



The Book of LAMENTATIONS

Chapters 1 – 5

“O’ JERUSALEM, JERUSALEM!”

Author: Jeremiah the Prophet

Date: 586 B.C.

Place: Jerusalem

Setting: King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon has laid siege to Jerusalem from January 588 B.C. to July 586 B.C. Jerusalem fell on July 19th and the city and temple were burned on August 15th. Jeremiah probably wrote these five elegies (lamentations) before he was taken captive to Egypt by his disobedient countrymen not long after the destruction (Jer. 43:1-7)

Bruce Wilkinson & Kenneth Boa in their commentary “Walk Thru The Bible” write the following about *The Book of Lamentations*, “Lamentations, perhaps the saddest book of the Old Testament, is penned by the mourning prophet Jeremiah after the fall of Jerusalem. In five “dirges of death,” Jeremiah expresses the horror and helplessness of seeing the Jews; proudest city reduced to rubble. Defeat, slaughter, and ruination—the horrors so long promised and so frequently ignored—now fall from the hands of the brutal Babylonians. And yet, even as the prophet’s heart breaks, he pauses to proclaim a righting testimony of deep faith in the goodness and mercy of God. Though the present is bleak with judgment, the future sparkles with the promise of renewal and restoration—a promise as certain as the dawn. Indeed, “Great is Your faithfulness” (3:23).”

Jeremiah writes his lament in acrostic or alphabetical fashion. Beginning each chapter with the first letter A (aleph) he progresses verse by verse through the Hebrew alphabet, literally weeping from A to Z. This poem has melancholy rhythm used in funeral dirges. The Jews publicly read this vivid and tragic book each year to commemorate Jerusalem’s destruction in 586 B.C. and again in A.D. 70.

Jesus & Jerusalem- Matthew 23:37-39- *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'"*

Reflection: Matthew 16:13-20 - *When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others **Jeremiah** or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.*

Chapter 1 - “O’ Jerusalem, Jerusalem”

(v1-11) Jerusalem has sinned gravely

(v12-16) God’s fierce anger

(v17-22) No one comforts Zion

Chapter 2 - “The LORD’s Judgment of Jerusalem”

(v1-10) The LORD the enemy

(v11-17) He has fulfilled His word

Leviticus 26:14-17 - But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you. (Deut. Ch. 28)

(v18-22) See, O’ LORD and consider

Chapter 3 - “Jeremiah’s Affliction & Affirmation”

(v1-21) Jeremiah’s affliction

(v22-39) Jeremiah’s affection

(v40-66) Jeremiah’s affirmation

Chapter 4 - “Jerusalem’s Devastation”

(v1-12) What happened?

(v13-15) Why it happened?

(v16-20) How it happened?

(v21-22) Edom your next!

Chapter 5 - “O’ LORD Restore & Renew”

(v1-9) Remember O’ LORD

(v10-18) Woe to us, for we have sinned!

(v19-22) Turn us back to you O’ LORD