

LAMENTATIONS

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Major Prophets				
586 BC	Lamentations 5 Chapters	Mourning and judgment	Mourning over the destruction of Jerusalem.	The miserable end of sin	Jesus assumes God's wrath for us

LAMENTATIONS

The book is a series of five laments centered on the fall of Jerusalem.

Lamentations is a visual and spiritual look at the horrible state of Judah just after the Babylonian invasion and exile.

LAMENTATIONS

Lament

verb

1: to express sorrow, mourning, or regret for often demonstratively : MOURN... must regret the imprudence, *lament* the result ...— Jane Austen

2: to regret strongly - He *lamented* his decision not to go to college.

noun

: a crying out in grief : WAILING

2: DIRGE, ELEGY

3: COMPLAINT

Merriam-Webster

LAMENTATIONS

Lamentations was to express despair and teach God's people that disobedience to the Lord results in immense suffering and distress.

Jeremiah pours out his emotions in compassion, and empathy for God's nation, as he watches them inhabit a foreign land.

Lamentations is intended to help Christians deepen their understanding of God's holy Word.

LAMENTATIONS

1. The book presents the justice and holiness of God in dealing with sin.
2. The compassion of God in dealing with us (3:22, 32).
3. The faithfulness of God (3:23).
4. The goodness of God to those who wait on Him (3:25).

LAMENTATIONS

Chapter 1: Zion's great sins. Judah goes into exile. Zion is rejected by God. – “O God, I am despised. Is any sorrow like mine? There is no one to comfort me.”

SORROWS WITHOUT COMFORT

Jerusalem lies devastated with no one to comfort Israel— 5 cries of despair (organized around the repetition of the same refrain)

Chapter 2: The devastation of Jehovah. Jehovah's anger against Jerusalem. God shows no pity to Jacob. The Prophet describes Jerusalem's destruction. The Lord leaves His sanctuary. Young and old both get slaughtered in the streets. Zion speaks out: “The Lord destroyed me.”

GOD'S ALL-CONSUMING ANGER POURED OUT UPON JERUSALEM

Mourning and moaning – The day of the Lord's anger consumes Jerusalem with total destruction.

LAMENTATIONS

Lam. 2: 17

17 The Lord has done what He purposed; He has accomplished His word Which He commanded from days of old. He has thrown down without sparing, And He has caused the enemy to rejoice over you; He has exalted the might of your adversaries.

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Chapter 3: Jeremiah expresses his feelings and hope. The discernment of Jeremiah. “He has driven me into darkness.” “The steadfast love of the God never ceases.” “Let us return to the God! You will repay my enemies.” The Prophet, Jeremiah, - A man of hope.

REKINDLING OF HOPE

The journey from despair to hope hinges on the character of God– His Lovingkindness, Compassion and Faithfulness

Chapter 4: Zion Is punished. The discipline of Jehovah. The holy stones lie scattered. The children beg for food. Women boil their own children. God pours out His fierce anger. “O Zion, your punishment will end.”

THE ANGER OF THE LORD PUNISHES HIS PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THEIR SIN

Their former glory is transformed into devastation and God’s wrath will fall upon their enemies as well.

LAMENTATIONS

Chapter 5: “Look, O God, and see our disgrace!” The people’s prayer for restoration. A request for mercy. “We have become orphans.” “Slaves rule over us.” “You, O LORD, rule forever.” “Renew our days as of old!”

APPEAL FOR RESTORATION

The Lord’s unchanging dominion and promise of restoration should give hope in the midst of desolation as Israel continues to appeal to God’s mercy and grace.

LAMENTATIONS

Lam. 5: 19-22

19 You, O Lord, rule forever; Your throne is from generation to generation.

20 Why do You forget us forever? Why do You forsake us so long?

21 Restore us to You, O Lord, that we may be restored; Renew our days as of old,

22 Unless You have utterly rejected us *And* are exceedingly angry with us.

LAMENTATIONS

Jerusalem was the chosen city of God.

It was where Abraham offered Isaac and God intervened with a promise of a future sacrifice.

It was David's royal city.

It was the city of Solomon's temple, where God's listened to those who prayed to Him.

The temple stood for 300+ years, in its splendor and glory, before it's destruction by the Babylonians.

It was the city where the Israelites offered sacrifices to God.

It was where God dwelt. It was unthinkable to the Jews, and even to those around, that it would ever be destroyed. In the minds of the Jews, God would never let His temple be destroyed (Jeremiah 7:4-15). Jeremiah prophesied it would happen.

