Chapter 1

2 The Prophet bewaileth the miserable estate of Jerusalém, 5 And sheweth that they are plagued because of their sins. The first and second chapter begin every Verse according to the letters of the Ebrewe Alphabet. The third hath three Verses for every letter, and the fourth is as the first.

H ow doeth ^athe city remain solitarie that was full of people? she is as a widdow: she that was great among the nations and ^bprincess among the provinces, is made tributarie.

2 She wepeth continually in the ^cnight, and her tears *run down* by her chekes: among all her ^dlovers, she hath none to comfort her: all her friends have dealt unfaithfully with her, & are her enemies. 3 Judáh is carried away captive, because ^cof affliction, and because of great servitude: she dwelleth among the heathen, and findeth no rest: all her persecutors took her in the streets.

4 The ways of Zión lament, because no man cometh ^fto the solemn feasts: all her gates are desolate: her Priests sigh: her virgins are discomforted, and she is in ^heaviness.

5 Her advesaries ^gare the chief, *and* her enemies prosper: for the Lord hath afflicted her, for the multitude of her transgressions, and her children are gone into captivity before the enemy.

6 And from the daughter of Zión all her beauty is departed: her princes are become ^hlike harts that find no pasture, and they are gone without strength before the pursuer.

7 Jerusalém remembered the days of her affliction, and of her rebellion, *and* all her peasant things, that she had in times past, when her people ⁱfell into the hand of the enemy, and none did help her: the adversaries saw her, & did mock at her ^kSabbaths. 8 Jerusalém hath grievously sinned, therefore she is ^in derision: all that honored her, despise her, because they have seen her filthiness: yea, she sigheth and turneth backward.

9 ^IHer filthiness *is* in her skirts: she remembered not her last end, therefore she came down wonderfully: she had no comforter: ô Lord, behold mine affliction: for the enemy *is* proud.

10 The enemy hath stretched out his hand upon all her pleasant things: for she hath seen the heathen enter into her Sanctuary, whom "thou didest command, that they should not enter into thy Church.

11 All her people sigh and seek *their* bread: they have given their pleasant things for meat to refresh the soul: see, ô Lord, and consider: for I am become vile.

12 Have ye no regard, all ye that pass by *this* way? behold, and see, if there be any "sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the Lord hath afflicted *me* in the day of his

5 g That is: have rule over her, Deu. 28.44.

6 h As men pined away with sorrow and that have no courage.

7 i In her misery she considered the great benefits and commodities that she had lost.

fierce wrath.

13 From above hath °he sent fire into my bones, which prevail against them: he hath spread a net for my feet, and turned me back: he hath made me desolate, and daily in heaviness.

14 The ^Pyoke of my transgressions is bound upon his hand: they are wrapped, and come up upon my neck: he hath made my strength to fall: the Lord hath delivered me into *their* hands, neither am I able to rise up.

15 The Lord hath trodden under foot all my valiant men in the middes of me: he that called an assembly against me to destroy my young men: the Lord hath trodden ⁹the wine press upon the virgin the daughter of Judáh.

16 *For these things I weep: mine eye, *even* mine eye casteth out water, because the comforter that should refresh my soul, is far from me: my children are desolate, because the enemy prevailed.

17 Zión stretcheth out her hands, & there *is* none to comfort her: the Lord hath appointed the enemies of Jaakób round about him: Jerusalém is 'as a menstruous woman in the middes of them.

18 The Lord is righteous: for I have rebelled against his ^commandments: hear, I pray you, all people and behold my sorrow: my virgins and my young men are gone into captivity.

19 I called for my lovers, *but* they deceived me: my Priests and mine Elders perished in the city while they ^ssought their meat to refresh their souls.

20 Behold, ô Lord, how I am troubled: my bowels swell: mine heart is turned within me, for I am full of heaviness: the sword spoileth abroad, and death *doeth* at home.

21 They have heard that I mourn, *but* there *is* none to comfort me: all mine enemies have heard of my trouble, and are glad, that thou hast done it: thou wilt bring the day, that thou hast pronounced, and they shalbe like unto me.

22 'Let all their wickedness come before thee: ^do unto them, as thou hast done unto me, for all my transgressions: for my sighs are many, and mine heart is heavy.

