

## The Scriptures Summarized / Book 25 – Lamentations

Lamentations does not name its own author in the text. It does however make a good historical post script to Jeremiah's prophecy for it picks up where his book ends. According to Jewish tradition, Jeremiah also composed this sad poetic addendum to his prophecy. Ancient translations of the Greek Septuagint and the Latin Vulgate attribute the book to him. Scripture records that he composed other laments. Thus, he is known as the "weeping prophet."

II Chronicles 35:25 Jeremiah composed laments for Josiah, and to this day all the male and female singers commemorate Josiah in the laments. These became a tradition in Israel and are written in the Laments.

The book gets its English title from the Greek word translated as Lament; which is a formal expression of grief and sorrow. This book however, doesn't lament the death of Josiah but rather the Destruction of Jerusalem. The Hebrew name for the book is Ekah which is the first word – How.

Lamentations 1:1 How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations! She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave.

The first 4 chapters of the book comprise an acrostic Hebrew poetry based upon following the order of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Chapter 3 repeats each letter 3 times before moving on. Chapter 5 breaks this pattern and is a prayer rather than a poem.

Lamentations 3:21 Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:  
22 Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.  
23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

**I. A Poem about Jerusalem; Chapter 1**

(There is no Comfort in Misery)

- A.** The city is deserted; vs. 1
- B.** The city is despondent; vs. 2
- C.** The city is deported; vs. 3 A
- D.** The city is distressed; vs. 3 B
- E.** The city is desolate; vs. 4
- F.** The city is destroyed; vs. 7
- G.** The city is despised; vs. 8 & 11
- H.** The city is desolate; vs. 13
- I.** The city is destitute; vs. 16
- J.** The city is disturbed; vs. 20

**II. A Poem about Judgement; Chapter 2**

(There is no Pity in Wrath)

- A.** God acted in anger
- B.** God's actions resulted in annihilation

**III. A Poem about Jeremiah; Chapter 3**

(He has no Doubts of God's Goodness)

- A.** He records his personal pain
- B.** He reveals a providential perspective
- C.** He recounts being perturbed at his persecutors

**IV. A Poem about Jews; Chapter 4**

(There is no Pride in Humiliation)

- A.** Punishment upon the people
- B.** Punishment upon the princes
- C.** Punishment upon the priests
- D.** Punishment upon the prophets

**V. A Prayer to Jehovah; Chapter 5**

(There is no Joy in Disgrace)

- A.** Lord, please remember our ruin without you
- B.** Lord, please restore our relationship with you