

Old Testament Biblical Literacy

LAMENTATIONS

Lesson 43

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The Book

What is a Lamentation?

“The passionate or demonstrative expression of grief; mourning”

Oxford's English Dictionary

How did the Book Get its Title?

- Hebrew: *ekah* - “How...!” exclamation of grief...
- Greek: *threni* - “Lament; wail”
- Latin: *Lamentationes* - “Lamentations”

Who Wrote It?

Jeremiah?

“Jeremiah composed laments for Josiah, and to this day all the men and women singers commemorate Josiah in the laments. These became a tradition in Israel and are written in the Laments.”

2 Chron. 35:25

Who Wrote It?

Jeremiah?

- Jewish Translators (Septuagint)
- Latin Vulgate
 - “And it came to pass after Israel had been taken into captivity and Jerusalem had been laid waste that Jeremiah sat weeping and lamented this lamentation over Jerusalem and said...”

Who Wrote It?

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- Jewish Translators (Septuagint)
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- “And it came to pass after Israel had been taken into captivity and Jerusalem had been laid waste that Jeremiah sat weeping and lamented this lamentation over Jerusalem and said:”



Who Wrote It?

Jeremiah?

Anonymous!

When Was It Written?

- Post 587 B.C.
- Eyewitness

My eyes fail from weeping... (11)

Infants lives ebb away in their mother's arms

Young and old lie together in the streets ... fallen
by the sword (21)

- Pre 538 B.C.

Uniqueness of Book

■ Genre of Literature

The great storm howls above... In front of the storm fires burn; the people groan... In its boulevards, where the feasts were celebrated, scattered they lay...the people lay in heaps... "Alas for my city...alas for my house..." Lamentation over the destruction of Ur, Sumer (2000 B.C.)

Uniqueness of Book

- Genre of Literature
- Form
 - Acrostic
 - Verse number
- Why Elaborate Structure?

Uses of Book

- Jewish -

- 9th of Av (*Tisha b'Av*)

- Christian

- Carpentras (1539)

Day 1 -- 1:1-4 1:5, 4:1-2 1:11-13

Day 2 -- 2:8-10 2:11, 1:14-15 4:10-12

Day 3 -- 3:22-29 1:8-9, 2:17 5:1-7

Day Three

- 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. 24 I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." 25 The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; 26 it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD . 27 It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young. 28 Let him sit alone in silence, for the LORD has laid it on him. 29 Let him bury his face in the dust- there may yet be hope.

Themes

- Doom and Hope
- Disobedience's Consequences
 - Confession is the Start
- God's Mercy Prevails
- God Is Good
- A Funeral Dirge

Memorable Passages

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

Lamentations 3:22-24

Points For Home

- Sin Hurts
- Tragedies Come
- Confession Is Right
- God Reigns
- Hope Lives
- Trust in God