

Lamentations
Sorrow for God's people

Introduction.

- A. Written by the prophet Jeremiah (c. 650 BC – 570 BC).
 - 1. Approximately 586 BC.
 - 2. Witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem by Babylonians.
 - 3. Was kidnapped and carried off to Egypt.
 - 4. Stoned to death in 570 BC.
 - 5. Lived during the reigns of the last four kings of Judah.
 - 6. Lived through the siege and destruction Jerusalem.
 - B. Nebuchadnezzar assaulted Jerusalem three times.
 - 1. 605 BC.
 - 2. 598 BC.
 - 3. 586 BC.
 - C. Each chapter is an acrostic poem.
 - 1. Each verse begins with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
 - 2. Chapter 3, groups of three verses.
 - D. Names of God
 - 1. LORD almost exclusively.
 - 2. God.
 - 3. Lord .
- I. The desolation of Jerusalem (chapter 1).
- A. The barrenness of Jerusalem (1:1-11).
 - 1. Empty.
 - 2. Betrayed.
 - 3. Abandoned.
 - 4. Destroyed.
 - 5. Key verse: 9.
 - a. "She did not consider her future."
 - b. Consequences always follow the action.
 - c. A nation cannot abandon God and escape judgment.

B. The Anguish of Jerusalem (1:12-22).

1. Suffering – no suffering is like that brought by the LORD (He. 10:31; 1 Pe. 4:17).
2. Anguish.
3. Defeat.
4. Key verses: 17, 18.
 - a. There is no comforter (17).
 - 1) Like Esau crying out for a blessing (Ge. 27:34-38).
 - 2) They have abandoned the only One who can comfort them.
 - b. Sin is within ourselves (18).
 - 1) The LORD is righteous.
 - 2) We are rebels.
5. Call for punishment upon the Babylonians.

II. The destruction of Jerusalem (chapter 2).

A. The LORD's judgment (2:1-10).

1. Anger.
2. Without pity.
3. Key verses: 5,7.
 - a. The Lord has become like an enemy (5).
 - b. Rejected his sanctuary (7).

B. Jeremiah's anguish (2:11-22).

1. Weeping for the people.
2. Starvation and death.
3. Key verse: 14.
 - a. False prophets failed to give warning (Ez. 33:1-9).
 - b. Prophesied what the people wanted to hear.

III. The grief of the prophet (chapter 3).

A. Jeremiah's grief (3: 1-18).

1. Afflicted.
2. Bitter.
3. No escape.
4. Key verse: 8.
 - a. God refuses to hear our prayers.
 - b. We cannot abandon God then expect him to hear us.

- B. Hope in the midst of great grief (3:19-42).
 - 1. Central passage of Lamentations.
 - 2. The LORD loves his people.
 - 3. His compassion never fails.
 - 4. Key verses: 21-24.
 - a. "Hope" in vss. 21, 25, 29.
 - b. Wait for the LORD (Hab.3:16).
 - 5. Return to the LORD (40).
- C. Jeremiah's suffering (3:43-54).
 - 1. Thrown into a pit.
 - 2. Feared for his life.
- D. Jeremiah's prayer (3:55-66).
 - 1. God hears those who are faithful to him.
 - 2. He will bring justice.

IV. The people of Jerusalem (chapter 4).

- A. The siege of the city (4:1-12).
 - 1. Great ones brought low.
 - 2. Starvation.
- B. Why Jerusalem fell (4:13-20).
 - 1. The sins of the prophets (13a).
 - 2. The iniquities of the priests (13b).
 - 3. The LORD's anointed = the king.
- C. Future hope (4:21-22).
 - 1. Edom had joined in the plundering of Jerusalem (Obadiah).
 - a. Rejoice now.
 - b. Will be punished.
 - c. Were subjugated by the Babylonians.
 - 2. God's people will be restored.

V. Jeremiah prays for his people (chapter 5).

- A. Confession (5:1-18).
 - 1. Our fathers sinned (7).
 - a. Identified himself with the sin of his people
 - b. As Daniel (ch. 9) and Nehemiah (ch. 1).
 - 2. We have sinned (16).
 - 3. Joy has gone from our hearts (15).
- B. Prayer (19-22).
 - 1. The LORD's reign never ends (19).
 - 2. Restore and renew (21).