

**Series "Fixed On 66"**  
**"Lamentations"**  
**Book-25**

**Key Passage: Lamentations 2:5-6; 3:22-23**

**Lamentations:** The Hebrew title of the book comes from the first word in Chapters 1, 2, and 4. The word **Ekah** is "Ah," or "how," which is another word in Hebrew for "Lamentations" The Greek title "Dirges" or "Laments" and the Latin title "Tears or Lamentations" was derived from this word.

In Jerome's Latin Vulgate, it reads, "**The Lamentations of Jeremiah.**"

**After 40 years of warning, Jeremiah's awful warning comes true.**

**The important lesson that sin is costly and that God must punish sin, but God's mercy never fails:**

**605 BC** First attack of Nebuchadnezzar on Jerusalem (2 Kings 24:1-2)

**597 BC** Reign of Jehoiachin (3 months) (2 Kings 24:8-17, 25:27-30, 2 Chr 36:9-10)

**597 BC** Second attack of Nebuchadnezzar on Jerusalem (2 Kings 24:8-17)

**597-586 BC** Reign of Zedekiah (2 Kings 24:17-25:7, 2 Chr 36:10-20)

**586 BC** Third attack on Jerusalem; Jerusalem destroyed (2 Kings 25:1-21)

Lamentations is the funeral of a city. A death has occurred it is the great city of God that lays ruin. Jeremiah writes his lament in acrostic or alphabet, literally "**Weeping from A to Z**"

**The Author:** The book does not state the author the internal and external evidence says it is Jeremiah. Written by Jeremiah. These words were clearly written by an eyewitness to Jerusalem's fall.

**2 Chronicles 35:25**

**When Written: 586-585 B.C.** Before and after the fall of Jerusalem. **Jeremiah 39,52** gives the setting. Jeremiah was probably still in Jerusalem before he was taken captive to Babylon. **Jeremiah 43:1-7**

**Where it was Written:** Jerusalem

**Lamentations 1:20**

**Purpose:** *Five somber "dirge" or "funeral" poems express grief over the loss of the Jewish homeland and the destruction of Jerusalem.*

*The number of verses in each poem is divisible by 22 because these are acrostic poems; each verse or set of verses begins with a different letter of the 22-consonant Hebrew alphabet.*

1. The sorrow for the Jewish remnant to which Jeremiah was their spokesman.
2. The picture of the future Messiah that would come and suffer and make the ultimate sacrifice for His people.
3. A future picture of the Jewish remnant that would suffer in the future.

**Theme:** *"Funeral Hymns"*

1. Mourning over Jerusalem's holocaust.
2. The confession of sin to a holy God for rightfully judging the sin of Judah.
3. Hope for the future restoration of His people.

**Key Words:** Lord – 46 times, Zion – 15 times

**Key Chapter: Lamentations 3** In the midst of destruction, tears, and turmoil, Jeremiah, by faith, turns to God's promise and trusts in the mercy of God.

**Lamentations 3:22-25**

**Key Passage: Lamentations 2:5-6; 3:22-23**

**Outline:**

- 1. Lamentations 1 The Deserted City**
- 2. Lamentations 2 The Rejected City**
- 3. Lamentations 3 A Call For Self-Examination**
- 4. Lamentations 4 Past Glory Remembered**
- 5. Lamentations 5 Prayer For Restoration**

**1. Lamentations 1 The Deserted City:** The author lamented the loss and splendor of Jerusalem (1:1-22).

**Lamentations 1:1-11 "Like a widow is she"** This first poem personifies Jerusalem.

**Lamentations 1:1-4**

The Jewish nation was designed by God to be priests, a holy nation, but now the opposite has taken place.

## **Lamentations 1:5-11**

**Wealth or beauty, or power makes them popular for a time.**

**Lamentations 1:12–22 “My sins have been bound into a yoke”**

**Lamentations 1:12-14**

**many people think of “freedom” as a release from moral restraint, or the right to do whatever wrong thing they want**

**Lamentations 1:15-22**

**Seeing Jerusalem’s and Judah’s suffering, the observer was to trace its cause to rebellion against the commands of her righteous God.**

**Yet acknowledging sin is a first and necessary step toward restoration.**

**2. Lamentations 2 The Rejected City:** The pitiless destruction of its inhabitants (2:1–22).

**Lamentations 2:1–22 “The Lord is like an enemy”** The author is right in adding **“like”** to his description. God had done to Jerusalem and Judah what an enemy might do.

**Lamentations 2:5 The Lord has become like an enemy.** God destroyed Judah’s strongholds and multiplied her mourning (v. 5).

He destroyed her temple (vv. 6–7). He exiled her king and people (v. 9).

**Lamentations 2:11** Speaking as an eyewitness, the author said, “My eyes fail from weeping,

**Lamentations 2:14 Your prophets have seen for you False and foolish visions; And they have not exposed your iniquity So as to restore you from captivity, But they have seen for you false and misleading oracles.** People suffer for false teaching.

**Lamentations 2:17**

What a challenge for faith when God acts **“like an enemy”** It is then we must remember that **despite whatever tragedy strikes us, God is not our enemy.**

**(Storms of Correction or Perfection)**

**3. Lamentations 3 A Call For Self-Examination:** Understanding this to be a consequence of sin, the author dared hope in God (3:1–66).

**Lamentations 3:1-4**

**The Man Who Has Seen Affliction:**

**It's far more meaningful when we hear words of comfort from a person we can identify with: from a fellow sufferer.**

**Lamentations 3:5-18**

**Hope of Relief in God's Mercy**

**Lamentations 3:19-24**

**These verses are the only bright spot in all of the five lamentations.**

**Lamentations 3:25-26**

**Lamentations 3:27-33**

**Lamentations 3:34–66 “Why should any living man complain when punished for his sins?”**

**Lamentations 3:34-42**

**If tragedy should strike, it's wise for us to acknowledge God's sovereign control of events and then look first to ourselves.** If we are aware of serious sin in our lives, then we can follow the prescription found in verses 40–42:

Let us examine our ways and test them and let us return to the Lord.

**Lamentations 3:43-54**

**Lamentations 3:55-57 If un-confessed and un-repented sin was the cause of our suffering, we can expect God to hear this prayer.**

But even if sin was not the cause, we can remain confident that God will respond to us as He did to the author of Lamentations.

**Lamentations 3:58-66**

**4. Lamentations 4 Past Glory Remembered:** The punishment, though great, will end (4:1–22)

**Lamentations 4:1-6 For the iniquity of the daughter of my people Is greater than the sin of Sodom,**

**Lamentations 4:7-11**

**Lamentations 4:12–22 “Your Punishment Will End”** Any horror we feel should be the horror of sin, and the source of our relief is the conviction that, for God’s people, even sin-caused sufferings will end.

**Lamentations 4:12-22**

**5. Lamentations 5 Prayer For Restoration:** A humbled Judah may be restored (5:1–22).

**Lamentations 5:1-16**

**16 The crown has fallen from our head; Woe to us, for we have sinned! The reason for all this destruction!**

**Lamentations 5:17-22**

**Application:**

- 1.** Lamentations’ Important Lesson That Sin Is Costly, And That God Must Punish Sin, But God’s Mercy Never Fails.
- 2.** Many People Think Of “Freedom” As Release From Moral Restraint, Or The Right To Do Whatever Wrong Thing They Want. Jeremiah Pointed Out That Judah’s Insistence On Following Pagan Gods And Sinful Passions Was Not Freedom, But Captivity.