

# Lamentations – Structure

**Each chapter is a “lament” or “a dirge”.**

A “lament” is a passionate expression of grief or sorrow often for a funeral for someone who had just died.

A “dirge” is a lament for the dead and again part of a funeral rite.

**Lamentations 1,2,&4:**

Each verse begins with each successive letter.

**Lamentations 3:**

Each 3 verses begins with each successive letter.

**Other Note:**

The 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> letters are reversed in 2-4.

# Lamentations – Focus of each chapter

## **Lamentations 1:**

The consequences of sin are great.

The city/nation mourned due to judgment they deserved.

## **Lamentations 2:**

God's perspective on His judgment of their sin.

## **Lamentations 3:**

Jeremiah's perspective on all he'd seen.

## **Lamentations 4:**

The Lord's anger was fulfilled and noticeable.

## **Lamentations 5:**

The Remnant's response...a prayer request for restoration.

# The Book of Lamentations

## Parallels between Lamentations and Deuteronomy

Lamentations	Deuteronomy
1:3 She dwells among the nations; she finds no resting place.	28:65 Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot.
1:5 Her foes have become her masters.	28:44 He will be the head, but you will be the tail.
1:5 Her children have gone into exile, captive before the foe.	28:32 Your sons and daughters will be given to another nation.
1:6 In weakness they have fled before the pursuer.	28:25 The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You will come at them from one direction but flee from them in seven.
1:18 My young men and maidens have gone into exile.	28:41 You will have sons and daughters but you will not keep them, because they will go into captivity.
2:15 All who pass your way clap their hands at you; they scoff and shake their heads at the Daughter of Jerusalem.	28:37 You will become a thing of horror and an object of scorn and ridicule to all the nations where the Lord will drive you.
2:20 Should women eat their offspring, the children they have cared for?	28:53 Because of the suffering that your enemy will inflict on you during the siege, you will eat the fruit of the womb, the flesh of the sons and daughters the Lord your God has given you.
2:21 Young and old lie together in the dust of the streets.	28:50 ... a fierce looking nation without respect for the old or pity for the young.
4:10 With their own hands compassionate women have cooked their own children.	28:56–57 The most gentle and sensitive women among you ... will begrudge the husband she loves and her own son or daughter the afterbirth from her womb and the children she bears. For she intends to eat them secretly during the siege.
5:2 Our inheritance has been turned over to aliens, our homes to foreigners.	28:30 You will build a house, but you will not live in it.
5:5 We are weary and find no rest.	28:65 Among those nations you will find no repose.
5:10 Our skin is as hot as an oven, feverish from hunger.	28:48 In hunger and thirst ... you will serve the enemies the Lord sends against you.
5:11 Women have been ravished in Zion, and virgins in the towns of Judah.	28:30 You will be pledged to be married to a women, but another will take her and ravish her.
5:12 Elders are shown no respect.	28:50 ... a fierce-looking nation without respect for the old ...
5:18 Mount Zion ... lies desolate, with jackals prowling over it.	28:26 Your carcasses will be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and there will be no one to frighten them away.

Source: Bible Knowledge Commentary

# **Lamentations 1:12**

**This verse reminds us of the lyrics to “Nobody knows the Trouble I’ve Seen”**

Nobody knows the trouble I've been through  
Nobody knows my sorrow  
Nobody knows the trouble I've seen  
Glory hallelujah!

Sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down  
Oh, yes, Lord  
Sometimes I'm almost to the ground  
Oh, yes, Lord

Although you see me going 'long so  
Oh, yes, Lord  
I have my trials here below  
Oh, yes, Lord

If you get there before I do  
Oh, yes, Lord  
Tell all-a my friends I'm coming to Heaven!  
Oh, yes, Lord