

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship

Every word inspired.



Every word proclaimed.

“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28

“The Funeral of a City”

Introduction to Lamentations

Lamentations 1:1-3

December 6, 2020

2 Tim 2:15

15 Study to present yourself approved to God as a **workman** who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.



Book of Lamentations

Meaning of the name “Lamentations”: אֵיכָה - ekah – “How”, “Loud Cries”. The only book in the Bible that is written entirely on the subject of lament.

Author: Jeremiah the Prophet

External Evidence: The consensus of Jewish tradition attribute the book to Jeremiah. The superscription to Lamentations in the Septuagint points to Jeremiah as the one weeping over the captivity and the desolation of Jerusalem.

Internal Evidence: The author is an eyewitness of Jerusalem's siege and fall. This is clear from the graphic nature of the scenes portrayed in the book (cf. 1:13-15; 2:6, 9; 4:1-12). Further, there are a number of similarities between the books of Jeremiah and Lamentations (e.g., the phrase "daughter of" occurs about 20 times in each book).

Jer. 16:1-2

- 1 The word of the Lord also came to me saying,
- 2 "You shall not take a wife for yourself nor have sons or daughters in this place."

*40 years Jeremiah preached and warned Israel. He had no known converts, saw no changed lives, and no one heeding his warnings. Instead idolatry, immorality, rejection and persecution of Jeremiah.

Jer. 1:4-9

- 4 Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,
- 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
And before you were born I consecrated you;
I have appointed you a prophet to the nations."
- 6 Then I said, "Alas, Lord God!
Behold, I do not know how to speak,
Because I am a youth."
- 7 But the Lord said to me,
"Do not say, 'I am a youth,'
Because everywhere I send you, you shall go,
And all that I command you, you shall speak."
- 8 "Do not be afraid of them,
For I am with you to deliver you," declares the Lord.
- 9 Then the Lord stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me,
"Behold, I have put My words in your mouth."

"The prophet in his day is fully accepted of God and totally rejected by men. Years back, Dr. Gregory Mantle was right when he said, "No man can be fully accepted until he is totally rejected." The prophet of the Lord is aware of both these experiences. They are his "brand name."

The group, challenged by the prophet ... is not likely to vote him "Man of the year" when he refers to them as habitués of the synagogue of Satan!
The prophet comes to set up that which is upset. His work is to call into line those who are out of line! He is unpopular because he opposes the popular in morality and spirituality. The prophet is God's detective seeking for a lost treasure. The degree of his effectiveness is determined by his measure of unpopularity. Compromise is not known to him.

He has no price tags.
He is totally "otherworldly."
He is unquestionably controversial and unpardonably hostile.
He marches to another drummer!
He breathes the rarefied air of inspiration.
He is a "seer" who comes to lead the blind.
He lives in the heights of God and comes into the valley with a "thus saith the Lord."
He shares some of the foreknowledge of God and so is aware of impending judgment.
He lives in "splendid isolation."
He is forthright and outright, but he claims no birthright.
His message is "repent, be reconciled to God or else...!"
His prophecies are parried.
His truth brings torment, but his voice is never void.
He is the villain of today and the hero of tomorrow.
He is excommunicated while alive and exalted when dead!
He is dishonored with epithets when breathing and honored with epitaphs when dead.
He is a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, but few "make the grade" in his class.
He is friendless while living and famous when dead.

He is against the establishment in ministry; then he is established as a saint by posterity.

He eats daily the bread of affliction while he ministers, but he feeds the Bread of Life to those who listen.

He walks before men for days but has walked before God for years.

He is a scourge to the nation before he is scourged by the nation.

He announces, pronounces, and denounces!

He has a heart like a volcano and his words are as fire.

He talks to men about God.

He carries the lamp of truth amongst heretics while he is lampooned by men.

He faces God before he faces men, but he is self-effacing.

He hides with God in the secret place, but he has nothing to hide in the marketplace.

