

Outline of
Lamentations



Introduction

Writer

Jeremiah

Estimation

“There is nothing like the Lamentations of Jeremiah in the whole world. There has been plenty of sorrow in every age, and in every land, but such another preacher and author, with such a heart for sorrow, has never again been born. Dante comes next to Jeremiah, and we know that Jeremiah was the great exile’s favorite prophet.” (Whyte)

The book is filled with tears and sorrow. It is a paean of pain, a poem of pity, a proverb of pathos, a hymn of heartbreak, a psalm of sadness, a symphony of sorrow, a story of sifting, a tale of tears, a dirge of desolation, a tragedy of travail, an account of agony, and a book of “boo-hoo.” It is the wailing wall of the Bible.

Key verse

It explains the reason that Jerusalem is in ruins.

The LORD is righteous; for I have rebelled against his commandment. Hear, I pray you, all people, and behold my sorrow; my virgins and my young men are gone into captivity. (Lamentations 1:18)

Feature

Jeremiah reminds us of Another as He sat weeping over Jerusalem. The only difference is that Jerusalem was in ruins and the temple burned as Jeremiah gazed upon the debris. Jesus, about 6 centuries later, wept over the city because it would be destroyed again in the near future.

To Jeremiah, the destruction of Jerusalem was a matter of history.

To Jesus, the destruction of Jerusalem was a matter of prophecy.

No blues singer ever sang a sadder song than Jeremiah. Lamentations is composed of 5 of his sad songs, which are elegies.

Source: Dr. John Vernon McGee (1904 – 1988), THRU THE BIBLE RADIO NETWORK

LAMENTATIONS

I CATASTROPHE

'SHE'

Acrostic - 22 verses (1 per letter) 3 lines each

II CAUSE

'HE'

Acrostic - 22 verses (1 per letter) 3 lines each

III CURE

'I'

Acrostic - 66 verses (3 per letter) 3 lines each

IV CONSEQUENCES

'THEY'

Acrostic - 22 verses (1 per letter) 2 lines each

V CRY

'WE'

Non-Acrostic - 22 verses 3 lines each

I. Elegy

Chapter 1

A call to consider the destruction of Jerusalem.

vv. 8, 18 — The reason for the frightful destruction.

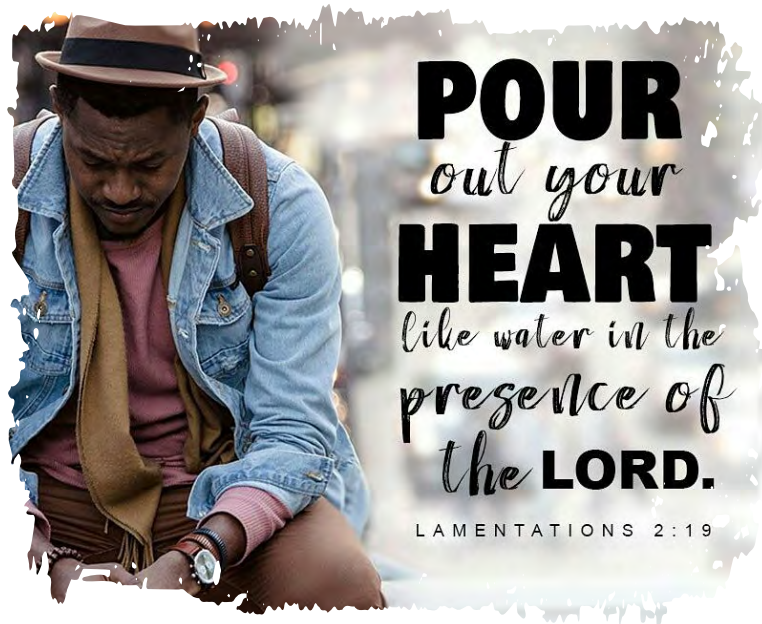
v. 12 — An invitation to all to enter into the sorrow of the prophet.

II. Elegy

Chapter 2

v. 10 — Doleful details of the effect of the judgment of God upon the remnant that remain.

v. 15 — The elation of the enemy from without.



III. Elegy

Chapter 3

The tragic and catastrophic destruction of Jerusalem would have been total had it not been for the mercies and faithfulness of God.



IV. Elegy

Chapter 4

Contrast between the former state of prosperity and the present state of Jerusalem in poverty.

V. Elegy

Chapter 5

A cry to God to remember the nation Israel. "Prayer of Jeremiah."



Quiz on Lamentations

1. When is it good for a man to bear the yoke?

2. What does Chapter 3 say about the mercies of God?

3. According to Chapter 3, why is it important to wait on the Lord?

4. Jeremiah encourages people to pray and to pour out what, as if it were water?

5. What was the attitude of the writer of this book regarding the punishment of Judah?

6. What did all that pass by Jerusalem do?

7. According to Chapter 3, why were the people not consumed?

8. Jeremiah says that no-one would have believed that Jerusalem would fall. But God allowed it to happen because which people in particular had sinned?

9. Given that God was not answering the people's prayers as they would wish, Jeremiah said that it was as if God had covered himself with what?

10. In Chapter 5, Jeremiah praises God, saying that his what passes from generation to generation?

GENEVA
BIBLE SCHOOL