Chapter 2

H ow hath the Lord ^adarkened the daughter of Zión in his wrath! and hath cast down from ^bheaven unto the earth the beauty of Israél, and remembered not his ^cfoot stool in the day of his wrath!

2 The Lord hath destroyed all the habitations of Jaakób, and not spared: he hath thrown down in his wrath the strongholds of the daughter of Judáh: he hath cast them down to the ground: he hath polluted the kingdom and the princes thereof.

3 He hath cut off in his fierce wrath all the ^dhorn of Israél: he hath drawn back his ^eright hand from before the enemy, and there was

22 t Of desiring vengeance against the enemy, read Jer. 11.20 & 18.21.

22 ^Or, gather them like grapes.

Chapter 2

¹ a The Prophet wonders at the great judgement of God seeing Jerusalem, which was so strong and so full of people, to be now destroyed and desolate.

¹ b Which had chief rule over many provinces and countries.

² c So that she takes no rest.

² d Meaning, the Egyptians and Assyrians, which promised help.

³ e For her cruelty toward the poor & oppression of servants, Jer. 34.11. 4 f As they used to come up, with mirth and joy, Ps. 42.4.

^{4 ^}Ebr., bitterness.

⁷ k At her religion and serving of God, which was the greatest grief to the godly.

^{8 ^}Or, driven away.

⁹ I She is not ashamed of her sin, although it be manifest.

^{9 ^}Ebr., hath magnified himself.

¹⁰ m God forbade that the Ammonites and Moabites should enter into the Congregation of the Lord, and under them he comprehends all enemies, Deu. 23.3.

¹² n Thus Jerusalem lamented, moving others to pity her and to learn by her example.

¹³ o This declares that we should acknowledge God to be the author of all our afflictions, to the intent that we might seek unto him for remedy.

¹⁴ p My heavy sins are continually before his eyes, as he that ties a thing to his hand for a remembrance.

¹⁵ q He has trodden them under foot as they that tread grapes in the winepress.

^{16 *}Jer. 14.17, ch. 2.18.

¹⁷ r Which because of her pollution was separate from her husband, Lev. 15.19, and was abhorred for the time.

^{18 ^}Ebr., mouth.

¹⁹ s That is, they died for hunger.

¹ a That is, brought her from prosperity to adversity.

¹ b Has given her a most sore fall.

¹ c Alluding to the Temple or to the Arke of the covenant, which was called the footstool of the Lord because they should not set their minds so low, but lift up their hearts toward the heavens.

³ d Meaning, the glory and strength, and 1 Sam. 2.1.

³ e That is, his succor which he was wont to send us, when our enemies oppressed us.

Lamentacions

kindled in Jaakób like a flame of fire, which devoured round about.

4 He ^thath bent his bow like an enemy: his right hand was stretched up as an adversary, and slew all that was pleasant to the eye in the tabernacle of the daughter of Zión: he poured out his wrath like fire.

5 The Lord was as an enemy: he hath devoured Israél, and consumed all his palaces: he hath destroyed his strong holds, & hath increased in the daughter of Judáh lamentacion and mourning. 6 For he hath destroyed his tabernacle, as a garden, he hath destroyed his congregation: the Lord hath caused the feasts and Sabbaths to be forgotten in Zión, and hath despised in the indignation of his wrath the King and the Priest.

7 The Lord hath forsaken his altar: he hath abhorred his Santuary, he hath given into the hand of the enemy the wallls of her palaces: they have made a ⁹noise in the House of the Lord, as in the day of solemnity.

8 The Lord hath determined to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zión: he stretched out a line: he hath not withdrawn his hand from destroying: therefore he made the rampart hand the wall to lament: they were destroyed together.

9 Her gates are sunk to the ground: he hath destroyed and broken her bars: her King and her princes *are* among the Gentiles: the Law *is* no more, neither can her Prophets ^receive *any* vision from the Lord.

10 The Elders of the daughter of Zión sit upon the ground, and keep silence: they have cast up dust upon their heads: they have girded them selves with sackcloth: the virgins of Jerusalém hang down their heads to the ground.

11 Mine eyes do fail with tears: my bowels swell: my liver is poured upon the earth, for the destruction of the daughter of my people, because the children and sucklings ^swoon in the streets of the city.

