



**Main Point:** Judgment had been finally administered by God unto the rebellious inhabitants of Judah. Though Jeremiah had begged the leaders of Judah to surrender to the Babylonians, they refused to heed his advice and Jerusalem was utterly destroyed in 587 B.C. As this glorious city was ablaze, and while he was witnessing the human devastation brought on from the siege and invasion, the prophet Jeremiah laments, or mourns this destruction by offering a eulogy of sorts. Jeremiah composes five interconnected poems detailing his grief.

As is always the case when the soul is in mourning, the book of Lamentations can seem like a collection of random thoughts making it simply impossible to outline. Aside for this, it is clear, however, that these poems do progress from the ailing of overwhelming grief and personal loss to a restored hope of God's future restoration. Lamentations emphasizes two key, Biblical realities. First, it practically illustrates how deeply we should be moved over our sin. And secondly, Lamentations affirms God's mercy. No matter how great the sin or how dramatic the consequences, if we're humble and repentant, we're never beyond God's merciful restoration.

**Scriptural Placement:** 2 Kings 24 & 25; 2 Chronicles 36

**Historical Placement:** (587 B.C.)

Lamentations was written as the city of Jerusalem was being destroyed by the conquering armies of Nebuchadnezzar.

**POEM #1 (Lamentations 1): "How Lonely Sits the City"**

- Eulogy: The Destruction of Jerusalem, The Captivity of the People

**POEM #2: (Lamentations 2): "How the Lord was Angry"**

- Eulogy: Source of Destruction, Reason for the People Captivity

**POEM #3 (Lamentations 3): "I Am the Man Who has Seen Affliction"**

- Lamentation: Personal Cries of Anguish Coupled With Hope

**POEM #4: (Lamentations 4): "How the Gold has Grown Dim"**

- Eulogy: Specific Suffering of God's People as Divine Judgment

**POEM #5 (Lamentations 5): "Remember Us, O, Lord"**

- Lamentation: Community Cries of Anguish Coupled With Hope

**Important Verse:** (Lamentations 3:22-24)

"Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'Therefore I hope in Him!'"



### *Day 1: Sins Grave....*

**Lamentations 1:5-8 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). Why did this great calamity come upon Jerusalem? Also, what were the tangible results produced by this sin? (2). Sin promises greener pastures, but what does it actually leave us with? (3). Why are we so quick to blame God for the judgment brought about by our own making?

### *Day 2: Righteous Justice....*

**Lamentations 1:18 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). Define righteousness. (2). If the Lord is righteous and He's the administrator of judgment, what does this tell you about His judgment? Why is this important? (3). Would God be righteous or just if He allowed sin to go unpunished?

### *Day 3: I Said I Would....*

**Lamentations 2:17 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). In what ways was the destruction of Jerusalem a fulfillment of God's Word? (2). Do you appreciate the reality that God keeps His Word? Does this scare you, encourage you, or both? (3). How do you see God's grace displayed in the reality He does what He says He'll do?

### *Day 4: Recall to Mind....*

**Lamentations 3:1-21 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). How would you describe the mental state of the prophet Jeremiah from the first twenty-one and a half verses of chapter three? (2). Though Jeremiah's mental state was in a pit of despair and depression, how did he keep himself from being completely overwhelmed? (3). In what ways do human emotions interconnect with human thoughts?

### *Day 5: Thoughts to Think....*

**Lamentations 3:22-24 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). What does Jeremiah place his thoughts towards in the midst of his depression? (2). List five specific things that Jeremiah meditates upon in one of life's most overwhelming circumstances? (3). In what ways can these very realities concerning God aid you in your own personal despair?

### *Day 6: Renewal....*

**Lamentations 5:19-22 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). Though the inhabitants of Judah have experienced the wrath of God, Jeremiah petitions God for what as he concludes this book? (2). Are there limits or restrictions to the mercy of God? (3). God desires to renew His people (even following judgment), what is His main requirement for renewal?

**DEVOTIONS**

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