LAMENTATIONS

Context

- Just after Jerusalem is destroyed
- Jerusalem personified

Theme

_We are in mourning because God has done this, even though it’s our fault. Now we need Him to change our hearts, for He will again comfort us._

The City’s Sin and the Judge’s Wrath (Chapters 1, 2, 4)

First poem: the fall of Jerusalem
Second and Fourth poems: Sin and judgment

The Compassion of God (Chapter 3)

God’s compassion (3:21-26)

God’s Kingship and Mercy (Chapter 5)

A Study Outline for Jeremiah

I. Jeremiah 1-45 – Yahweh and His People
   A. Ch. 1-29 – The proclamation against Judah
   B. Ch. 30-33 – The promise of a New Covenant
   C. Ch. 34-45 – The final destruction of Jerusalem
II. Jeremiah 46-52 – Yahweh and the Nations

A Study Outline for Lamentations

I. Lamentations 1-2 – A Hebrew Acrostic
II. Lamentations 3-4 – Acrostic at a Quicker Pace
III. Lamentations 5 – Fractionalized, Still Quicker, Acrostic
2. Repeated, Widespread Sin

God repeatedly warns them (7:13, 25:3-4)

The people listen instead to false prophets (6:14)

3. Total Depravity

- Jeremiah 6:10 – The people are unable to hear…
- Jeremiah 17:1, 9 – …because sin is engraved on their hearts…
- Jeremiah 18:12 – …which now controls them…
- Jeremiah 13:23 – …and they cannot change this.

4. Proclamation of Judgment

Disaster the people cannot escape (11:11-2)

Disaster that is horrific
(5:15-17, 6:26, 8:13, 9:22, 12:11-12, 15:7-8)

5. Judgment as the Undoing of Creation
(4:23-28)

II. Jeremiah the Prophet

A man of God in love with the word of God (20:9, 1:9)

God’s word earned Jeremiah enemies (chapters 26, 37)

III. The New Covenant: Jeremiah 31:31-37

Theological climax of the book

The solution: give the people new hearts

IV. Judgment and Destruction: Jeremiah 34-52

Judgment against Egypt, the Philistines, Moab, Ammon, Edom, and others

Judgment against Babylon (chapters 50-51)

The destruction of Jerusalem (chapter 52)