



COMING UP... AUG 11: Obadiah AUG 18: Ezekiel part 1 (chs. 1-32) AUG 25: Ezekiel part 2 (chs. 33-48) SEPT 1 NO CLASS (*Labor Day weekend*) SEPT 8: New Covenant

LAMENTATIONS SUMMARIZED IN A WORD OR PHRASE: "Funeral Dirge"

FUNERAL DIRGE

Your song would have served as a *reminder*
Zechariah 7:1-7; never forget what happened
It would have served as a *warning*
Never let this happen again!
And ... it would have served as a *source of comfort*
We're knocked down, but we're not knocked out
God's mercies are new every morning for the humble, brokenhearted and repentant

THE BASICS ...

Who: an unknown eyewitness (Jeremiah) **When:** around 586 BC (between 586-583/582)
Where: probably to the exiled remnant in Babylon and/or Egypt
Why: Lamentations is "... is a funeral dirge over an irrecoverable past." –H. L. Ellison

LESSON THEME: How God turned the resistant into the repentant

Five Songs or Funeral Dirges

The desolation and misery of Jerusalem (1)
The Lord's anger with His people (2)
The author's complaint and hope (3)
Judah's past and present (4)
A final appeal to the Lord (5)

Summary of Lamentations

A minority of Judah had been *responsive*
They knew what God had said about their sins
They took it to heart
They repented ... or they remained faithful
Most of the people, however, were *resistant*
They knew what God had said about their sins
They ignored, denied or put it behind their backs
They needed God's loving discipline (Deut 28)
Through discipline, the resistant repented
They learned again about the wages of sin: it brings tragedy, sorrow, separation, pain and loss
Became soft and humble of heart
Agreed with God's perspective and repented
Turned to Him with a renewed responsiveness of faith, trust and obedience
Began "new lives" with Him as their old lives were absolutely irrecoverable now
And so Lamentations served as a *reminder*
Never forget what happened
Lamentations served as a *warning*
Never let this happen again!
Lamentations served as a *source of comfort*

We're knocked down, but we're not knocked out
God's mercies are new every morning for the humble, brokenhearted and repentant

APPLICATION: Turning the resistant into the repentant

Some of Us Have Been Turned

Some of us were once resistant ... but were turned through corrective Divine discipline
That discipline we brought on ourselves may have even spilled over onto others
We've experienced the grief that comes from such a tragedy, and the pain that comes from having to acknowledge our sin and its consequences
We've written our own book of lamentations

Some of Us Are Yet to Be Turned

Others of us are running the risk of ...
Self-righteously overestimating our own *responsiveness* to the Lord and His Word
Pridefully underestimating our *resistance* to the changes He wishes to make in our lives
Which road are you walking down?
Will it take the Lord's discipline for you to follow Him more fully?

Are You Responsive or Resistant?

The *responsive* ...

Know what God has said first-hand from the Word
Believe it and internalize it
Progressively, intentionally and graciously align their daily thoughts, decisions and actions to it
Dependently ask the Holy Spirit of God to empower them to walk in *His* ways—daily
See evidences of life change and increased joy
Have their hearts broken over what breaks His

The *resistant* ...

Know what God has said, but only second-hand
Believe it ... but rationalize, justify and excuse the slowness of their internalization
Pray irregularly except for times of personal stress or crisis ... or during another's stress or crisis
Have a "when/then" attitude toward change
Seldom see evidences of life change; joyless
Have their hearts broken over petty things

➤ *Are you responsive or resistant?*

Hope for the Partly Resistant

We need to get into God's Word
Know what He's said for yourself first-hand
Nourishment only comes through digestion
We need to get on our knees
Have a humble and teachable spirit of a servant
Ask for sensitivity and responsiveness to Him
Meet regularly with others who will encourage us ... and keep us accountable

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

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CONTACT: BillE@christchapelbc.org **ADMIN:** LaurieE@christchapelbc.org

YOUTUBE VIDEOS + HANDOUTS www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGhFjfAlhYpqC2XYXZJXiwut_8g7P3qhF

PODCAST: <https://feeds.transistor.fm/old-testament-survey>

Parallels Between Lamentations and Deuteronomy

Lamentations

1:3 She dwells among the nations; she finds no resting place.

