

*Jeremiah Lamenting the Destruction of Jerusalem*

# Lamentations

Old Testament Workshop  
Morrison Heights Baptist Church  
February 16, 2020



Rembrandt

# Historical Context

Death of Nebuchadnezzar

Fall of Babylon

Death of Cyrus

562

539

530

Babylonian Empire

Persian Empire

Reign of Darius: 522-486

600

500

Daniel

Jeremiah

Ezekiel

Obadiah

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Zechariah

587

Babylonian Exile

538

515

Fall of Jerusalem

Edict of Cyrus

Temple Rebuilt

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# Overview

**Category: *Megilloth***

Ruth	Feast of Weeks/Pentecost
Esther	Purim
Ecclesiastes	Feast of Tabernacles
Song of Solomon	Passover
<b>Lamentations</b>	<b>Ninth of Ab</b>



**Authorship**

officially anonymous  
attributed to the Prophet Jeremiah, hence its placement  
after the Book of Jeremiah

**SOURCES: Targum, Talmud (*Bava Batra 15a*), Septuagint, Vulgate**

# Content

## Focus

**2 Kings 25:1-21 and 2 Chronicles 36:11-21 present the FACTS about the Fall of Jerusalem.**

**Lamentations adds the EMOTIONS.**

**Desolation**

**1:1a, 4, 7a**

**Hunger**

**1:11, 19b; 2:12, 19; 4:4-5, 8-9; 5:4, 9-10**

**Suffering Children**

**1:16b; 2:11-12, 19; 4:4**

**Cannibalism**

**2:20a; 4:10**

**Murder**

**2:20b-21; 5:3**

**Despair**

**3:8, 48, 54; 5:5, 11-14**



**WARNING**  
GRAPHIC IMAGES  
OF VIOLENCE  
AND DEATH.  
PLEASE USE  
DISCRETION

# Content

## Form

**Lamentations** consists of five laments; each one is a chapter. The first four laments are acrostics—lost as a result of translation.

In chapters 1, 2, and 4, the first line of each verse begins with a Hebrew letter in order from א (first letter) to ת (last letter).

Chapter 3 is 66 verses, dividing into 22 groupings of 3 verses. Every verse (3) in each grouping begins with the same Hebrew letter. Each grouping (22) follows the order of the Hebrew alphabet.

Laments express struggles, sufferings, or disappointments to the Lord. They can be a “funeral” song (e.g., **2 Sam. 2:17-27**). Their purpose, however, is NOT to whine or to gripe.

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# Content

## Form

### STRUCTURE OF A LAMENT

Despair



Hope

- *Description of Suffering in Highly Figurative Terms*
- *Plea for Relief*
- *Expression of Trust*
- *Certainty of Being Heard*
- *Plea for Vengeance on the Enemies Used to Inflict Punishment*

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La Sor, Hubbard, and Bush, *Old Testament Survey*

- \* READ 3:19-66 (esp. verses 19-23, 29, 31-33).
- \* READ 5:19-22.

♥ WHY? God is the disciplinarian.  
SEE also Hosea 6:1-3.



Hope in the Midst of Despair