

Faith: Tested and True

**Remember Us, O YHWH
Lesson 8
Lamentations 5**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
July 26, 2020*

The Lamentations of Jeremiah

- ▶ The story line of the Bible: Salvation – the Kingdom of God on earth
 - A promise in history – not a metaphor
 - A real nation (Israel), a real city (Jerusalem), a real monarchy (Son of David), a real kingdom
- ▶ Lamentations – the end of the nation, the city, the monarchy, the presence of God
- ▶ Lamentations – 5 funeral songs lamenting this great disaster
- ▶ Jeremiah is tested by the ways of God (Isaiah 55:8-9)
- ▶ Distinctive style of Lamentations
 - 264 paired statements in 5 chapters: 66 - 66 - 66 - 44 - 22
 - Alphabet acrostic – 22 verses (1, 2, 4), 66 verses (3), no acrostic (5)
 - Chiastic structure of 5 chapters: A - B - C - B' - A'

Lamentations 1-4

- ▶ Lamentations 1 – Jeremiah looks at the fallen city and weeps
 - An act of God – a judgment for sin
 - Astonishing devastation beyond expectations
- ▶ Lamentations 2 – Jeremiah describes life during the siege
 - The fierce anger of the Lord – YHWH determined to destroy
 - Degradation – depravity – annihilation
- ▶ Lamentations 3 – Jeremiah sees this as the rod of God against him personally
 - “My hope from YHWH has perished”
 - Jeremiah sees YHWH – lovingkindness, compassion, faithfulness
 - It is good to “wait silently for the salvation of YHWH.”
- ▶ Lamentations 4 – Jeremiah revisits life during the siege
 - The judgment is severe and continues
 - YHWH is his redeemer and will render justice

Lamentations 5

- ▶ Unique form: single pair/verse and not an acrostic
- ▶ Outline:
 - Remember, O YHWH, what has befallen us (5:1-18)
 - You, O YHWH, rule forever (5:19-20)
 - Turn us to You, O YHWH (5:21-22)

Remember, O YHWH (5:1-18)

- ▶ Remember, O YHWH, what has befallen us (5:1)
- ▶ Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers (5:2-4)
- ▶ We are worn out, – there is no rest for us (5:5)
- ▶ We hold out a hand to Egypt; – to Assyria, for our fill of bread (5:6)
- ▶ Our fathers sinned, and are no more; – It is we who have borne their iniquities. (5:7)
- ▶ Slaves rule over us;
 - There is no one to deliver us from their hand. (5:8-14)
- ▶ The joy of our hearts has ceased;
 - Our dancing has been turned to mourning. (4:15-18)

You, O YHWH, rule forever (5:19-20)

- ▶ Your throne is from generation to generation
- ▶ Jeremiah sees His sovereign power in the light of His eternal character
- ▶ Jeremiah asks rhetorical questions – impossible because He is YHWH
- ▶ The correct answer is to those who truly trust in YHWH – walk by faith, not sight

Turn us to You, O YHWH (5:21-22)

- ▶ Literal translation: Turn us to You . . . that we may be turned
- ▶ The nation needed a heart to fear and love God (Deut 5:29, 10:16; 30:6)
- ▶ Jeremiah confesses for the nation (“us”) as but recognizes God’s work in himself
- ▶ “Utter rejection” and “exceedingly angry” are incompatible with YHWH’S character

Lamentations for All Time

- ▶ Jeremiah's trial of his faith – the rod of His wrath (3:1)
 - Proverbs 22:15 – the rod of correction
 - MUSAR (Hebrew) – “correction which results in education” (TWOT)
 - Hebrews 12:1-11 – Christ, the object of our faith, suffered at the hands of sinners
 - The result of the rod of correction – the peaceable fruit of righteousness
- ▶ The rod of His wrath in 2020
 - Nothing like Christ's or even Jeremiah's “education”
 - Must be met with understanding of the Author and Finisher of our faith
 - Unceasing lovingkindness and compassion; great faithfulness
- ▶ It is good to wait silently for the salvation of YHWH (Lam 3:26)
 - Remember, O YHWH, what has befallen us
 - You, O YHWH, rule forever
 - Turn us to You, O YHWH . . . and we will be turned