1:5 Her foes have become her masters.

1:5 Her children have gone into exile, captive before the foe.

1:6 In weakness they have fled before the pursuer.

1:18 My young men and maidens have gone into exile.

2:15 All who pass your way clap their hands at you; they scoff and shake their heads at the Daughter of Jerusalem.

2:20 Should women eat their offspring, the children they have cared for?

2:21 Young and old lie together in the dust of the streets.

4:10 With their own hands compassionate women have cooked their own children.

5:2 Our inheritance has been turned over to aliens, our homes to foreigners.

5:5 We are weary and find no rest.

5:10 Our skin is hot as an oven, feverish from hunger.

5:11 Women have been ravished in Zion, and virgins in the towns of Judah.

5:12 Elders are shown no respect.

5:18 Mount Zion . . . lies desolate, with jackals prowling over it.

Deuteronomy

28:65 Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot.

28:44 He will be the head, but you will be the tail.

28:32 Your sons and daughters will be given to another nation.

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.

28:41 You will have sons and daughters but you will not keep them, because they will go into captivity.

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.

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.

28:50 . . . a fierce-looking nation without respect for the old or pity for the young.

28:56- The most gentle and sensitive woman 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.

28:30 You will build a house, but you will not live in it.

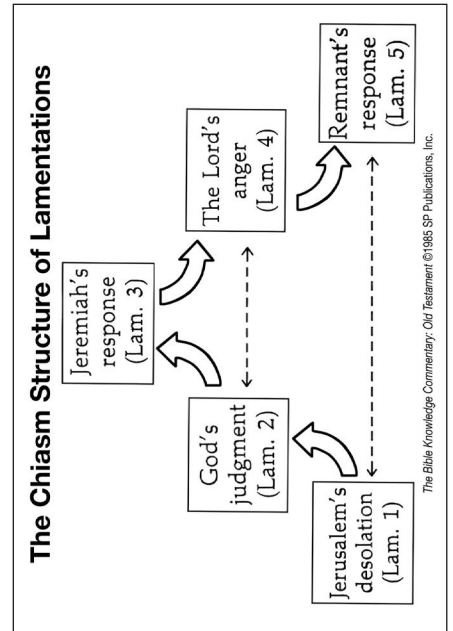
28:65 Among those nations you will find no repose.

28:48 In hunger and thirst . . . you will serve the enemies the LORD sends against you.

28:30 You will be pledged to be married to a woman, but another will take her and ravish her.

28:50 . . . a fierce-looking nation without respect for the old . . .

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.



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LAMENTATIONS

Jerusalem's Desolation	God's Punishment	Jeremiah's Response	God's Anger	Remnant's Response
1:1	2:1	3:1	4:1	5:1
1:22	2:2	3:66	4:22	5:22
Mourning city	Broken people	Suffering prophet	Ruined kingdom	Penitent nation
grief	cause	hope	despair	repentance

LAMENTATIONS

LAMENT POEMS IN THE BIBLE:
 (See Psalms 10, 63, 69, 74, 79)

- A FORM OF PROTEST
- A WAY TO EXPRESS EMOTION
- A PLACE TO VOICE CONVICTION

LAMENT RESTORE A SACRED DIGNITY TO HUMAN SUFFERING



DESIGN OF THE FIVE POEMS:

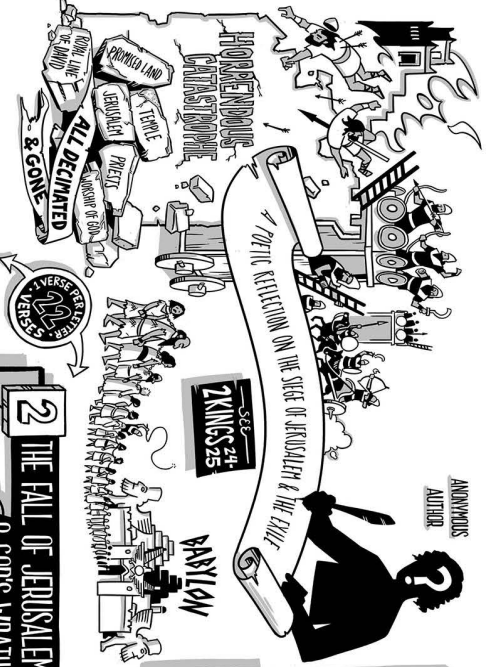
ACROSTIC - "ALPHABET POEM"