LAMENTATIONS

1. Lamentations is the longest lament in the Bible.

The book of Lamentations demonstrates the purpose and power of turning to God, laying out our complaints, asking Him for help, and choosing to trust Him. It not only serves as a memorial to the destruction of Jerusalem, but it also shows us how to pray when the dark clouds of suffering roll in.

2. Lamentations displays the severity of sin and the holiness of God.

The book is a poetic memorial (elegy)—a recounting and a warning. It rehearses the suffering and the grief connected to the sacking of the City of David.

It identifies the depravity of God's people as the cause of divine judgment. It elevates the right of a holy God to discipline his people—even using a pagan nation as his instrument.

LAMENTATIONS

3. Lamentations gives the church a voice in suffering.

Lamentations provides a model for how God's people can process moments when we sin.

Jeremiah was a faithful prophet. He warned the people about coming judgment.

When the brokenness of humanity was on full display, lament was an appropriate response.

Lamentations shows us how to pray during suffering.

LAMENTATIONS

4. Lamentations provides hope.

Lamentations shows us the connection between engaging in God's truth and the hope we have in God's Lovingkindness, Compassion and Faithfulness.

Lam. 3: 22-23

22 The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail.

23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

LAMENTATIONS

Jeremiah was known as the “weeping prophet” for his deep and abiding passion for his people and their city.

Lam. 3: 48-50

48 My eyes run down with streams of water Because of the destruction of the daughter of my people.

49 My eyes pour down unceasingly, Without stopping,

50 Until the Lord looks down And sees from heaven.

Jesus expressed the same sorrow over the sins of the people and their rejection of God as He approached Jerusalem and looked ahead to her destruction at the hands of the Romans.

Luke 19: 41-44

41 When He approached *Jerusalem*, He saw the city and wept over it,

42 saying, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.

43 “For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side,

44 and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”

LAMENTATIONS

A. God is a God of hope.

Lam. 3: 24-25

24 “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I have hope in Him.”

25 The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him.

B. No matter how far we have gone from Him, we have the hope that we can return to Him and find Him compassionate and forgiving.

1 John 1: 9-10

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

LAMENTATIONS

C. Our God is a loving God.

Lam. 3: 22

22 The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail.

D. In His great love and compassion for us, God sent His Son so that we would not perish in our sins, but can live eternally with Him.

Jn. 3: 16

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

LAMENTATIONS

Jeremiah describes the desolation of the once proud city of Jerusalem with the following:

1. Children begged food from their mothers.

Lam. 2: 12

12 They say to their mothers, "Where is grain and wine?" As they faint like a wounded man In the streets of the city, As their life is poured out On their mothers' bosom

2. Young men and women were cut down by swords.

Lam. 2: 21

21 On the ground in the streets Lie young and old; My virgins and my young men Have fallen by the sword. You have slain *them* in the day of Your anger, You have slaughtered, not sparing.

3. Compassionate mothers used their children for food.

Lam. 4: 10

10 The hands of compassionate women Boiled their own children; They became food for them Because of the destruction of the daughter of my people.

LAMENTATIONS

Jeremiah describes the desolation of the once proud city of Jerusalem with the following:

4. Even the city's roads mourned over its condition.

Jeremiah could not help but acknowledge the condition of Jerusalem, piled with rubble.

Lam. 1: 4

4 The roads of Zion are in mourning Because no one comes to the appointed feasts. All her gates are desolate; Her priests are groaning, Her virgins are afflicted, And she herself is bitter.

LAMENTATIONS

Jeremiah pictured himself captured in a besieged city, without anyone to hear his prayers, and as a target for the arrows of the enemy.

Lam. 3: 7-8

7 He has walled me in so that I cannot go out; He has made my chain heavy.

8 Even when I cry out and call for help, He shuts out my prayer.

Lam. 3: 12

12 He bent His bow And set me as a target for the arrow.

Jeremiah found hope in the Lord.

Lam. 3: 21-24

21 This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope.

22 The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail.

23 *They* are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

24 "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him."

LAMENTATIONS

Lamentations teaches us:

- A. To find comfort when experiencing extreme times of sorrow, grief and suffering as we reflect on the character of God.
- B. To understand the workings of the Lord's heavy hand of discipline upon His own people because of their sin.
- C. To motivate us to confess our sins and repent.

