

SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, PART 24
June 6, 2018
Lamentations: “A Funeral Song for Jerusalem”

Introduction

• **Title**

- Hebrew title = “ _____ ” or “Alas” (first word of the book; an expression of dismay).
- The Jews also referred to this book as “Laments” (dirges, loud _____).
- Greek _____, Latin Vulgate, and English titles = “Lamentations.”

• **Our Subtitle:**

- “A funeral song for Jerusalem”
- The book is almost like an _____ to the book of Jeremiah, mourning the total destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.

• **Author:** _____

- He is not identified as the author by _____ in the text.
- We can be confident of his authorship for the following reasons:
 - Jeremiah was known for writing _____ songs.
 - 2 Chron. 35:25: _____
 - Jeremiah was known as the prophet who _____ for his people:
 - Jer. 9:1: _____
 - Jeremiah and Lamentations share many similarities in _____ and style.
 - Compare 1:2 to Jer. 30:14: _____

- Jeremiah was an _____ to the destruction of Jerusalem.
- There is a strong _____ that Jeremiah was the author:
- The Septuagint and several other ancient translations _____ Jeremiah as the author.

• **Other Key People:**

- No individuals are mentioned by name in the book.
- The primary characters are the prophet and the people of _____.
- Sometimes the prophet identifies himself _____ with Jerusalem or speaks as Jerusalem in the first person.

• **Date: Sometime shortly after the _____ of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.**

- The author was an eyewitness to the sack and destruction of the city.
- The book was obviously written when the memories and _____ of the

experience were still very fresh.

- Probably, Jeremiah wrote Lamentations while he lived in _____ and before he went to Egypt.

Background and Setting

- After King _____ rebelled against Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah in 588, laid siege to Jerusalem, and captured it in 586.
- At God's direction, Jeremiah had been predicting the destruction of Jerusalem for _____ years.
- Lamentations describes the very sad _____ of those prophecies.

Structure

- Lamentations is made up of a series of five laments or funeral dirges united by a common _____ and poetic structure.
- The book has a chiastic structure:
 - Chapters 1, 5 = the people's _____
 - Chapters 2, 4 = the Lord's _____
 - Chapter 3 = Jeremiah's _____ in affliction
- Chapters 1, 2, and 4 begin with the same first word, "How?"
- The Hebrew uses a "_____ meter" that adds to the sorrowful tone.
- The book has an _____ structure:
 - Chapters 1, 2, and 4 have 22 verses, each beginning with a letter of the Hebrew _____ (in order).
 - Chapter 3 has 3 verses for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet (66 verses).
 - Chapter 5 has 22 verses but is not an acrostic.
- Chapter 3 is the _____ of the book.
 - Verses 21-39 "rise above" the surrounding suffering to express confidence in God's faithfulness.
- Chapter 5 is a prayer for restoration and _____ and is in many ways different from the other 4 chapters.
 - It "breaks the mold" of sin and judgment described in the rest of the book.

Overview (from the MacArthur Bible Handbook)

• The First Lament: Jerusalem's Devastation (chapter 1)

- _____ sorrow (vs. 1-11)
- Jerusalem's sorrow (vs. 12-22)

• The Second Lament: The Lord's _____ Explained (chapter 2)

- The Lord's perspective (vs. 1-10)
- A human perspective (vs. 11-19)

- Jeremiah's prayer (vs. 20-22)
- **The Third Lament: Jeremiah's Grief _____ (chapter 3)**
 - His distress (vs. 1-20)
 - His _____ (vs. 21-38)
 - His counsel/prayer (vs. 39-66)
- **The Fourth Lament: God's _____ Detailed (chapter 4)**
 - For Jerusalem (vs. 1-20)
 - For _____ (vs. 21-22)
- **The Fifth Lament: The Remnant's _____ (chapter 5)**
 - To be remembered by the Lord (vs. 1-18)
 - To be restored by the Lord (vs. 19-22)

Challenges in the Book

- **Q: What does Jeremiah mean when he says that God had "_____ out" his prayer (3:8)?**
 - A: Although Jeremiah was praying out of _____ for God to spare His people, God could not spare because He had already _____ judgment.
 - Jer. 7:16: _____
 - Jer. 11:14: _____
 - Jer. 14:11: _____

Christ in the Book

- **Although the Lord Jesus Christ is not mentioned by name in the book, we see His _____ for Jerusalem here as we do in:**
 - Matt. 23:37-39: _____
 - Luke 19:41-44: _____

Key Themes and Doctrines

- **God Judges _____ in righteousness:**
 - Lam. 1:5: _____
 - Lam. 1:8a: _____
 - Lam. 1:18a: _____
- **God is _____ over suffering.**
 - Lam. 5:19: _____
- **God finds no _____ in the suffering of sinners.**
 - Ezek. 33:11: _____
- **Even in affliction, God is _____.**
 - Lam. 3:21-23: _____

- **The righteous hope in God's _____.**

Application

- **Are you following the right _____ of Jeremiah in afflictions:**
 - To _____?
 - To _____ God's righteousness?
 - To _____ on God's faithfulness?
 - To hope in God's _____?