocious anger he hacked off

כָּל קֶרֶן יִשְׂרָאֵל all of Israel's horn.

הִשִּׁיב אֶחָזֶר יְמִינוֹ He turned his right hand backward

אָדמוּ עֵצִים מִפְּנֵינִים
סָפִיר גִּזְרָתָם:
ח חֲשֹׁךְ מִשְׁחֹר
תֵּאֲרוֹם
לֹא נִכְרוּ בַּחוּצוֹת
צָפַד עוֹרָם עַל־עֲצָמָם
יֵבֶשׁ הָיָה כְּעֵץ:
ט טוֹבִים הָיוּ חֲלִי־חֶרֶב
מִחֲלָלֵי רֶעֶב
שָׁהָם יוֹבֵבוּ מִדְּקָרִים
מִתְּנוּבֵת שָׂדֵי:
י יְדֵי נָשִׁים רַחֲמָנִיּוֹת
בִּשְׁלוּ יִלְדֵיהֶן
הָיוּ לְבָרוֹת לָמוֹ
בִּשְׁבֵר בֵּת־עַמִּי:
יא אֵל כִּלָּה יְהוָה אֶת־חֲמָתוֹ
שָׁפַד חֲרוֹן אַפּוֹ
וַיִּצֵּת אֵשׁ בְּצִיּוֹן
וַתֵּאכַל יְסוֹדֶתֶיהָ:
יב לֹא הֵאֱמִינוּ מֶלֶכ־אֶרֶץ
כָּל יֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֶל
כִּי יִבְאֵ צָר וְאוֹיֵב
בְּשַׁעְרֵי יְרוּשָׁלַם:

ruddier than rubies,
their bodies veined like sapphires;
8 and now they look
more darksome than the night –
none knows them as they pass –
their skin drawn tight over the bone,
dry as a stick.
9 Better to die by the sword
than by starving,
stabbed to death by hunger
suddenly in the field!
10 The hands of tender women
have cooked their own children,
making that their food,
amid the wreck.
11 The Eternal has carried out his fury,
vented his hot anger,
lit a fire in Zion
that burns her to the base.
12 None could believe, no king,
no one in all the world,
that foe or enemy could ever enter
inside Jerusalem.

טו סָלָה 15 Adonai spurned
כָּל־אֲבִירַי | אֲדַנִּי בְּקֶרְבִּי
קָרָא עָלַי מוֹעֵד
לְשֹׁבֵר בַּחוּרִי
גַּת דֶּבֶךְ אֲדַנִּי
לְבַתּוּלַת בֵּת־יְהוּדָה:
טז עַל־אַלְהָה | אֲנִי בּוֹכֶיהָ
עֵינַי | עֵינֵי יִרְדָּה מַיִם
כִּי־דַחַק מִמֶּנִּי מִנַּחֵם
מִשְׁעִיב נַפְשִׁי
הָיוּ בְּנֵי שׁוֹמְמִים
כִּי גִבֹר אוֹיֵב:
יז יֵן פָּרְשָׁה צִיּוֹן בְּיָדֶיהָ
אֵין מְנַחֵם לָהּ
צִוָּה יְהוָה לְיַעֲקֹב
סָבִיבּוֹ צָרָיו
הִיִּתָּה יְרוּשָׁלַם
לְנִדָּה בֵּינֵיהֶם:
יח צַדִּיק הוּא יְהוָה 18 Righteous is YHVH,
כִּי פִיהוּ מְרִיתִי
שְׁמַעוּ־נָא כָּל־הָעַמִּים
וְרֹאוּ מִכְּאֲבִי
בְּתוֹלָתִי וּבַחוּרִי
all my mighty warriors within me,
he called out over me a feast
for breaking my boys;
a winepress—Adonai stomped—
for daughter Judah's girl.
16 Over these, I am crying;
My eye, my eye, she drops water.
For so far from me is any comforter,
a restorer for my life.
My children were decimated,
for an enemy overwhelmed / triumphed.
17 Zion spread out with her hands,
there is no comforter for her.
YHVH commanded for Jacob,
surrounding him, his tormentors.
Jerusalem became
outcast / *nidah* between them.
18 Righteous is YHVH,
for his mouth I rebelled (against).
Listen, please – all peoples –
and see my pain!
My girls and my boys