1st (=A)	4th (=D)
2nd (=B)	21st (=S)
3rd (=G)	22nd (=T)

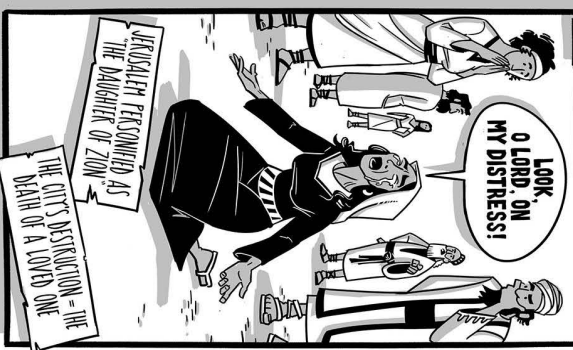
ORDERED & LINEAR STRUCTURE

WORD ORDER: **W**ORDS **O**RDERED **R**EVEAL **E**MOTION

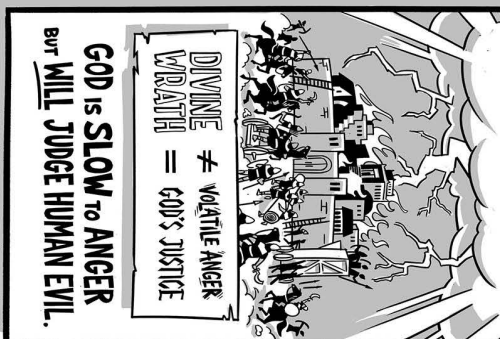
POETRY: **P**ROSE **E**ASY **C**ONCRETE



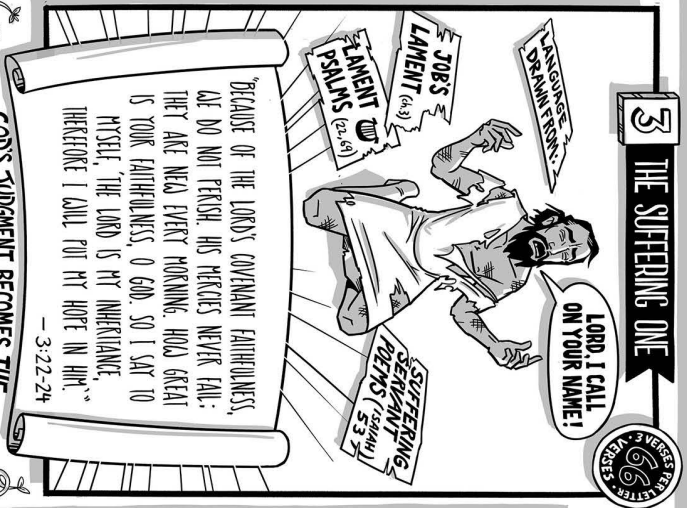
1 LADY ZION'S GRIEF & SHAME



2 THE FALL OF JERUSALEM & GOD'S WRATH



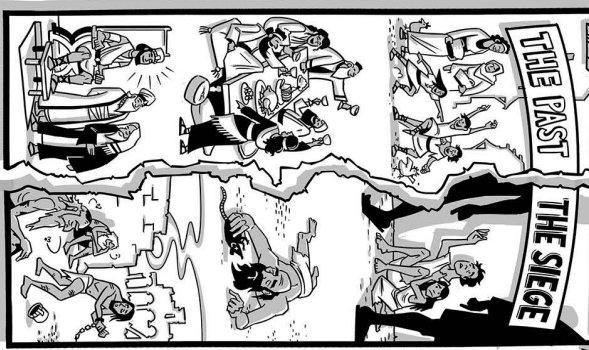
3 THE SUFFERING ONE



Severed of Hope

GOD'S JUDGMENT BECOMES THE

4 THE SIEGE OF JERUSALEM



created by the Bible Project

5 COMMUNAL PRAYER FOR GOD'S MERCY

