

# **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

# Lamentations

Great is The LORD's Faithfulness				586-585 BC
①	②	③	④	⑤
<p>1:1-11 <b>"How"</b> seeing Zion's sorrow and sin</p> <p>1:12-22 Zion's plea to the LORD for mercy and retribution</p>	<p>2:1-10 <b>"How"</b> Zion's judgment from the LORD</p> <p>2:11-19 Zion's sorrow</p> <p>2:20-22 Zion's cry for the LORD to see</p>	<p>Jeremiah ... 3:1-18 <u>sees</u> the affliction</p> <p>3:19-39 <u>hopes</u> in the LORD</p> <p>3:40-66 <u>seeks</u> the LORD</p> <p>③ <b>hope</b> ③</p>	<p>4:1-11 <b>"How"</b> Zion's judgment from the LORD</p> <p>4:12-22 Zion's enemies observed and warned</p>	<p>5:1-18 calling for the LORD to see and remember</p> <p>5:19-22 calling for the LORD to restore and renew</p>
<p><b>lament</b> ① ←</p>	<p><b>judgment</b> ② ←</p>	<p><b>biblical chiasm</b></p>	<p>→ ② <b>judgment</b></p>	<p>→ ① <b>lament</b></p>
A-Z acrostic · 22 verses	A-Z acrostic · 22 verses	AAA-ZZZ acrostic · 66 verses	A-Z acrostic · 22 verses	<u>no</u> acrostic · 22 verses
ĒKAH = <b>"How"</b> = "lament" 1:1 2:1 4:1		3 + 2 limping meter = "lament" chapters 1-4		

# 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