

# **Lamentations**

## **Introduction**

The book was written by Jeremiah and is a vivid account of the Fall of Jerusalem. The name Lamentations means “to cry aloud” and is referred to as “the book of tears”. Lamentations is one of five books called “The Writings” which the Jewish people read publicly each year at their festivals:

- The Song of Songs – Passover
- Ruth – Feast of Pentecost
- Ecclesiastes – Fest of Tabernacles
- Ester – Feast of Purim
- Lamentations – Anniversary of the destruction of Jerusalem

Each Chapter in Lamentations has 22 verses except chapter 3 which has 66. This is because there are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet and each verse (Or three verses in chapter 3) begins with a letter of the alphabet.

**Key Word:** Affliction – occurs 9 times

**Key Passage** – Lamentations 3:22-24

## **Lessons from Lamentations:**

### **1. The Crisis in Lamentations**

**Sin brought about suffering that was...**

- **Tragic (1:1)** - The beautiful chosen bride of God has become a “widow”
- **Just (1:8, 18)** – This is a direct result of sin
- **God-given (2:1-8)** – Look at all of the references to “the Lord”
- **Severe (4:1-10)** – one of the most disturbing images in the entire Bible

**Suffering brought about questions that were...**

- Profoundly intense—“Are we forsaken?” (5:16-20)
- Eternally significant—“Can we be forgiven?” (5:21-22)

### **2. The Comfort in Lamentations Chapter 3**

All of the other chapters only have 22 verses while Chapter 3 has 66 verses. It is as if God says to His people – This is the key chapter! This is the center of the book and should remain at the center of your mind in difficult times!

## **Key Question: What do you do when you are cut off from God by sin?**

### **Find Comfort and Hope in:**

- **The Fresh Mercies of God (3:22a)** - Mercies come from the same root word as a mother's womb – Provides daily what is needed for LIFE!!!
- **The Unfailing Love of God (3:22b)** –God has set His affections on His people and will not stop no matter what! – His compassions Fail Not!
- **The Unceasing Faithfulness of God (3:23)** –God has always been faithful. God has never broken a promise

### **Which Leads us To:**

- **A settled hope in the provision of God (3:24)**
- **A deep confidence in the character of God (3:31-33)** – He brings about grief but He does not enjoy it. He loves us too much to leave us how we are!
- **An urgent desire to repent before God (3:39-40)**

### **3. The Christ in Lamentations (Picture of Christ in Lam 3:21-24)**

At the cross we see the pinnacle of mercy, love, faithfulness, and hope!

#### **1. His Death Insured our Ransom**

A Ransom is a price that must be paid in order to free someone from an enemy holding them captive. Jesus Christ paid for our freedom with His blood.

#### **2. His Mercy Insured our Righteousness** –

Verse 22 is a picture of us before a Holy God. We could not stand before a Holy God in our sinful condition because we would be consumed. Because of His great love and mercy, Jesus Christ gave us His righteousness so that we can stand before a Holy God dressed in His righteousness!

#### **3. His Triumph Insures our Reward/Resurrection (3:24-26)**

As Christians, we can truly say, "He is our portion!" He provides exactly what we need on a daily basis for life! Our hope is In Him. We are able to defeat death because Jesus Christ triumphed over death!

#### **Great is Thy Faithfulness!**

"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—

Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!