

## Outline of Lamentations

- 1 Jerusalem Devastated without Hope
- 2 Lord's Anger Toward Jerusalem
- 3 Prayer for Deliverance (Promise of Hope)
- 4 Distress of the Siege
- 5 Jeremiah's Prayer for Mercy

### Author

The book does not identify its writer. 2 Chronicles 35:25 seems to point to Jeremiah as the author of written lamentations. Theological similarities between Lamentations and the book of Jeremiah (Lm.1:2 with Je.30:14; Lm.1:162:11 with Je.9:1, 18; Lm.2:20 and 4:10 with Je.19:9; Lm.4:21 with Je.49:12) point to Jeremiah as the author. Jeremiah probably wrote the book in Judah following the destruction of Jerusalem, or possibly in Egypt shortly thereafter. Jeremiah witnessed the desecration of the temple, and the destruction of the city (Je.39:1-14; 52:12-14).

### Summary

Lamentations is a complete book in itself. It is sort of an appendix to the book of Jeremiah. The book consists of five laments (funeral mourning songs or elegies). They describe the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC including its aftermath. There are two books that deal primarily with the problem of suffering. Job treats the problem of personal suffering. Lamentations deals with the problem of national suffering. Both books present the problem of God's justice and His love, or divine sovereignty an

# LAMENTATIONS

PROPHETS

*Lamentations serves to memorialize God's faithfulness in bringing covenant punishment on His people for their unfaithfulness to the Mosaic Covenant. It shows the fulfillment of the curses presented in Deuteronomy 28.*

human responsibility. Jeremiah viewed the devastation of Jerusalem as divine judgment, not merely the result of the Babylonian invader from the north. This added depth that would not have been viewed as simply a loss in war. The lack of hope in these laments is due to the writer's viewing the tragedy as divine discipline. The destruction was so devastating that the people could not see God's promises of a future beyond the conquest. In a similar way, Jesus' disciples did not remember the promises of His resurrection because the tragedy of His death overwhelmed them initially.

to what He says. Most of the people had stopped reading and studying the Mosaic Law. This opened the door to ignorance of God's will. The people transferred their trust from God to inadequate objects of hope. Specifically, their political allies (Egypt and Babylon) and the Temple for protection. They denied either the sovereignty of God or their own responsibility. God is the central figure of the book. God's character shines through the book showing His sorrow. Disciplining His people causes great pain for God.

BOOK 25  
**Lm.**  
LAMENTATIONS  
5 CHAPTERS

The Megilloth

## THE SCROLLS

The Megilloth

The Jews read each of these books on special feasts or fast days each year.

Song of Songs	Ruth	Lamentations	Ecclesiastes	Esther
Passover	Pentecost	Anniversary of the destruction of Jerusalem	Tabernacles	Purim

### Message

The people had abandoned God. It was not that they ceased to believe that He existed. They just thought He was irrelevant to their lives. Temple worship had become formal and unsatisfying. The religious leaders catered to the people's desires rather than confront their sin. When people think God is irrelevant, they quickly stop paying attention



### CHRIST IN LAMENTATIONS

- Christ, like Jeremiah wept over the sins of Jerusalem (Mt.23:37-38; Lk.13:34-35; 19:41-42).
- Men under the Mosaic Law are helpless which leads them the "the Lord" which is Jehovah who is Christ (Ro.8:13).