12 They have said to their mothers, Where is ^bread and drink? when they swooned as the wounded in the streets of the city, and when they ^gave up the ghost in their mother's bosom

13 What thing shall I take to witness for thee? what thing shall I compare to thee, ô daughter Jerusalém: what shall I liken to thee, that I may comfort thee, ô virgin daughter Zión? for thy breach *is* great like the sea: who can heal thee?

14 Thy Prophets have ^klooked out vain, and foolish things for thee, and they have not discovered thine iniquity, to tum away thy captivity, but have looked out for thee false ^prophecies, and causes of banishment.

15 All that pass by the way, clap their hands at thee: they hiss and wag their head upon the daughter Jerusalém, *saying*, Is this the city that men call, The perfection of beauty, *and* the joy of the whole earth?

16 All thine enemies have opened their mouths against thee: they hiss and gnash the teeth, saying, Let us devour it: certainly this is the day that we looked for: we have found *and* seen it.

14 ^Or, burdens.

17 *The Lord hath done that which he had purposed: he hath fulfilled his word that he had determined of old time: he hath thrown down, and not spared: he hath caused thine enemy to rejoice over thee, and set up the horn of thine adversaries.

18 Their heart *cried unto the Lord, O wall of the daughter Zión, let tears run down like a river, day and night: take thee no rest, neither let the apple of thine eye cease.

19 Arise, cry in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thine hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the corners of all the streets.

20 Behold, ô Lord, and consider to whom thou hast done thus? shall the women eat their fruit, *and* children of a ^span long? shall the Priest and the Prophet be slain in the Sanctuary of the Lord?

21 The young and the old lie on the ground in the streets: my virgins and my young men are fallen by the sword: thou hast slain *them* in the day of thy wrath: thou hast killed & not spared. 22 Thou hast called as in a solemn day my ^terrors round about, so that in the day of the Lord's wrath none escaped nor remained: those that I have nourished and brought up, hath mine enemy consumed.

Chapter 3

am the man, that hath seen ^aaffliction in the rod of his indignation. 2 He hath led me, & brought me into darkness, but not to light.

3 Surely he is turned against me: he turneth his hand *against me* all the day.

4 My flesh and my skin hath he caused to wax old, and he hath broken my bones.

5 He hath^bbuilded against me, and compassed *me* with gall, and labor.

6 He hath set me in dark places, as they that be dead for ever. 7 He hath hedged about me, that I can not get out: he hath made my chains heavy.

8 Also when I cry and shout, he shutteth out my ^cprayer.

9 He hath ^dstopped up my ways with hewn stone, *and* turned away my paths.

10 ^eHe was unto me *as* a bear lying in wait, and *as* a lion in secret places.

11 He hath stopped my ways, and pulled me in pieces: he hath made me desolate.

12 He hath bent his bow and made me a mark for the arrow.

13 He caused Athe arrows of his quiver to enter into my reines.

14 I was a derision to all my people, and their song all the day.

15 He hath filled me with bitterness, and made me drunken with ^fwormwood.

16 He hath also broken my teeth with stones, *and* hath covered me with ashes.

17 Thus my soul was far off from peace: I forgat prosperity,

20 ^Or, brought up in their own hands.

22 ^Or, enemies, whom I feared.

Chapter 3

1 a The Prophet complains of the punishments and afflictions that he endured by the false Prophets and hypocrites, when he declared the destruction of Jerusalem, as Jer. 20.2.

5 b He speaks this as one that felt God's heavy judgements, which he greatly feared, and therefore sets them out with this diversity of words. 8 c This is a great tentation to the godly, when they see not the fruit of their prayers, and causes them to think that they are not heard, which thing God use to do, that they might pray more earnestly and the oftenes. 9 d And keeps me in hold, as a prisoner.

13 ^Ebr., sons.

15 f With great anguish and sorrow he has made me to loose my sense.

⁴ f Showing, that there is no remedy but destruction, where God is the enemy.

⁷ g As the people were accustomed to praise G od in the solemn feasts with a loud voice, so now the enemies blaspheme him with shouting and crying. 8 h This is a figurative speech, as that was, when he said, the ways did lament, Ch. 1.4: meaning, that this sorrow was so great that the insensible things had their part thereof.