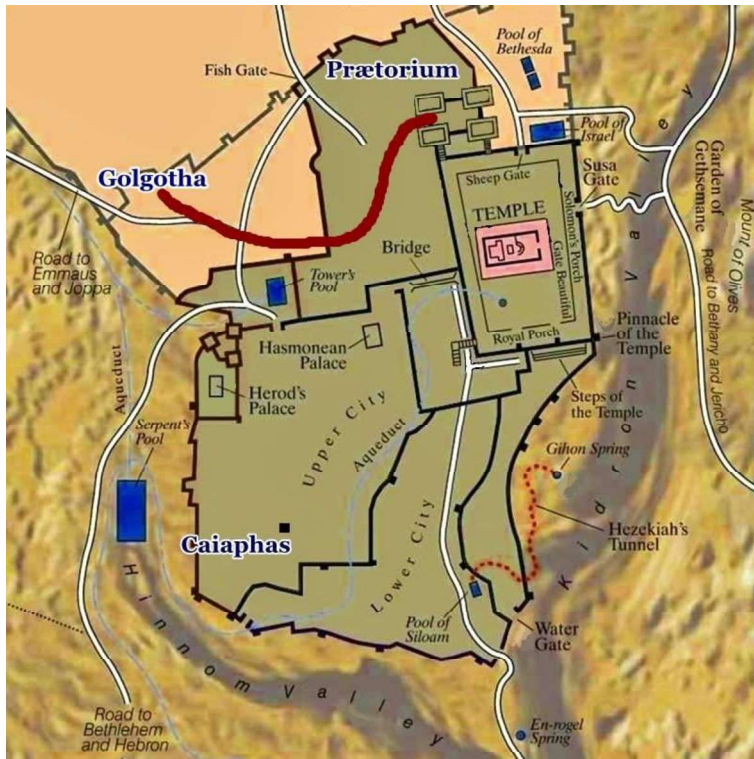
He is naturally sensitive but supernaturally spiritual.

He has passion, purpose and pugnacity.

He is ordained of God but disdained by men.”

- Leonard Ravenhill

“Picture of a Prophet”



Book of Lamentations

Meaning of the name “Lamentations”: אֵיכָה - ekah – “How” “Loud Cries”. The only book in the Bible that is written entirely on the subject of lament.

Author: Jeremiah the Prophet

Setting: Jerusalem had just been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian army (586 B.C.). Jeremiah was perhaps sitting on a hill or some raised point so he had a clear view of the wreckage. The Jews had been captured and were being exiled to Babylon 700 miles away.



Deut 28:1-20,25,26,36,37,45,47,48

- 1 "Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the Lord your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.
- 2 "All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the Lord your God:
- 3 "Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.
- 4 "Blessed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock.
- 5 "Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.
- 6 "Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.
- 7 "The Lord shall cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you; they will come out against you one way and will flee before you seven ways.
- 8 "The Lord will command the blessing upon you in your barns and in all that you put your hand to, and He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God gives you.
- 9 "The Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways.
- 10 "So all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they will be afraid of you.
- 11 "The Lord will make you abound in prosperity, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your beast and in the produce of your ground, in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you.
- 12 "The Lord will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.
- 13 "The Lord will make you the head and not the tail, and you only will be above, and you will not be underneath, if you listen to the commandments of the Lord your God, which I charge you today, to observe them carefully,
- 14 and do not turn aside from any of the words which I command you today, to the right or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

Israel's apostasy -

1. Israel had abandoned God. God was irrelevant.
 2. Israel had departed from God's Word. When people believe that God is irrelevant, they quickly stop paying attention to what He says.
 3. Israel transferred their trust from God to inadequate objects of hope:
 - they became political, and formed bonds with worldly allies (Egypt).
 - the temple was their security .
 4. The leadership caved and compromised.
- *Lamentations teaches us that when God's people abandon Him and depart from His Word, tragedy follows inevitably.

"High calling, flaunted by low living, inevitably issues in deep suffering."

- 15 "But it shall come about, if you do not obey the Lord your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:
- 16 "Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country.
- 17 "Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.
- 18 "Cursed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock.
- 19 "Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.
- 20 "The Lord will send upon you curses, confusion, and rebuke, in all you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken Me.
- 25 "The Lord shall cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you will go out one way against them, but you will flee seven ways before them, and you will be an example of terror to all the kingdoms of the earth.
- 26 "Your carcasses will be food to all birds of the sky and to the beasts of the earth, and there will be no one to frighten them away.
- 36 "The Lord will bring you and your king, whom you set over you, to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods, wood and stone.
- 37 "You shall become a horror, a proverb, and a taunt among all the people where the Lord drives you.
- 45 "So all these curses shall come on you and pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed, because you would not obey the Lord your God by keeping His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.
- 47 "Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and a glad heart, for the abundance of all things;
- 48 therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in the lack of all things; and He will put an iron yoke on your neck until He has destroyed you.



