

Beginnings Famous & Endings

Lamentations 1:1

“How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations! She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave.”

This is a famous verse? I say yes, it is. People probably never quote it. Yet, it opens a book with a bang. The whole Bible is a book of slavery. Israel have always been slaves to those around them. Hagar was a slave to Abram. Joseph was a slave to Egypt. Paul says he is a slave to Jesus. I could go on and on. Other books say we are a slave to sin. We are slaves to sex. We are slaves to idols. We could be slaves to God if we chose.

God asked from near the beginning “who is your master?” Bob Dylan says “we all serve someone.” To some degree I am a slave to my wife. I am a slave to my job. The nation Judah perished into slavery. In reality, she gave herself to things not of God. In the end, she had nothing to fight for. Everyone had their own desires and allegiance. Babylon came in without a fight. It was easy. Israel, has a famous wailing wall. Religious Jews wail and lament for God to return them to Glory. This verse above is why they wail.

Israel became slaves to Babylon. They were slaves in Egypt. Slaves to the Romans. Today this people group are not theoretically slaves. Yet, they wail. Why? It’s because they are stuck in a violent Middle East. The Promised land is not theirs. They are slaves to a world that chooses to protect them. Oh, they are slaves. Yet, this verse above is a stark reality. We read the Bible because it speaks to us. Most of the Bible has Israel looking for a savior.

At times we can be slaves to sex, wine, or gambling. When we fail, we crumble? I suppose we are broken empty vessels. What then? Well some wail to God for help. Christians say we have a savior. A Jewish savior. To be fair Jews, don't think Jesus is that man they wail for. However, we read the Bible. What happens when we read Hosea? We see ourselves lost like Israel was. They say Jesus is the good news. Huh? We need the words of Hosea to confirm we were not alone. People break and become lost. Yet, we all yearn for a savior.

Jesus claims to be the restoration of a nation. A restoration of a people. Just the Jews? That's the good news. Jesus came to restore the world. He will restore the Jews. He will restore your life. Eventually he will take back this world from the slavery of Satan. I have said this Bible is the story of God and his plan to bring Adam and Eve back to Eden more or less. First, we must wail, be slaves, and be lost in a lost world. The only way to really see Jesus is to need saving. Reading verses like the one in Hosea is that first step for some. That is why it's famous.

Gen 3:15 “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”