

Session 21: Jeremiah & Lamentations

Videos:

- Overview: Lamentations

Recommended Readings from the ESV Study Bible:

- Introduction to Lamentations (pp. 1475-1478)

Handouts from The Bible Project:

- Lamentations Overview Poster

Handouts from Dr. Parke:

- Lamentations - Slides from Dr. Parke's Teaching

Handouts from ESV Study Bible:

- Chart: Parallels between Jeremiah and Lamentations



LAMENTATIONS

DESIGN OF THE
ORD
LIN
STR

ACROSTIC - ALPHABET POEM

1. ל (-A)	4. ט (-D)
2. י (-B)	21. צ (-S)
3. ג (-G)	22. נ (-T)

1 LADY ZION'S GRIEF & SHAME

LOOK, O LORD, ON MY DISTRESS!

JERUSALEM PERSONIFIED AS "THE DAUGHTER OF ZION"

THE CITY'S DESTRUCTION - THE DEATH OF A LOVED ONE

2 THE FALL OF JERUSALEM & GOD'S WRATH

DIVINE WRATH ≠ VOLATILE ANGER
= GOD'S JUSTICE

GOD IS SLOW TO ANGER
BUT WILL JUDGE HUMAN EVIL.

3 THE SUFFERING

LANGUAGE DRAWN FROM:

- JOB'S LAMENT (16.3)
- LAMENT PSALMS (22, 49)

"BECAUSE OF THE LORD'S WE DO NOT PERISH. HI THEY ARE NEW EVERY IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS, MYSELF, 'THE LORD THEREFORE I WILL P

GOD'S JUDGMENT

Seedbed

LAMENTATIONS

THE FIVE POEMS:
 ORDERED & NEARLY IDENTICAL IN STRUCTURE VS. DISORDERED & PAINFUL IN CONTENT & GRIEF



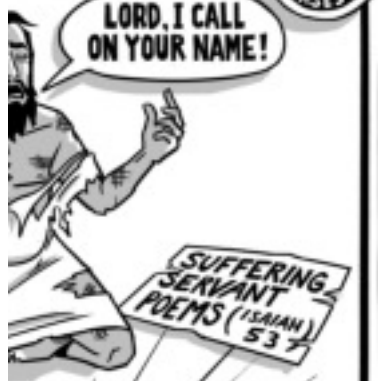
LAMENT POEMS IN THE BIBLE: (SEE PSALMS 10, 63, 69, 74, 79)

- A FORM OF PROTEST
- A WAY TO PROCESS EMOTION
- A PLACE TO VOICE CONFUSION



LAMENT POEMS RESTORE A SACRED DIGNITY TO HUMAN SUFFERING

ORDERING ONE
 66 VERSES PER LETTER



COVENANT FAITHFULNESS,
 HIS MERCIES NEVER FAIL:
 MORNING, HOW GREAT
 IS YOUR NAME, O GOD. SO I SAY TO
 MYSELF, MY INHERITANCE,
 BUT MY HOPE IN HIM."
 — 3:22-24

IT BECOMES THE
 FOUNDATION OF HOPE

4 THE SIEGE OF JERUSALEM

THE PAST | THE SIEGE

32 VERSES PER LETTER

22 VERSES PER LETTER

AS IF THE POET'S GRIEF EXPLODES BACK INTO CHAOS

5 COMMUNAL PRAYER FOR GOD'S MERCY

LAMENT ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

REMEMBER US, O LORD: LOOK ON OUR DISGRACE!

THE BOOK ENDS WITH A PARADOX:

O LORD, YOU REIGN AS KING FOREVER!
 UNLESS YOU'VE TOTALLY REJECTED US...?

WHY DO YOU FORGET AND FORSAKE US?

created by the Bible Project

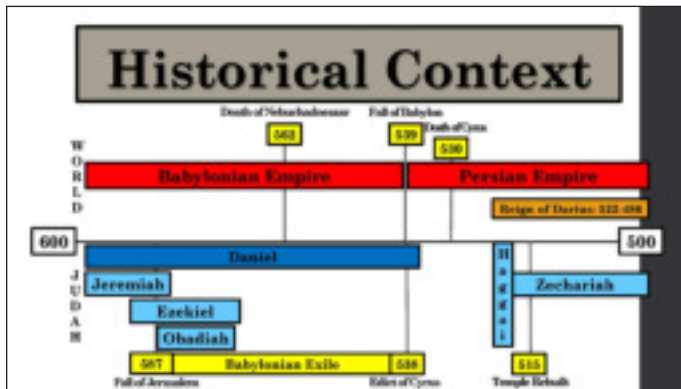
Lamentations

Slides from Dr. Parke's Teachings

SLIDE 1



SLIDE 2



SLIDE 3

Overview

Category: **Megilloth**

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

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

Source: EN: Targum, Talmud (Shema Halva 21a), Septuagint, Vulgate

Lamentations

Slides from Dr. Parke's Teachings


SLIDE 4

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; 4:4-6, 8-9; 5:4, 9-10
- Suffering Children
1:10b; 2:11-12, 19; 4:4
- Cannibalism
2:20a; 4:10
- Murder
2:20b-21; 5:9
- Despair
2:5, 48, 54; 3:5, 11-14



SLIDE 5

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, 3, and 4, the first line of each verse begins with a Hebrew letter in order from H (first letter) to T (last letter).
Chapter 2 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.

SLIDE 6

Content

Form

STRUCTURE OF A LAMENT


Despair

- 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

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

• **READ** 1:19-66 (esp. verses 19-21, 28, 31-33).
 • **READ** 5:19-32.

♥ **WHY?** God is the disciplinarian.
 SEE also Hosea 6:1-2.



Hope in the Midst of Despair

Parallels between Jeremiah & Lamentations

From the ESV Study Bible

Jeremiah	Lamentations
I will make this house like Shiloh (chs. 7, 26)	The Lord has scorned ... his sanctuary (2:7)
Let my eyes run down with tears (14:17–22)	my eyes flow with rivers of tears (3:48–51)
can I not do with you as this potter has done? (18:6)	regarded as earthen pots, the work of a potter's hands! (4:2)
eat the flesh of their sons and their daughters (19:9)	Should women eat the fruit of their womb? (2:20)
vain hopes (23:16)	Your prophets have seen for you false and deceptive visions (2:14)