^{9 ^}Or, find.

^{11 ^}Or, faint.

^{12 ^}Ebr., wheat and wine.

^{12 ^}Ebr., poured out the soul.

¹³ i Meaning, that her calamity was so evident that it need no witnesses. 14 k Because the false Prophets called themselves seers, as the other were called, therefore he shows that they saw amiss, because they did not reprove the people's fautes, but flattered them in their sins, which was the cause of their destruction.

^{17 *}Lev. 26.14, Deu. 28.25.

^{18 *}Jer. 14.17, ch. 1.16.

¹⁰ e He has no pity on me.

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18 And I said, My strength and mine hope $\ensuremath{^g\text{is}}$ perished from the Lord,

19 Remembering mine affliction, & my mourning, the wormwood and the gall.

20 My soul hath them in remembrance, and is humbled ^hin me. 21 I consider this in mine heart: therefore have I hope.

22 It is the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

23 They are renewed ^kevery morning: great is thy faithfulness.

24 The Lord *is* my portion, saith my soul: therefore will I hope in him.

25 The Lord is good unto them, that trust in him, and to the soul that seeketh him.

26 It is good both to trust, & to wait for the salvation of the Lord. 27 It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his ^myouth.

28 He sitteth alone, ⁿand kepeth silence, because he hath born it upon him.

29 He putteth his °mouth in the dust, if there may be hope.

30 He giveth his cheek to him that smiteth him, he is filled full with reproaches.

31 For the Lord will not forsake for ever.

32 But though he send affliction, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.

33 For he doeth not ^ppunish ^willingly, nor afflict the children of men,

34 In stamping under his feet all the persons of the earth,

35 In overthrowing the right of a man before the face of the most high.

36 In subverting a man in his cause: the Lord ^aseeth it not.

37 Who is he then that saith, and it cometh to pass, and the Lord 'commandeth it not?

38 Out of the mouth of the most high proceadeth not $\ensuremath{^{\mbox{sevil}}}$ and good?

39 Wherefore *then* is the living 'man sorrowful? man *suffereth* for his sin.

40 Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord.

41 Let us lift up "our hearts with our hands unto God in the heavens.

42 We have sinned, and have rebelled, *therefore* thou hast not spared.

⁴3 Thou hast covered *us* with wrath, and persecuted us: thou hast slain and not spared.

44 Thou hast covered thy self with a cloud, that our prayer

20 h He shows that God thus uses to exercise his to the intent that hereby they may know themselves and feel his mercies.

23 k We feel your benefits daily.

24 I The godly put their whole confidence in God, and therefore look for none other inheritance, as Ps. 16.5.

27 m He shows that we can never begin to timely to be exercised under the cross, that when the afflictions grow greater, our patience also by experience may be stronger.

28 n He murmurs not against God, but is patient.

29 o He humbles himself, as they that fall down with their face to the ground, and so with patience waits for succor.

33 p He takes no pleasure in it, but does it of necessity for our amendment, when he suffers the wicked to oppress the poor. 33 ^Ebr., with his heart.

38 s That is, adversity, and prosperity, Amos 3.6.

39 t When God afflicts him.

41 u That is, both hearts and hands: for else to lift up the hands is but hypocrisy.

should not pass through.

45 Thou hast made us as the *offscouring and refuse in the middes of the people.

46 All our enemies have opened their mouth against us.

47 Fear, and a snare is come upon us *with* desolation and destruction.

48 Mine eye casteth out rivers of water, for the destruction of the daughter of my people.

49 Mine eye droppeth without stay and ceaseth not,

50 Till the Lord look down, and behold from heaven.

51 Mine eye ^xbreaketh mine heart because of all the daughters of my city.

52 Mine enemies chased me sore like a bird, without cause.

53 They have shut up my life ^yin the dungeon, and cast a stone upon me.

54 Waters flowed over mine head, *then* thought I, I am destroyed.

55 I called upon thy Name, ô Lord, out of the low dungeon.

56 Thou hast heard my voice: stop not thine ear from my sigh and from my cry.

57 Thou drewest near in the day that I called upon thee: thou saidest, Fear not.

58 O Lord, thou hast maintained the cause of my zsoul, and hast redeemed my life.

59 O Lord, thou hast seen my wrong, judge thou my cause.

60 Thou hast seen all their vengeance, and all their devises against me,

61 Thou hast heard their reproach, ô Lord, and all their imaginations against me:

62 The lips *also* of those that rose against me, and their whispering against me continually.

63 Behold, their sitting down and their rising up, how I am their song.

64 *Give them a recompense, ô Lord, according to the work of their hands.

