

Lamentations

1. **Titles:**

- A. Lamentations = mournings, wailings, weepings
- B. The Book of Mourning

2. **Author:**

Written by Jeremiah, "the weeping prophet", who prophesied to the House of Judah. He also wrote the book of Jeremiah.

3. **Date:**

- A. Jeremiah's ministry covered a period of about 66 years (626-560 B.C.), beginning in the reign of Josiah, continuing through the reigns of Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jeconiah, and ending after the reign of Zedekiah, Judah's last king.
- B. Written about 586 B.C., shortly after the fall of Jerusalem.

4. **Key Words:**

- A. Zion - 15
- B. Afflict (ed, ion) - 9
- C. Jerusalem - 7
- D. Desolate (ion) - 7

Key Phrase:

- A. "The Lord hath" - 14

5. **Key Verses: 1:12; 2:17**

6. **Purpose:**

- A. To express through the prophet in a series of lamentations the sorrow of the heart of God over Jerusalem.
- B. To record the affliction and desolation of Jerusalem.

7. **Message:**

- A. The sin of disobedience to God's Laws brings desolation and the wrath of God, even upon God's own people.
- B. Though God loves His own, and has compassion for His people, He must yet punish the willfully obstinate and disobedient.

8. **Outline:**

- I. The First Poem: Jerusalem's Plight Ch.1 The City
- II. The Second Poem: Jehovah's Anger Ch.2 The Sanctuary
- III. The Third Poem: Jeremiah's Sorrows Ch. 3 The Prophet
- IV. The Fourth Poem: Jehovah's Anger Ch. 4 The People
- V. The Fifth Poem: Jeremiah's Prayer Ch. 5 The Prayer

9. **Summary:**

Lamentations consists of five poems. Chapters 1 through 4 are acrostic; each of the verses beginning successively with one of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Each of these poems has a reference to desolation, God's judgments and sorrows, and closes with a prayer petition (except the fourth). The fifth poem is completely intercessory prayer. The Lamentations of Jeremiah concern these four things:

- A. The People of Judah
- B. The Temple of Solomon
- C. The City of Jerusalem
- D. The Land of Palestine

10. **Christ Seen:**

Christ is seen as the interceding, weeping Prophet, "the Man of Sorrows", lamenting as He foretells the desolations of Judah, Jerusalem, the Temple, and the Land. (Luke 19:41-44; Luke 21:20-24; Matthew 23:37, 38; Matthew 24:1-4)