Ps 137:1-3

1 By the rivers of Babylon,
There we sat down and wept,
When we remembered Zion.

2 Upon the willows in the midst of it
We hung our harps.

3 For there our captors demanded of us songs,
And our tormentors mirth, saying,
"Sing us one of the songs of Zion."

Book of Lamentations

Meaning of the name "Lamentations": אֵיכָה - ekah – "How", "Loud Cries". The only book in the Bible that is written entirely on the subject of lament.

Author: Jeremiah the Prophet

Setting: Jerusalem had just been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian army (586 B.C.). Jeremiah was perhaps sitting on a hill or some raised point so he had a clear view of the wreckage. The Jews had been captured and were being exiled to Babylon 700 miles away.

Recipients: People everywhere.

Date: 586 B.C. – 585 B.C.

Place of Writing: Jerusalem. Tradition says Golgatha.

Purpose: To warn of the consequences of sin.

Structure of the book:

Acrostic – alphabetic acrostic – to use the letters of the alphabet in sequence to begin the first word of a line.

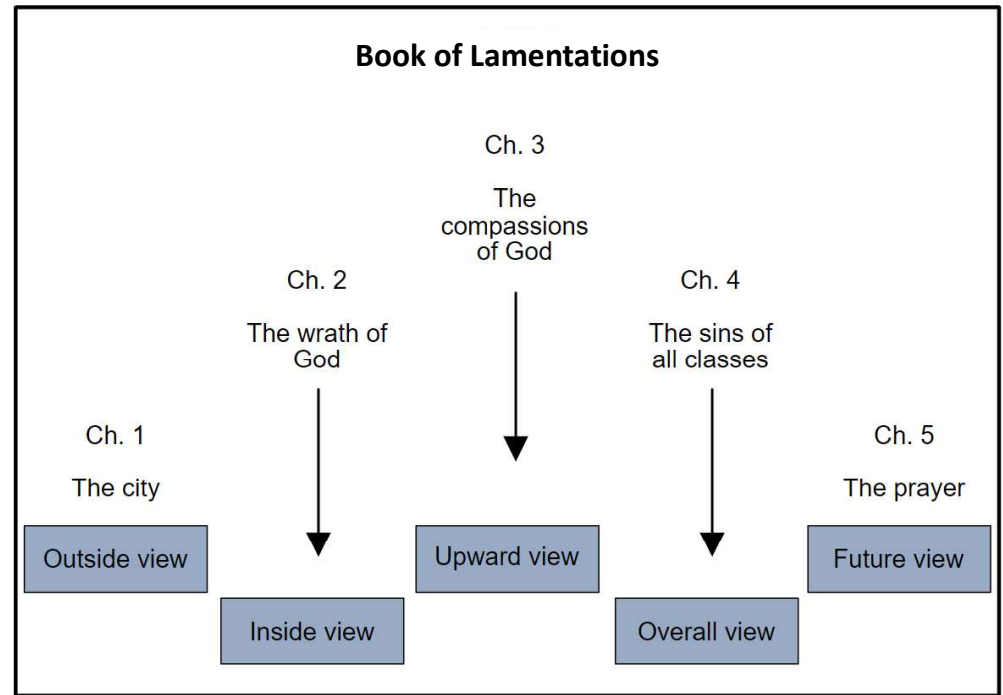
Meter/cadence – the rhythm at which the lines are read.

א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ
נ ס ע פ צ ק ר ש ת

Lam. 1:1 אֵיכָה וְיִשְׁבַּח בְּדָר הָעִיר רַבְתִּי וְ
הָיְתָה לְעָס : ס
Lam. 1:2 בָּכּוּ תִבְלָה בְּלִילָה וְדִמְעָתָה עַל
בְּגָדוֹ כִּי תָהָה תָהָה לֵאמֹר לְאֵיכָה : ס
Lam. 1:3 גִּלְתִּיתָ זְהוּדָה מֵעַנִּי וּמִרַב עֲבָדָה
הַשְׂיִגְוָה בְּיַד תַּמְצָרִים : ס
Lam. 1:4 דָּרְבִי צִיּוֹן אֲבֵלוֹת מִבְּלִי בְּאֵי מִן
נוֹגֹת וְהוּא מֵרָלָה : ס
Lam. 1:5 הָיוּ צְבָרֶיהָ לְרֹאשׁ אֵיכָה שְׁלוֹ כִּי
לִפְנֵי צָרָה : ס
Lam. 1:6 וַיֵּצֵא מִן־בֵּית־[מ] [בַּת־] צִיּוֹן כָּל־הַ
בָּלֵא־כֶתֶר לִפְנֵי רוֹדְפָהּ : ס
Lam. 1:7 זָכְרָה זְרוּשָׁלַם יָמֵי עֲנָהּ וּמְרוֹדֶיהָ
בְּיַד־צָר וְאֵין עֲזָרָה לָהּ רֹאשׁוֹ צָרִים שָׁתַן

