

Lamentations 1:17-22 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> Zion stretches out her hands,  
but there is no one to comfort her.

The LORD has decreed for Jacob  
that his neighbors become his foes;  
Jerusalem has become  
an unclean thing among them.

<sup>18</sup> "The LORD is righteous,  
yet I rebelled against his command.

Listen, all you peoples;  
look on my suffering.  
My young men and young women  
have gone into exile.

<sup>19</sup> "I called to my allies  
but they betrayed me.  
My priests and my elders  
perished in the city  
while they searched for food  
to keep themselves alive.

<sup>20</sup> "See, LORD, how distressed I am!  
I am in torment within,  
and in my heart I am disturbed,  
for I have been most rebellious.  
Outside, the sword bereaves;  
inside, there is only death.

<sup>21</sup> "People have heard my groaning,  
but there is no one to comfort me.  
All my enemies have heard of my distress;  
they rejoice at what you have done.  
May you bring the day you have announced  
so they may become like me.

<sup>22</sup> "Let all their wickedness come before you;  
deal with them  
as you have dealt with me  
because of all my sins.  
My groans are many  
and my heart is faint."