קָרַב קִצֵּינוּ מָלְאוּ יָמֵינוּ
בִּיָּבָא קִצֵּינוּ:
יט קָלִים הָיוּ רֹדְפֵינוּ
מִנְּשָׂרֵי שָׁמַיִם
עַל־הַהָרִים דִּלְקָנוּ
בַּמִּדְבָּר אָרְבוּ לָנוּ:
כ רֵיחַ אִפְּנוּ מִשִּׁיחַ יְהוָה
נִלְכַּד בְּשָׁחִיתוֹתָם
אֲשֶׁר אָמְרָנוּ בְּצִלּוֹ
נִחִיָּה בְּגוֹיִם:

our days are numbered and over,
for our end has come.

19 More swift were our pursuers
than eagles of the air,
hunting us over the hills,
ambushing us on the wilds;
20 They trapped the king, the Eternal's
choice, breath of our lives,
of whom we said, "Under his reign
we shall hold out among the nations!"

כא שִׂישִׁי וְשִׂמְחִי בֵּת־אֲדוֹם
יֹושֶׁבֶת בְּאֶרֶץ עֹז
גַּם־עֲלֶיךָ תֵּעָבֶר־כּוֹס
תִּשְׁכָּרִי וְתִתְעָרִי:
כב תִּם־עֹנֶנְךָ בֵּת־צִיּוֹן
לֹא יוֹסִיף לְהִגְלוֹתְךָ
פֶּקֶד עֹנֶנְךָ
בֵּת־אֲדוֹם
גָּלָה עַל־חַטָּאתֶיךָ:

21 Rejoice and be glad in your
home-land, O maiden Edom!
But the cup will come round to you,
and leave you drunk and disheveled.
22 Zion, your guilt is over and gone,
no more exile for you!
But Edom,
your guilt shall be punished,
your sins laid bare!

CHAPTER 5

א זְכֹר יְהוָה מֶה־הָיָה לָנוּ
הַבִּיטָה וּרְאֵה
1 YHVH, remember what was ours.
Look, and see

רָאוּהָ צָרִים
שָׁחֲקוּ עַל מִשְׁבִּתָּהּ:
ח חָטְא חָטְאָה יְרוּשָׁלַם
עַל־כֵּן לְנִידָה הָיָתָה
כָּל־מְכַבְּדֶיהָ הִזְלִיחָה
בִּיָּרְאוּ עֲרוֹתָהּ
גַּם־הִיא נֶאֱנָחָה
וַתִּשָּׁב אַחֲוָר:
ט טִמְאָתָהּ בְּשׂוּלֶיהָ
לֹא זָכְרָה אַחֲרִיתָהּ
וַתִּרְדּוּ פְּלָאִים
אֵין מְנַחֵם לָהּ
רְאֵה יְהוָה אֶת־עֲנִיִּי
כִּי הִגְדִּיל אוֹיֵב:
י יָדוֹ פָּרַשׁ צָר
עַל כָּל־מַחְמַדֶּיהָ
כִּי־רָאָתָהּ גּוֹיִם
בָּאוּ מִקִּדְשָׁהּ
אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתָהּ
לֹא־יָבֹאוּ
בִקְהָל קָהָל:
יא כָּל־עַמָּה נֶאֱנָחִים
מִבִּקְשִׁים לֶחֶם
They saw her, her tormentors,
laughing over her becoming stilled.
8 Sinning she sinned, Jerusalem.
For this an outcast / *nidah* she became.
All who honor her despise her,
for they saw her nakedness.
Also her, she is moaning,
turned around backward.
9 Her blood / *tum'ah* in her skirts,
she didn't remember her end after,
she descended wondrously.
There is no comforter for her.
YHVH, see my poverty, my humiliation,
for an enemy became great.
10 A foe / Trauma spread out his hand
over all her precious things;
She saw other nations
come within her holy place,
which you commanded her:
"They won't come in with
the community to you."
11 All her people are moaning
seeking bread;

