

A Study of the Prophets

O.T. Survey Lesson 163--Lamentations 1-5

Introduction: The Lamentations of Jeremiah consists of five distinct mournful poems teaching important principles connected with the destruction of Jerusalem. The first four are written in acrostic format. (Each verse in chapters 1,2,4 begins successively with a different letter of twenty-two letter Hebrew alphabet. Chapter three allows three verses for each letter; thus, 66 verses.) They express the feelings of Jeremiah as a godly man toward the judgments God has placed upon the sinful nation of Israel.

Lesson aim: To learn to properly evaluate the judgments of God surrounding us.

Anguish over the destruction of Jerusalem-- Lamentations 1:1-22

1. What does Jeremiah describe in the first part of the first poem? (v. 1-11)
2. Who speaks in the second half of the chapter? (v. 12-22) What does speaker say to those who pass by? (v. 12) Why does the speaker say these things have occurred? (v. 14, 18, 22)
3. Are Jerusalem's lovers present to comfort her? (v. 17)

God, the source of the destruction-- Lamentations 2:1-22

1. To whom does Jeremiah attribute the destruction of the city? (v. 1-9)
2. Describe the scene Jeremiah pictures in v. 11-12. What people contributed to this anguishing scene? (v. 14)
3. How have the enemies of Jerusalem reacted to her devastation? (v. 15-16)

**The justice of God in the destruction--
Lamentations 3:1-66**

1. What is the condition of the man described in v. 1-18?
2. What attributes of the Lord cause Jeremiah to hope for future blessing from God? (v. 19-38)
3. What is the cause of Israel's punishment? (v. 39-42) What does Jeremiah envision God doing to Israel's enemies? (v. 64-66)

**Israel's sin, the reason for God's judgment--
Lamentations 4:1-22**

1. Jeremiah acknowledged that Judah's sins were greater than _____ (v. 6).
2. Of what sin were the prophets and priests guilty? (v. 13)
3. As Jeremiah sees Israel's punishment coming to an end, whose punishment does he see beginning? (v. 22)

**Confession of sin and prayer for
restoration--Lamentations 5:1-22**

1. For what does the lamenter plea in this chapter? (v. 1)
2. What does Jeremiah affirm about God? (v. 19) For what does He hope, in behalf of the nation, for God to do? (v. 21-22)