LAMENTATIONS

Lamentations teaches us:

D. To appreciate the abundant fountain of **the Lord's lovingkindness, compassions and faithfulness** – no matter how bleak our circumstances might look.

E. To be confronted with how seriously God takes sin and the awful consequences of His anger.

F. To be reminded of God's Sovereignty.

LAMENTATIONS

Lamentations teaches us:

G. The importance, not only of mourning over our sin, but of asking the Lord for His forgiveness when we fail Him.

EZEKIEL

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Major Prophets				
590 - 570 BC	Ezekiel 48 Chapters	Judgment and restoration	Decline and fall of Judah and eventual restoration of Israel.	Know God	Jesus is the Son of Man

EZEKIEL

Ezekiel means “may God strengthen.”

Ezekiel gave his people hope. He prophesied about the end of times, and prophecies included Israel becoming a nation again after years of captivity (Dry bones came back to life).

Ezekiel sees the wheel of time in the air.

EZEKIEL

Ezekiel 1: 16

16 The appearance of the wheels and their workmanship was like sparkling beryl, and all four of them had the same form, their appearance and workmanship *being* as if one wheel were within another.

Ezekiel 33: 11-12

11 “Say to them, ‘As I live!’ declares the Lord God, ‘I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?’

12 “And you, son of man, say to your fellow citizens, ‘The righteousness of a righteous man will not deliver him in the day of his transgression, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he will not stumble because of it in the day when he turns from his wickedness; whereas a righteous man will not be able to live by his righteousness on the day when he commits sin.’

Ezekiel 37: 4-5

4 Again He said to me, “Prophecy over these bones and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.’

5 “Thus says the Lord God to these bones, ‘Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life.’

EZEKIEL

He prophesied first against both Judah and Israel, depicting their bondage, suffering, and humiliation in various graphic ways.

God makes him a virtual object lesson for Israel: he must himself feel the bitterness of those things of which he prophesies. Here is another priest, therefore, who in an earnestly practical way "eats the sin offering," having to feel, not only the sin of God's people, but the governmental judgments of God against that sin.

EZEKIEL

Yet even this humiliation and anguish fails to touch the hearts of his people. But he has been before warned that they will not hearken to him. And still, he is allowed no alternative but to speak out.

From chapter 24 to 32 he turns to pronounce the judgment of surrounding Gentile nations; then he returns to deal with his own nation again, prophesying however of the grace of God that will eventually restore that afflicted nation through the midst of sore judgments.

Chapters 40 to 48 then give the description of the future temple and the divisions of the land in the millennial kingdom.

Ezekiel is a book most helpful for strengthening the soul to stand firmly for God, even when alone and when faced with continual opposition.

DANIEL

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Major Prophets				
536 - 530 BC	Daniel 12 Chapters	Sovereignty of God	Panorama of world history from Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece and Rome to the future kingdom.	Man can be pleasing to God.	He is the stranger in the fire with us

DANIEL

Daniel and his friends were hostages in Babylonian. They were selected to serve in the palace. They were faithful to the Lord and refused to worship the Babylonian gods.

Daniel's faithfulness, wisdom and education enabled King Nebuchadnezzar to acknowledge that the God of Israel is God.

DANIEL

Two well-known stories from Daniel:

The Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3):

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship a golden idol of King Nebuchadnezzar, they were thrown into a flaming furnace, yet were untouched due to God's deliverance.

The Lion's Den (Daniel 6):

When Daniel prayed to God against King Darius' orders, he was thrown into a den of lions but was untouched. Those who plotted against him were then thrown into the lion's den and were killed.

DANIEL

Dan 2: 44

44 “In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

Dan 3: 25

25 He said, “Look! I see four men loosed *and* walking *about* in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of *the* gods!”

DANIEL

Dan. 6: 22

22 My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime."

Dan. 12: 1-2

1 Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.

2 "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting contempt.

DANIEL

Chapters 1-6 are history and include the stories about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace, King Belshazzar sees an invisible hand writing on the wall and Daniel in the lions den.

Starting with chapter 7, Daniel prophesy about the future. The angel, Gabriel, announced that the exile will last 70 years. (Dan. 9: 20-27)

DANIEL

From chapter 7 to the end of the book, the subject matter is that of distinct prophetic visions given to Daniel.

These visions involve the great empires of the world and Israel's connection with them, and the eventual triumph of the Lord of glory over all the nations, on behalf of His own people.