65 Give them ^sorrow of heart, even thy curse to them.

66 Persecute with wrath and destroy them from under the heaven, ô Lord.

Chapter 4

How is the ^agold become so [^]dim? the most fine gold is changed, *and* the stones of the Sanctuary are scattered in the corner of every street.

2 The noble Amen of Zión comparable to fine gold, how are they esteemed as earthen ^bpitchers, *even* the work of the hands of the potter!

³ Even the dragons [°]draw out the breasts, and give suck to their young, *but* the daughter of my people *is become* cruel like the ^dostriches in the wilderness.

4 The tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst: the young children ask bread, *but* no man breaketh it unto them.

58 z Meaning, the cause wherefore his life was in danger.

64 *Ps. 28.4. 65 ^Or, an obstinate heart.

Chapter 4

1 a By the gold he means the Princes, as by the stones he understands the Priests.

1 ^Or, hid.

3 c Though the dragons be cruel, yet they pity their young and nourish them: which thing Jerusalem does not.

¹⁸ g Thus with pain he was driven to and fro between hope and despair, as the godly oft times are, yet in the end the Spirit gets the victory.

²² i Considering the wickedness of man, it is marvel that any remain alive: but only that God for his own mercy's sake and for his promise will ever have his Church to remain though they be never so few in number, Is. 1.9.

³⁶ q He does not delight therein.

³⁷ r He shows that nothing is done without God's providence.

^{45 *1} Cor. 4.13.

⁵¹ x I am overcome with sore weeping for all my people.

⁵³ y Read Jer. 37.16, how he was in the mighty dungeon.

^{2 ^}Or, sons.

² b Which are of small estimation and have none honor.

 $^{3\} d$ The women forsake their children as the ostrich does her eggs, Job. 39.17.

5 They that did feed delicately, perish in the streets: they that were brought up in scarlet, embrace the dung.

6 For the iniquity of the daughter of my people is become greater then *the sin of Sodóm, that was destroyed as in a moment, and ^none pitched camps against her.

7 Her Nazarites were purer then the snow, *and* whiter then the milk: they were more ruddy in body, then the red precious stones: they were *like* polished sapphire.

8 *Now* their ^evisage is blacker then a coal: they can not know them in the streets: their skin cleaveth to their bones: it is withered, like a stock.

9 They that be slain with the sword are better, then they that are killed with hunger: for they fade away *as* they were stricken through for the ^ffruits of the field.

10 The hands of the pitiful women have sodden their own children, *which* were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my people.

11 The Lord hath accomplished his indignation: he hath poured out his fierce wrath, he hath kindled a fire in Zión, which hath devoured the foundations thereof.

12 The Kings of the earth, and all the inhabitants of the world would not have believed that the adversary and the enemy should have entered into the gates of Jerusalém:

13 For the sins of her Prophets, *and* the iniquities of her Priests, that have shed the blood of the just in the middes of ^gher.

14 They have wandered *as* blind men ^hin the streets, & they were polluted with blood, so that ^tthey would not touch their garments. 15 *But* they cried unto them, Depart, ye polluted, depart, depart, touch not: therefore they fled away, and wandered: they have said among the heathen, They shall no more dwell there.

16 The ^anger of the Lord hath scattered them, he will no more regard them: ^kthey reverenced not the face of the Priests, nor had compassion of the Elders.

17 Whiles we waited for our vain help, our eyes failed: for in our waiting we looked for 'a nation that could not save us.

18 They hunt our steps that we can not go in our streets: our end is near, our days are fulfilled, for our end is come.

19 Our persecutors are swifter then the eagles of the heaven: they pursued us upon the mountains, and lay wait, for us in the wilderness.

