



## My Drift

**Title: Bible – Books of Lamentations**

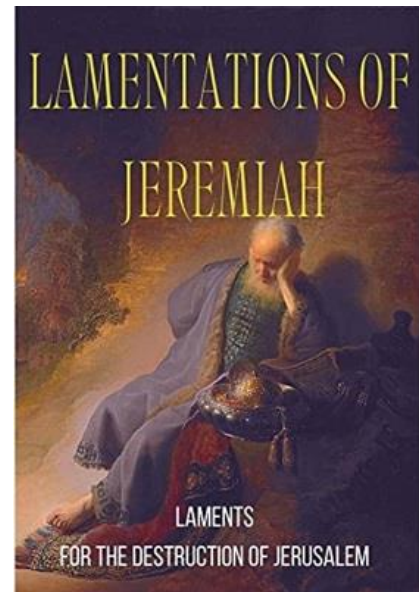
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**Date of Writing:** The Book of Lamentations was likely written between 586 and 575 B.C., during or soon after Jerusalem's fall.

**Purpose of Writing:** As a result of Judah's continued and unrepentant idolatry, God allowed the Babylonians to besiege, plunder, burn, and destroy the city of Jerusalem. Solomon's Temple, which had stood for approximately 400 years, was burned to the ground. The Prophet Jeremiah, an eyewitness to these events, wrote the Book of Lamentations as a lament for what occurred to Judah and Jerusalem.



## The Book of Lamentations Summary

- Chapter 1: Once-great Jerusalem lies in ruins
- Chapter 2: God's wrath destroys even the Temple
- Chapter 3: Jeremiah's suffering and hope
- Chapter 4: Horrors of the siege
- Chapter 5: Could we start again, please?

**Brief Summary:** The Book of Lamentations is divided into five chapters. Each chapter represents a separate poem. In the original Hebrew, the verses are acrostic, each verse starting with a succeeding letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In the Book of Lamentations, the Prophet Jeremiah understands that the Babylonians were God's tool for bringing judgment on Jerusalem (Lamentations 1:12-15; 2:1-8; 4:11). Lamentations makes it clear that sin and rebellion were the causes of God's wrath being poured out (1:8-9; 4:13; 5:16). Lamenting is appropriate in a time of distress, but it should quickly give way to contrition and repentance (Lamentations 3:40-42; 5:21-22).

**Foreshadowings:** Jeremiah was known as the "weeping prophet" for his deep and abiding passion for his people and their city (Lamentations 3:48-49). This same sorrow over the sins of the people and their rejection of God was expressed by Jesus as He approached Jerusalem and looked ahead to her destruction at the hands of the Romans (Luke 19:41-44). Because of the Jews' rejection of their Messiah, God used the Roman siege to punish His people. But God takes no joy in having to punish His children and His offer of Jesus Christ as a provision for sin shows His great compassion on His people. One day, because of Christ, God will wipe away all tears (Revelation 7:17).

**Note:** *Foreshadowing is when the author gives you hints about what will happen later on in the story.*

**Practical Application:** Even in terrible judgment, God is a God of hope (Lamentations 3:24-25). No matter how far we have gone from Him, we have the hope that we can return to Him and find Him compassionate and forgiving (1 John 1:9). Our God is a loving God (Lamentations 3:22), and because of His great love and compassion, He sent His Son so that we would not perish in our sins but can live eternally with Him (John 3:16). God's faithfulness (Lamentations 3:23) and deliverance (Lamentations 3:26) are attributes that give us great hope and comfort. He is not a disinterested, capricious god, but a God who will deliver all those who turn to Him, admit they can do nothing to earn His favor, and call upon the Lord's mercy so that we will not be consumed (Lamentations 3:22)

**Key Verses:** For the rest of this article, we will look at a few verses from each chapter.

## Chapter 1:



How Deserted Lies The City,  
Once So Full Of People! How  
Like A Widow Is She, Who  
Once Was Great Among The  
Nations! She Who Was Queen  
Among The Provinces Has  
Now Become A Slave.

