Faith: Tested and True

Remember Us, O YHWH
Lesson 8
Lamentations 5

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
July 26, 2020
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