CHAPTER 1

יב שָׂרִים בְּיָדָם נָתְלוּ 12 Ministers by their hand hung.
 פְּנֵי זְקֵנִים לֹא נִהְדָּרוּ: Elders' faces were void of majesty.
 יג בַּחֲוָרִים טַחֲוֹן נָשְׂאוּ 13 Boys would carry a millstone,
 וַנְּעָרִים בַּעֲצֵן כָּשְׁלוּ: and youths, stumbling with wood.
 יד זְקֵנִים מִשְׁעָר שָׁבְתוּ 14 Elders ceased from gate,
 בַּחֲוָרִים מִנְּגִינָתָם: boys from their play.
 טו שִׁבְתָּ מְשׁוֹשׁ לִבֵּנוּ 15 Our heart stopped any joy,
 נִהְפָּךְ לְאַבֵּל our dance overturned
 מִחֵלְנוּ: into mourning.
 טז נִפְלָה עֲטֹרַת רֹאשֵׁנוּ 16 The crown on our head fell;
 אוֹיֵנוּ לָנוּ כִּי חָטָאנוּ: Oy for us! For we sinned.
 יז עַל־זֶה הָיָה דָּוָה לִבֵּנוּ 17 For this our heart was sickened.
 עַל־אַלֶּה חֲשָׁכוּ עֵינֵינוּ: For these our eyes darkened.
 יח עַל הַר־צִיּוֹן 18 For Mount Zion,
 שְׁשִׁמָּה that was desolated,
 שׁוֹעֲלִים הִלְכוּ־בָּהּ: foxes went through her.
 יט אַתָּה יְהוָה 19 You, YHWH
 לְעוֹלָם תֵּשֵׁב will sit for all world-time,
 כִּסְאֶךָ your seat
 לְדָר וְדוֹר: through generations and generations.
 כ לָמָּה 20 Why
 לִנְצַח תִּשְׁכַּחֲנוּ would you forget us forever?
 תַּעֲזֹבֵנוּ Abandon us

א אֵיכָּה | 1 Eikhah! How can it be –
 יְשִׁבָּה בָּדָד that she sat alone,
 הָעִיר רַבַּתִּי עָם the city so great / so swelled with people?
 הָיְתָה כְּאַלְמָנָה She was like a widow.
 רַבַּתִּי בְּגוֹיִם The one great among the nations,
 שָׂרְתִּי בְּמַדִּינֹת ministering among the states,
 הָיְתָה לְמָס: became a slave caste.
 ב בָּכוּ תַבְּכָה בַּלַּיְלָה 2 Crying, she will cry in the night,
 וְדַמְעָתָהּ עַל לִחְיָהּ her tear upon her cheek
 אֵין־לָהּ מְנַחֵם There is none for her, no comforter,
 מִכָּל־אֲהָבֶיהָ from all her lovers.
 כָּל־רֵעֶיהָ All her companions
 בָּגְדוּ בָּהּ played traitor with her.
 הָיוּ לָהּ לְאֹיְבִים: They became for her enemies.
 ג גָּלְתָה יְהוּדָה 3 She, Judah, was exiled,
 מֵעֲנִי וּמִרַב עֲבָדָה by poverty, and by (so) much hard labor
 הִיא יְשִׁבָּה בְּגוֹיִם She sat among the nations,
 לֹא מְצָאָה מָנוּחַ not finding any rest;
 כָּל־רֹדְפֶיהָ הִשִּׁיגוּהָ All her pursuers caught up with her
 בֵּין הַמִּצָּרִים: between the confined places.
 ד דְּרָכֶי צִיּוֹן אֲבֵלוֹת 4 Zion's roads are mourning