Lam. 3:1 אָנֹכִי הִגְבַּר רָאָה עָנִי בְּשֹׁבֶט עֲבָדָתוֹ :
Lam. 3:2 אֶתִּי נָתַג וַיִּלְךְ תִּשְׁדָּךְ וְלֹא־אֹדֶר :
Lam. 3:3 אָנֹכִי בִּי יָשַׁב יַהֲפֹךְ יָדוֹ כָּל־הַיּוֹם : ס
Lam. 3:4 בָּלָה בְּשָׂרֵי וְעוֹרֵי שֹׁבֶר עֲצָמוֹתַי :
Lam. 3:5 בָּנָה עָלַי וַיִּקַּר רֹאשׁ וּתְלָאָה :
Lam. 3:6 בַּמַּחְשָׁכִים הוֹשִׁיבֵנִי כְּמֹתַי עוֹלָם : ס
Lam. 3:7 נָדָר בְּעַדִּי וְלֹא אֵצֵא הַכְּבִיד נְחֹשְׁתַּי :
Lam. 3:8 נָם כִּי אֲזַעַק וְאֲשׁוּעַ שְׁתֵּם תִּפְלְתִי :
Lam. 3:9 נָדָר דְּרָכֵי בְּגֹזִית נְתִיבֹתַי עֲוֹה : ס
Lam. 3:10 דָּב אֲרַב הוּא לִי אֲרִיָּה [אֲרִי] בְּמִסְתָּרִים :
Lam. 3:11 דִּמְכִי סוֹדֵר וַיִּפְשַׁחֵנִי שְׁמֵנִי שָׁמָם :
Lam. 3:12 דִּמְךָ קִשְׁתּוֹ וַיִּצִּיבֵנִי כַּמִּטְרָא לַחֲץ : ס

- The acrostic is a structure for accomplishing 2 things here:
 1. We are take sin seriously.
 2. Dwell on it repeatedly. Lamentations goes over the story again and again and again and again and again—five times.
- Chapters 1-4 are written in what’s called a “limping meter”. The second line is one beat shorter than the first line, giving an incomplete or “limping” impression to the reader of the Hebrew text. It is a cadence used in funeral dirges.



5 books of the O.T. were written on scrolls for reading at Jewish Festivals:

Song of Solomon – Feast of Passover

Ruth – Feast of weeks

Ecclesiastes – Feast of Tabernacles

Esther – Feast of Purim

Lamentations – Day of fasting - *Tisha b'Av*. To be read at the anniversary of the destruction of Jerusalem. - 9th of Av (July). Memorializing both of the destructions of Jerusalem – 586 B.C. and 70 A.D.

Lamentations nourishes us on several levels –

1. How do we deal with an angry God because of our sin?
2. How do we deal with personal failure, sadness, pain, suffering, loneliness, depression, and isolation?
3. How do we deal with sin and spiritual failure?
4. How do we deal with national failure?
5. How do we deal with rejection?

“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

- C. S. Lewis

“If there were more preaching on Lamentations, people would have to face up to the fact that sin leads to terrible devastation.”

- Tom Constable

"No book of the Bible is more of an orphan book than Lamentations; rarely, if ever, have interpreters chosen to use this book for a Bible study, an expository series of messages, or as a Bible conference textual exposition. Our generation's neglect of this volume has meant that our pastoral work, our caring ministry for believers, and our own ability to find direction in the midst of calamity, pain, and suffering have been seriously truncated and rendered partially or totally ineffective."

- Walter Kaiser

Ecc1 7:2,4

2 It is better to go to a house of mourning
Than to go to a house of feasting,
Because that is the end of every man,
And the living takes it to heart.

4 The mind of the wise is in the house of mourning,
While the mind of fools is in the house of pleasure.