20 The "breath of our nostrils, the Anointed of the Lord was taken in their nets, of whom we said, Under his shadow we shalbe preserved alive among the heathen.

21 Rejoice and be glad, "ô daughter Edóm, that dwellest in the land of Uz, the cup also shall pass through unto thee: thou shalt be drunken ^and vomit.

22 Thy punishment is accomplished, ô daughter Zion: he °will

8 e They that were before most in God's favor, are now in greatest abomination unto him, Num. 6.2.

14 i Meaning, the heathen which came to destroy them, could not abide them.

nomore carry thee away into captivity, *but* he will visit thine iniquity, ô daughter Edóm, he will discover thy sins.

Chapter 5

The prayer of Jeremiáh

Remember, ô Lord, what is come upon us: ^aconsider, and behold our reproach. 2 Our inheritance is turned to the strangers, our houses to the aliantes.

3 We are fatherless, even without father, *and* our mothers are as widows.

4 We have drunken our ^bwater for money, *and* our wood is sold *unto us.*

5 Our necks are under persecution: we are weary, and have no rest.

6 We have given our ^ehands to the Egyptians, *and* to Asshúr, to be satisfied with bread.

7 Our father's have sinned, and are not, and we have born their ^diniquities.

8 Servants have ruled over us, none would deliver us out of their hands.

9 We gate our bread with the *peril* of our lives, because of the sword $^{\circ}$ of the wilderness.

10 Our skin was black like as an oven because of the terrible famine.

11 They defiled the women in Zión, and the maids in the cities of Judáh.

12 The princes are hanged up by ^ftheir hand: the faces of the Elders were not had in honor.

13 They took the young men to grind, and the children fell under $\ensuremath{^{\mbox{\tiny g}}}\xspace{the wood}.$

14 The Elders have ceased from the h gate *and* the young men from their songs.

15 The joy of our hearts is gone, our dance is turned into mourning.

16 The crown of our head is fallen: wo now unto us, that we have sinned.

17 Therefore our heart is heavy for these things, our ⁱeyes are dim,

18 Because of the mountain of Zión which is desolate: the foxes run upon it.

19 But thou, ô Lord, remainest for *ever: thy throne is from generation to generation.

20 Wherefore doest thou forget us for ever, *and* forsake us so long time?

21 Turn thou us unto thee, ô Lord, and we shalbe turned: renew our days as of old.

22 But thou hast utterly rejected us: thou art exceedingly angry against us.

4 b Meaning, their extreme servitude and bondage.

^{6 *}Gen. 19.25.

^{6 ^}Or, no strength was against her.

⁹ f For lack of food they pine away, and consume.

¹³ g He means that these things are come to pass therefore, contrary to all men's expectation.

¹⁴ h Some refer this to the blind men, which as they went, stumbled on the blood, whereof the city was full.

^{16 ^}Or, face.

¹⁶ k That is, the enemies.

¹⁷ I He shows two principle causes of their destruction: their cruelty, and their vain confidence in man: for they trusted in the help of the Egyptians. 20 m Our King Josiah, in whom stood our hope of God's favor, and on whom depended our state and life, was slain whom he called anointed, because he was a figure of Christ.

²¹ n This is spoken by derision.

^{21 ^}Or, show your nakedness.

²² o He comforts the Church by that after seventy years their sorrows shall have an end, where as the wicked shall be tormented forever.

¹ a This prayer as is thought, was made when some of the people were carried away captive, others as the poorest remained, and some went into Egypt and other places for succor: albeit it seems that the Prophet foreseeing their miseries to come, thus prayed.

 $^{{\}bf 6}$ c We are joined in league and amity with them, or have submitted ourselves unto them.

⁷ d As our father's have been punished for their sins, lo we that are culpable of the same sins, are punished.

⁹ e Because of the enemy that came from the wilderness, and would not suffer us to go, and seek our necessary food.

¹² f That is by the enemy's hand.

¹³ g Their slavery was so great, that they were not able to abide it.

¹⁴ h There were no more laws nor form of commonwealth.

¹⁷ i With weeping.

¹⁹ k And therefore your covenant, and mercies can never fail.

²¹ I Whereby is declared that it is not in man's power to turn to God, but is only his work to convert us, and thus God works in us before we can turn to him, Jer. 31.18.