

## **Once a Princess**

Lamentations

by Don Falkos

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*A*lone like a widow, once a princess, now a vassal.

*B*itterly she weeps, left by her lovers, betrayed by her friends.

*C*arried off by her enemies, she lives in captivity, without comfort.

*D*istress plagues her, the daughter of Zion, the people of Judah.

*E*yes stream with tears. She knows her wickedness.

*F*utile were the visions of the prophets, just a whitewash.

*G*one is the glory of the city, the Temple, the altar.

*H*er children die of starvation; her mothers eat their own offspring.

*I*srael forgets the holy feast days, ignores the Sabbath.

*J*erusalem lies in utter ruin, scoffed by passersby.

*K*icked and beaten down, I wallow in bitterness and hardship.

*L*iving in darkness, I find no rest.

*My hope is in the faithful, never-ending love of the Lord.*

*New every morning is the Lord's mercy, my inheritance.*

*O*ur own rebellion has brought us here.

*P*atiently we pray, awaiting the Lord's salvation.

*Q*ueens and kings of former splendor and majesty,

*R*educed to rummaging through a life of squalor.

*S*word and famine consume even those who once ate well.

*T*hirst for power, trampling the poor, offense greater than in Sodom.

*U*nwanted anywhere, pursued by enemies, our end is near.

*V*anished is our joy. Women are raped, men enslaved, children orphaned.

*W*ater and food are obtained at the peril of our lives.

*X*iled from Judah, we weep incessantly.

*Y*oke on our necks, persecuted we toil to exhaustion.

*Z*ion is overrun by jackals. Has the Lord utterly abandoned us?