

LAMENTATIONS

Most likely written by Jeremiah (known as the “weeping prophet”)

Written around 580 B.C. (right after the fall of Jerusalem)

A short book, only 5 chapters

- actually written in the style and rhythm of an ancient funeral song
- Each chapter is a separate poem about the sad state of the people and the land
- They have rebelled against God and abandoned Him
- Jeremiah weeps, not for himself, but for them
- He knows what is in store for them

Won't spend a lot of time here

- just a quick look at each chapter

Ch.1

-Jeremiah mourns for Jerusalem

Lam 1:16 "For these things I weep; My eyes run down with water; Because far from me is a comforter, One who restores my soul. My children are desolate Because the enemy has prevailed."

Ch. 2

-God's anger at the sin of Israel

Lam 2:5 The Lord has become like an enemy. He has swallowed up Israel; He has swallowed up all its palaces, He has destroyed its strongholds And multiplied in the daughter of Judah Mourning and moaning.

Ch. 3

-Hope during affliction

Lam 3:21 This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope.

Lam 3:22 The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail.

Lam 3:23 *They* are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

Lam 3:24 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him."

Lam 3:25 The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him.

Ch. 4

-God's anger is satisfied

Lam 4:11 The LORD has accomplished His wrath, He has poured out His fierce anger; And He has kindled a fire in Zion Which has consumed its foundations.

Before we leave chapter 4, we need to examine a couple of things:

-people seem to have this picture in their minds that in the OT, God was just waiting for someone to mess us so He could punish them

Lam 4:6 For the iniquity of the daughter of my people Is greater than the sin of Sodom, Which was overthrown as in a moment, And no hands were turned toward her.

-although God brought punishment and discipline to the people, He didn't destroy Jerusalem like He did Sodom

-just another reminder of the grace of the God of the Old Testament

Now turn to verses 9-10

Lam 4:9 Better are those slain with the sword Than those slain with hunger; For they pine away, being stricken For lack of the fruits of the field.

Lam 4:10 The hands of compassionate women Boiled their own children; They became food for them Because of the destruction of the daughter of my people.

-this is not analogy, no figure of speech

-Jerusalem was under siege so long that they ran out of food

-so they finally resorted to eating their own children

-this is something that we can't even imagine

-how could someone eat their own kids?

-we think "I'd rather starve"

-that's easy to say on a full stomach

-in fact, I would venture to say that no one in here has ever experienced real hunger

-we think we are hungry if we go 6 or 8 hours without eating

-being deprived of food causes much more than hunger

-severe starvation can cause vivid hallucinations, severe confusion and intense dreams

-we didn't discuss this in our study last week, but Jeremiah actually prophesied this would happen

Jer 19:9 "I will make them eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and they will eat one another's flesh in the siege and in the distress with which their enemies and those who seek their life will distress them."

Ch. 5

-Lamentations closes with Jeremiah pleading with God

-he is broken and tells God:

Lam 5:1 Remember, O LORD, what has befallen us; Look, and see our reproach!

-the entire chapter is him explaining how bad things have become

He finishes the book by saying:

Lam 5:21 Restore us to You, O LORD, that we may be restored; Renew our days as of old,

Lam 5:22 Unless You have utterly rejected us *And* are exceedingly angry with us.

So the question is, does God reject His people when they sin?

-remember our study from last week?

Isa 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.

Jesus Types:

Jeremiah's passion was the people of God, more specifically, the condition of Jerusalem

Lam 3:48 My eyes run down with streams of water Because of the destruction of the daughter of my people.

Lam 3:49 My eyes pour down unceasingly, Without stopping,

Lam 3:50 Until the LORD looks down And sees from heaven.

Jesus had this same passion for Jerusalem

Mat 23:37 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.

Mat 23:38 "Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!

Mat 23:39 "For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'"