



Lamentations

The Triumph of Faith in the Face of Tragedy

LAMENT
 AN AGONIZED EXPRESSION OF GRIEF AND SORROW WHICH OFTEN LEADS TO A DEEPENED SENSE OF REPENTANCE AND TRUST

| Acrostic | Acrostic | Triple Acrostic | Acrostic | Non-Acrostic |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| <p>First Lament: The City Lies in Ruins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lament over Jerusalem's Destruction (1:1-11) Confession of Jerusalem's Sin and Cry for Help (1:12-22) <p>א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ</p> | <p>Second Lament: The Lord Is Angry with Us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lord, in His Anger, has Judged Jerusalem (2:1-9) Response to the Judgment of the Lord (2:10-22) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Leaders Grieve (2:10-13) - The Prophets Lie (2:14) The On-lookers Taunt (2:15) - The Enemies Rejoice (2:16) The Faithful Cry Out to the Lord (2:17-22) <p>א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ</p> | <p>Third Lament: The Lord Is Faithful in the Midst of Judgment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Poet's Personal Lament Leading to Hope (3:1-21) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasons for Hope and Repentance (3:22-66) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lord is Faithful (3:22-33) The Lord is Sovereign (3:34-39) Call to Repentance (3:40-42) The Lord is Just (3:43-51) Cry for Help (3:52-66) <p>א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ</p> | <p>Fourth Lament: The Lord Judged Jerusalem but will Judge Edom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judgment of Jerusalem by the Hand of the Lord (4:1-12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judgment Because of False Leaders (4:13-20) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prophets - Priests - Elders - King - The Lord's Judgment of Edom for Their Sin (4:21-22) <p>א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ</p> | <p>Fifth Lament: Mt Zion Lies Desolate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appeal for the Lord to Remember (5:1) Final Lament over the Desolation of Zion (5:2-18) Appeal for the Lord to Restore and Renew (5:19-22) <p>א ב ג ד ה ו ז ח ט י כ ל מ נ ס ע פ צ</p> |
| <p>1:1 No Comfort 1:22 <small>[מנוח] - comfort, relenting]</small> The Lord has Judged <i>(Communal)</i></p> | <p>2:1 No Pity 2:22 <small>[חַמֵּל] - pity, holding back]</small> The Lord is Angry <i>(Communal)</i></p> | <p>3:1 No Fear 3:66 <small>[תִּירָא] - fear, awesome respect]</small> The Lord is Faithful <i>(Personal)</i></p> | <p>4:1 No Help 4:22 <small>[עֲזָרָה] - help, deliverance]</small> The Lord will Judge <i>(Communal)</i></p> | <p>5:1 No Joy 5:22 <small>[מְשׂוֹשׁ] - joy, jubilation]</small> The Lord has Forgotten <i>(Communal)</i></p> |

ACROSTIC
 AN ALPHABETICAL ARRANGEMENT USING THE 22 LETTERS OF THE HEBREW ALPHABET TO AID MEMORY/AND OR COMMUNICATE COMPLETENESS



The intentionally anonymous author (likely Jeremiah), writing after the fall of Jerusalem at the hands of the Babylonians (586 B.C.) carefully crafted five poems about judgment and destruction which had come on Jerusalem (a symbol for the entire nation) because of a neglect of the covenant, along with confessions of sin and cries for help from the Lord while acknowledging the Lord's faithfulness in order prompt the nation to fully grieve over their sin and the resulting judgment and to encourage the people to remember that God remains faithful to His word and that, therefore; they should turn back to Him as the covenant community.