

LAMENTATIONS

Context

- Just after Jerusalem is destroyed
- Jerusalem personified

Theme

We are in mourning because God has done this, even though it's our fault. Now we need Him to change our hearts, for He will again comfort us.

The City's Sin and the Judge's Wrath (Chapters 1, 2, 4)

First poem: the fall of Jerusalem
Second and Fourth poems: Sin and judgment

The Compassion of God (Chapter 3)

God's compassion (3:21-26)

God's Kingship and Mercy (Chapter 5)

A Study Outline for Jeremiah

- I. Jeremiah 1-45 – Yahweh and His People
 - A. Ch. 1-29 – The proclamation against Judah
 - B. Ch. 30-33 – The promise of a New Covenant
 - C. Ch. 34-45 – The final destruction of Jerusalem
- II. Jeremiah 46-52 – Yahweh and the Nations

A Study Outline for Lamentations

- I. Lamentations 1-2 – A Hebrew Acrostic
- II. Lamentations 3-4 – Acrostic at a Quicker Pace
- III. Lamentations 5 – Fractionalized, Still Quicker, Acrostic

Core Seminars—Old Testament Class 21: Jeremiah & Lamentations



JEREMIAH

Context

- Jewish exiles go off to Babylon in 605, 597, and 586 BC.
- The covenant people are engaged in gross idolatry.
- The covenant curses have now come upon them.

Theme

The old covenant has failed; not because it itself was defunct, but because the people were not able to keep it due to their sinful hearts. Therefore a new covenant is needed which will involve new hearts for the people of God.

I. Chapters 1-45

1. Breach of Covenant – Jeremiah 2:9-12, 3:20

2. Repeated, Widespread Sin

God repeatedly warns them (7:13, 25:3-4)

The people listen instead to false prophets (6:14)

3. Total Depravity

- Jeremiah 6:10 – The people are unable to hear...
- Jeremiah 17:1, 9 – ...because sin is engraved on their hearts...
- Jeremiah 18:12 – ...which now controls them...
- Jeremiah 13:23 – ...and they cannot change this.

4. Proclamation of Judgment

Disaster the people cannot escape (11:11-2)

Disaster that is horrific
(5:15-17, 6:26, 8:13, 9:22, 12:11-12, 15:7-8)

5. Judgment as the Undoing of Creation (4:23-28)

II. Jeremiah the Prophet

A man of God in love with the word of God (20:9, 1:9)

God's word earned Jeremiah enemies (chapters 26, 37)

III. The New Covenant: Jeremiah 31:31-37

Theological climax of the book

The solution: give the people new hearts

IV. Judgment and Destruction: Jeremiah 34-52

Judgment against Egypt, the Philistines, Moab, Ammon, Edom, and others

Judgment against Babylon (chapters 50-51)

The destruction of Jerusalem (chapter 52)