

Lamentations: From Brokenness to Blessing

1. "Lamentations" = "_____ poems."
2. Time period: 586-585 B.C.
3. Historical setting: The _____ of Jerusalem at the hands of Babylon.
4. Reveals the _____ heart of God over sin.
5. Each chapter is a separate funeral poem.
6. The verses in each chapter are arranged in an _____ where the first letter of each stanza (verse) corresponds to the Hebrew alphabet.
7. Chapter 3 is the climax...
8. _____ the weight of the destruction of the people of God – famine, thirst, cannibalism, rape, slaughter.
9. Key Passage: Lamentations 3:22-24

[1] How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow has she become, she who was great among the nations! She who was a princess among the provinces has become a slave. [2] She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers she has none to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they have become her enemies. [3] Judah has gone into exile because of affliction and hard servitude; she dwells now among the nations, but finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress. [4] The roads to Zion mourn, for none come to the festival; all her gates are desolate; her priests groan; her virgins have been afflicted, and she herself suffers bitterly. [5] Her foes have become the head; her enemies prosper, because the LORD has afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe....

[8] Jerusalem sinned grievously; therefore she became filthy; all who honored her despise her, for they have seen her nakedness; she herself groans and turns her face away. [9] Her uncleanness was in her skirts; she took no thought of her future; therefore her fall is terrible; she has no comforter. "O LORD, behold my affliction, for the enemy has triumphed!" ...

[11] All her people groan as they search for bread; they trade their treasures for food to revive their strength. "Look, O LORD, and see, for I am despised." [12] "Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which was brought upon me, which the LORD inflicted on the day of his fierce anger. ...

[15] "The Lord rejected all my mighty men in my midst; he summoned an assembly against me to crush my young men; the Lord has trodden as in a winepress the virgin daughter of Judah. [16] "For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears; for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my spirit; my children are desolate, for the enemy has prevailed." ...

[18] "The LORD is in the right, for I have rebelled against his word; but hear, all you peoples, and see my suffering; my young women and my young men have gone into captivity. [19] "I called to my lovers, but they deceived me; my priests and elders perished in the city, while they sought food to revive their strength. [20] "Look, O LORD, for I am in distress; my stomach churns; my heart is wrung within me, because I have been very rebellious. In the street the sword bereaves; in the house it is like death. [Lam 1:1-5, 8-9, 11-12, 15-16, 18-20 ESV]

[1] How the Lord in his anger has set the daughter of Zion under a cloud! He has cast down from heaven to earth the splendor of Israel; he has not remembered his footstool in the day of his anger. [2] The Lord has swallowed up without mercy all the habitations of Jacob; in his wrath he has broken down the strongholds of the daughter of Judah; he has brought down to the ground in dishonor the kingdom and its rulers. ...

[9] Her gates have sunk into the ground; he has ruined and broken her bars; her king and princes are among the nations; the law is no more, and her prophets find no vision from the LORD. ...

[14] Your prophets have seen for you false and deceptive visions; they have not exposed your iniquity to restore your fortunes, but have seen for you oracles that are false and misleading. ...

[19] "Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the night watches! Pour out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord! Lift your hands to him for the lives of your children, who faint for hunger at the head of every street." [20] Look, O LORD, and see! With whom have you dealt thus? Should women eat the fruit of their womb, the children of their tender care? Should priest and prophet be killed in the sanctuary of the Lord? [Lam 2:1-2, 9, 14, 19-20 ESV]

[3] surely against me he turns his hand again and again the whole day long. [4] He has made my flesh and my skin waste away; he has broken my bones; [5] he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; [6] he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago. [7] He has walled me about so that I cannot escape; he has made my chains heavy; [8] though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer; ...

[16] He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes; [17] my soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; [18] so I say, "My endurance has perished; so has my hope from the LORD." ...

[21] But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: [22] The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; [23] they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. [24] "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." [25] The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. [26] It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. ...

[31] For the Lord will not cast off forever, [32] but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; [33] for he does not afflict from his heart or grieve the children of men. ...

[38] Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come? [39] Why should a living man complain, a man, about the punishment of his sins? [40] Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the LORD! [41] Let us lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven: ...

[46] "All our enemies open their mouths against us; [47] panic and pitfall have come upon us, devastation and destruction; [48] my eyes flow with rivers of tears because of the destruction of the daughter of my people. ...

[55] "I called on your name, O LORD, from the depths of the pit; [56] you heard my plea, 'Do not close your ear to my cry for help!' [57] You came near when I called on you; you said, 'Do not fear!' [58] "You have taken up my cause, O Lord; you have redeemed my life. [59] You have seen the wrong done to me, O LORD; judge my cause. ...

[64] "You will repay them, O LORD, according to the work of their hands. [65] You will give them dullness of heart; your curse will be on them. [66] You will pursue them in anger and destroy them from under your heavens, O LORD." [Lam 3:3-8, 16-18, 21-26, 31-33, 38-41, 46-48, 55-59, 64-66 ESV]

[10] The hands of compassionate women have boiled their own children; they became their food during the destruction of the daughter of my people. ...

[21] Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, you who dwell in the land of Uz; but to you also the cup shall pass; you shall become drunk and strip yourself bare. [22] The punishment of your iniquity, O daughter of Zion, is accomplished; he will keep you in exile no longer; but your iniquity, O daughter of Edom, he will punish; he will uncover your sins. [Lam 4:10, 21-22 ESV]

[1] Remember, O LORD, what has befallen us; look, and see our disgrace! ...

[15] The joy of our hearts has ceased; our dancing has been turned to mourning. ...

[21] Restore us to yourself, O LORD, that we may be restored! Renew our days as of old-- [Lam 5:1, 15, 21 ESV]