

Amid The Rubble

By Doug Irving & Gary Randolph



Theme and Purpose

This monologue is based on Lamentations, in which the author (traditionally Jeremiah) surveyed the destruction of Jerusalem. It is a book of great sorrow and loss. But surprisingly Lamentations also contains great verses of faith. "His compassions never fail, they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" (Lam. 3:22b-12). This terrible event marked a turning point in ancient Israel's relationship with God. After the exile they never again succumbed to idolatry again. Similarly, amid the rubble of our own lives - after loss of health or relationships or financial security - we often discover a deeper relationship with God, and learn that God's faithfulness is indeed great.

Cast list	Prophet
Approximate Running Time	2 minutes
Scene Description	The streets of Jerusalem just after the Babylonian conquest
Prop List	None
Other Production Notes	None
Related Scriptures	Psalms 30:5; Jeremiah 39; Lamentations; Ezekiel 37
Song Suggestions	Great is Thy Faithfulness; The Steadfast Love of the Lord; Brokenness (David Meece); Blessed Be Your Name (Matt Redman)

Prophet enters as if he/she is walking through the ruins of Jerusalem, staring in sorrow at the imagined sights.

Prophet:

Daylight came as the prophet shambled amid the rubble - through the ruins of the city he had loved - through a scene of suffering and death. The life he had known lay broken at his feet.

He had preached coming judgment. But seeing it come to pass brought him no sense of vindication. He had watched his people slowly starve day after day of the long siege. He had seen them eat and live like vermin. He had seen them shrivel away and die. And then the breaching of the city wall, the destruction of God's own temple, the sword, the blood...

The prophet had lived his life speaking and writing words of warning and of hope. Now in the rubble he searched for words to give meaning to the images before his eyes. Gradually the words of the lament formed and grouped themselves. "How deserted lies the city once so full of people... How like a widow she is... Bitterly she weeps at night... there is none to comfort her."

Everywhere he looked he saw destruction. Everywhere he walked he heard cries of grieving. Yet the cries themselves meant that a remnant of his people still clung to life. They had not been completely destroyed and cast aside. And in their grief many of that remnant clung to their God. In this he found hope.

And he could feel the grief of God for His people's suffering. God's back was not turned on them. His arms were open. His faithfulness was great. His mercies were new... even on this dreadful morning.

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