Faith: Tested and True

Days of Affliction and Homelessness
Lesson 4
Lamentation 1

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
June 28, 2020
Lamentations

- Hebrew title: EKAH – translated as “How”
- Lamentations: songs of sorrow – a funeral song
- Five poems, written in the aftermath of the fall of Jerusalem and Judah
- Date: 586 B.C. – after the destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon
- Author: Jeremiah is most likely the author – an eyewitness to the event
- Why is this event important?
  - Israel and Jerusalem are central to the Blessing of Salvation . . . and now it is gone!
  - It is a wonderful lesson on YHWH and His work of Salvation
Lamentations

- 5 chapters in Chiastic pattern
- Acrostic pattern – each verse begins with a letter of the alphabet in sequential order
- Chapters 1-2 – 66 pairs, typical for poetry – 3 pairs in each verse
- Chapter 3 – 66 pairs – 1 pair for each verse, but each letter repeated 3 times
- Chapter 4 – 44 pairs – 2 pairs for each verse
- Chapter 5 – 22 pairs – 1 pair for each verse – not alphabetical
- An extra pair in Lamentations 1:8 and 2:19
- Chapters 2-4 switch letters AYIN - PEY to PEY - AYIN
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Great is The LORD’s Faithfulness</strong></td>
<td><strong>Jeremiah ...</strong></td>
<td><strong>4:1-11 “How”</strong></td>
<td><strong>5:1-18 calling for</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1:1-11 “How”</strong> seeing Zion’s sorrow and sin</td>
<td><strong>1:12-22 Zion’s plea to the LORD for mercy and retribution</strong></td>
<td><strong>3:1-18 sees the affliction</strong></td>
<td><strong>the LORD to see and remember</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2:1-10 “How” Zion’s judgment from the LORD</strong></td>
<td><strong>2:11-19 Zion’s sorrow</strong></td>
<td><strong>3:19-39 hopes in the LORD</strong></td>
<td><strong>5:19-22 calling for the LORD to restore and renew</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2:20-22 Zion’s cry for the LORD to see</strong></td>
<td><strong>3:40-66 seeks the LORD</strong></td>
<td><strong>4:12-22 Zion’s enemies observed and warned</strong></td>
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<td><strong>lament</strong></td>
<td><strong>biblical chiasm</strong></td>
<td><strong>judgment</strong></td>
<td><strong>hope</strong></td>
<td><strong>lament</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>A-Z acrostic · 22 verses</th>
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<th>AAA-ZZZ acrostic · 66 verses</th>
<th>A-Z acrostic · 22 verses</th>
<th>no acrostic · 22 verses</th>
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<tr>
<td>ĖKAH = “How” = “lament” 1:1 2:1 4:1</td>
<td>3 + 2 limping meter = “lament” chapters 1-4</td>
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586-585 BC
Lamentations

1. Lament – destruction of Jerusalem presented (1)
2. Lament – the fierceness of the anger of the Lord (2)
3. Hope – the prophet remembers the attributes of YHWH (3)
4. Lament – the fierceness of the anger of YHWH (4)
5. A prayer for YHWH to remember and restore (5)
Lamentation 1

- An unimaginable disaster (1:1-11)
  - The city is destroyed (1:1-2)
  - The nation in exile (1:3-7)
  - A judgment for sin (1:8-11)

- The cry of the prophet (1:12-22)
  - There is no pain like my pain (1:12-15)
  - There is no comforter (1:16-17)
  - The justice of God (18-22)
An Unimaginable Disaster (1:1-11)

- 1:1 – The City is Destroyed
  - Great of people – Great nation – Princess in Israel
  - Lonely – Like a widow – Forced labor

- 1:2 – Great Sorrow
  - Weeping bitterly in the night
  - No comfort from lovers (friends)
  - Unfaithful friends are enemies (treachery)
The Nation in Exile (1:3-7)

- 1:3 – Judah has gone into exile
  - Out of the Promised Land and Rest
- 1:4 – Separated from access to God
  - The end of life under the Law of Moses
- 1:5 – The grief of captivity
  - Enemies prosper and take their children
  - YHWH caused their grief
- 1:6 – Disruption of society
  - No leaders or protectors
- 1:7 – Annihilation
  - Days of affliction and homelessness
  - Distant memories replaced by mocking
  - Cessation
Judgment for Sin (1:8-11)

- 1:8 – Jerusalem sinned greatly
  - Unclean and despised
- 1:9 – Jerusalem has fallen astonishingly
  - No thought for the future; no comforter
  - She has fallen astonishingly (”wonderfully”)
- 1:10 – The enemy defiled the Temple
  - Defiled the precious things
- 1:11 – The struggle to survive at great cost
  - A call to YHWH to see their dishonor
  - Concern for consequences, not repentance
The Cry of the Prophet (1:12-15)

1:12 – “Is it nothing to you?”
   – No pain like my pain
   – Fierce anger inflicted by YHWH

1:13 – YHWH has brought this grief upon me
   – Inner turmoil, entrapment, made desolate

1:14 – The yoke of my transgressions
   – No relief and no strength to stand

1:15 – The sovereign God is judge
   – The time has come
   – The sovereign God has crushed us
There is No Comforter (1:16-17)

- 1:16 – Weeping
  - No comforter and none to restore my soul
  - Children are desolate because of the enemy

- 1:17 – Zion reaches out for comfort
  - No comforter
  - YHWH has ordered his neighbors to be his enemies
The Justice of God (1:18-22)

- 1:18 – YHWH is righteous
  - An example to all people – rebellion against His Word
  - Captivity
- 1:19 – Jeremiah has no recourse
  - No relief from friends, priests or elders – who face the same justice
- 1:20 – An appeal to YHWH
  - Internal despair and loss of hope
- 1:21 – The delight of his enemies
  - His enemies rejoice to see YHWH bring this disaster
  - Bring on the day of judgment
- 1:22 – A call for YHWH to judge his enemies
  - Deal with them as you have dealt with me
Days of Affliction and Hopelessness

- Common affliction with uncommon intent by YHWH
- The necessary trial of our faith (1 Peter 1:6)
- Protected by the power of God through faith (1 Peter 1:5)
- Genuine faith revealed by our response