Lamentations 1-1

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SHE WEEPS ALOUD IN THE NIGHT, WITH  
TEARS UPON HER CHEEKS. AMONG ALL  
HER LOVERS THERE IS NO ONE TO  
COMFORT HER. ALL HER FRIENDS HAVE  
BETRAYED HER; THEY HAVE BECOME HER  
ENEMIES.

- LAMENTATIONS 1:2

## Chapter 2:



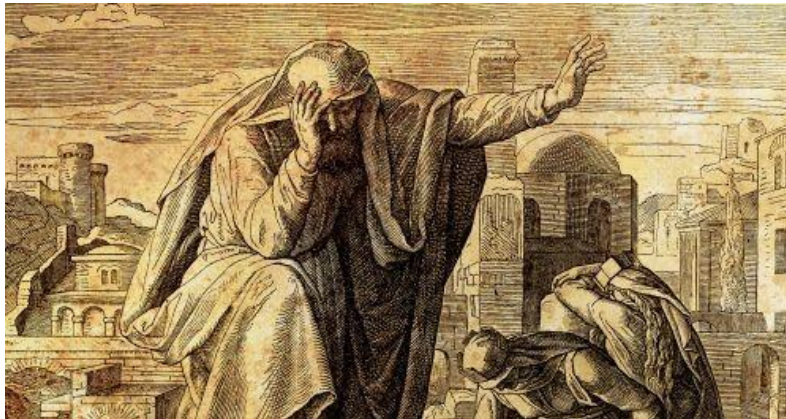
**Lamentations 2:17**, “The LORD has done what he planned; he has fulfilled his word, which he decreed long ago. He has overthrown you without pity, he has let the enemy gloat over you, he has exalted the horn of your foes.”



### Chapter 3:



### Chapter 4:

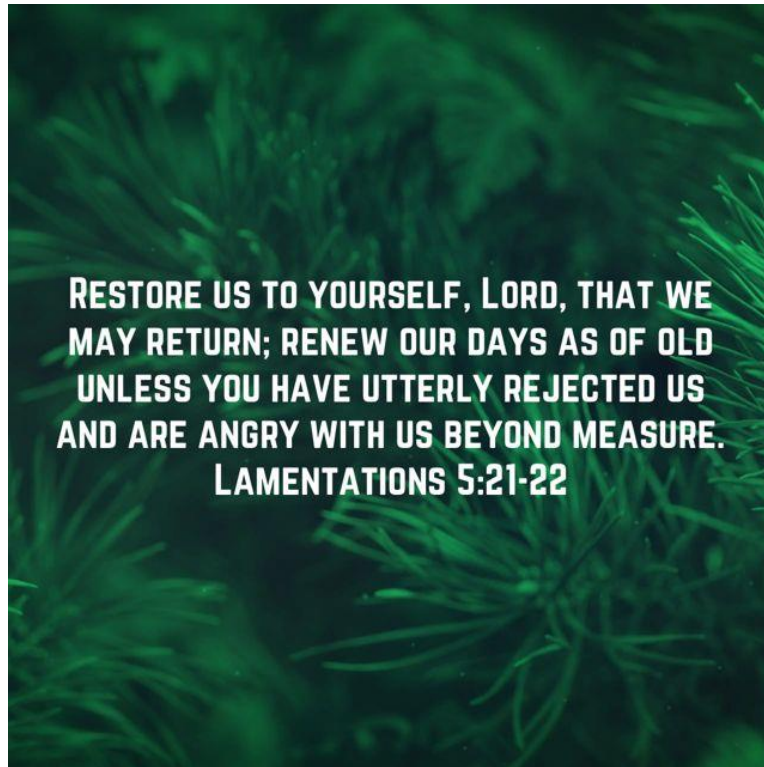


The Lord Has Given Full  
Vent To His Wrath; He  
Has Poured Out His Fierce  
Anger. He Kindled A Fire  
In Zion That Consumed  
Her Foundations.

Lamentations 4-11

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## **Chapter 5:**



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