

THROUGH THE BIBLE

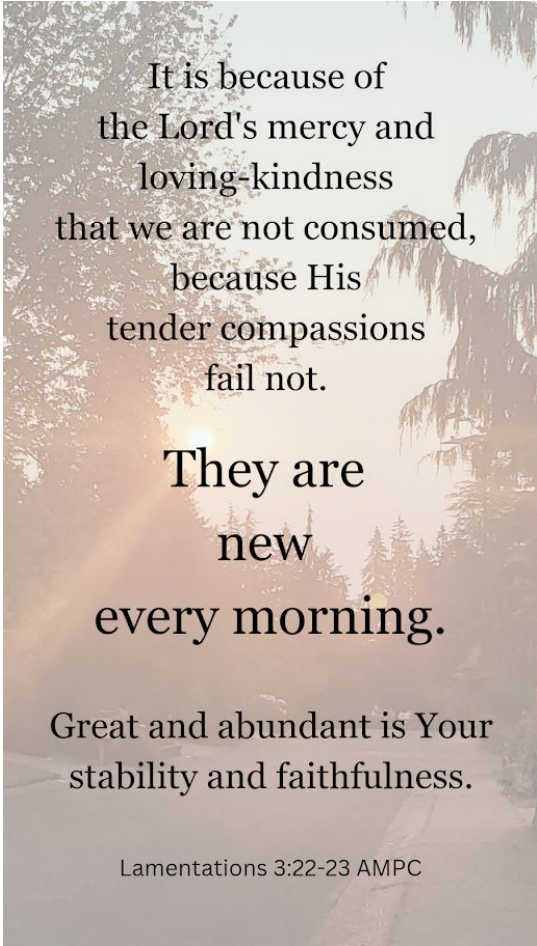


LAMENTATIONS

Kristin Stansberry

05/08/2024

<https://www.joshuataallent.com/bible/>



It is because of
the Lord's mercy and
loving-kindness
that we are not consumed,
because His
tender compassions
fail not.

They are
new
every morning.

Great and abundant is Your
stability and faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23 AMPC

Class Outline

TTB: Lamentations

OVERVIEW

- Context
- Remembrance
- Timeline
- Bible Project Video
- Key Themes
- Design

HIGHLIGHTS

- Commentary
- Lament
- Chapter 1: Lament over Jerusalem
- Chapter 2: Judgement on Jerusalem
- Chapter 3: Hope through God's Mercy
- Chapter 4: Terrors of the Besieged City
- Chapter 5: Prayer for Restoration

FURTHER STUDY & RESOURCES

- Additional Passages, Videos, Podcasts, Articles, & Books

OVERVIEW



CONTEXTUAL/HISTORICAL PASSAGES & MAP



2 Kings 25 - Nebuchadnezzar's Siege of Jerusalem and Jerusalem Destroyed

2 Chronicles 36:11-21 - Judah's King Zedekiah and the Destruction of Jerusalem



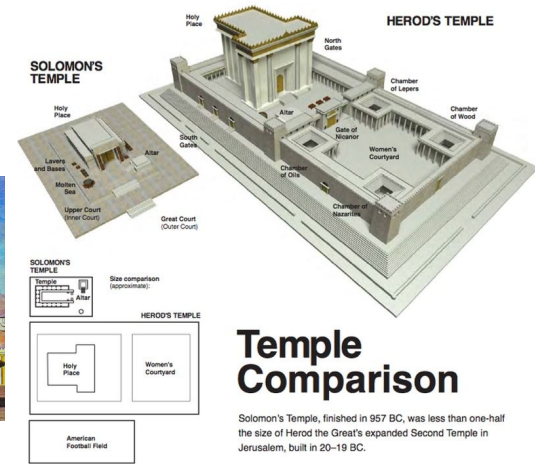
The Book of Jeremiah

Deuteronomy 28:15-68 - Curses for Disobedience

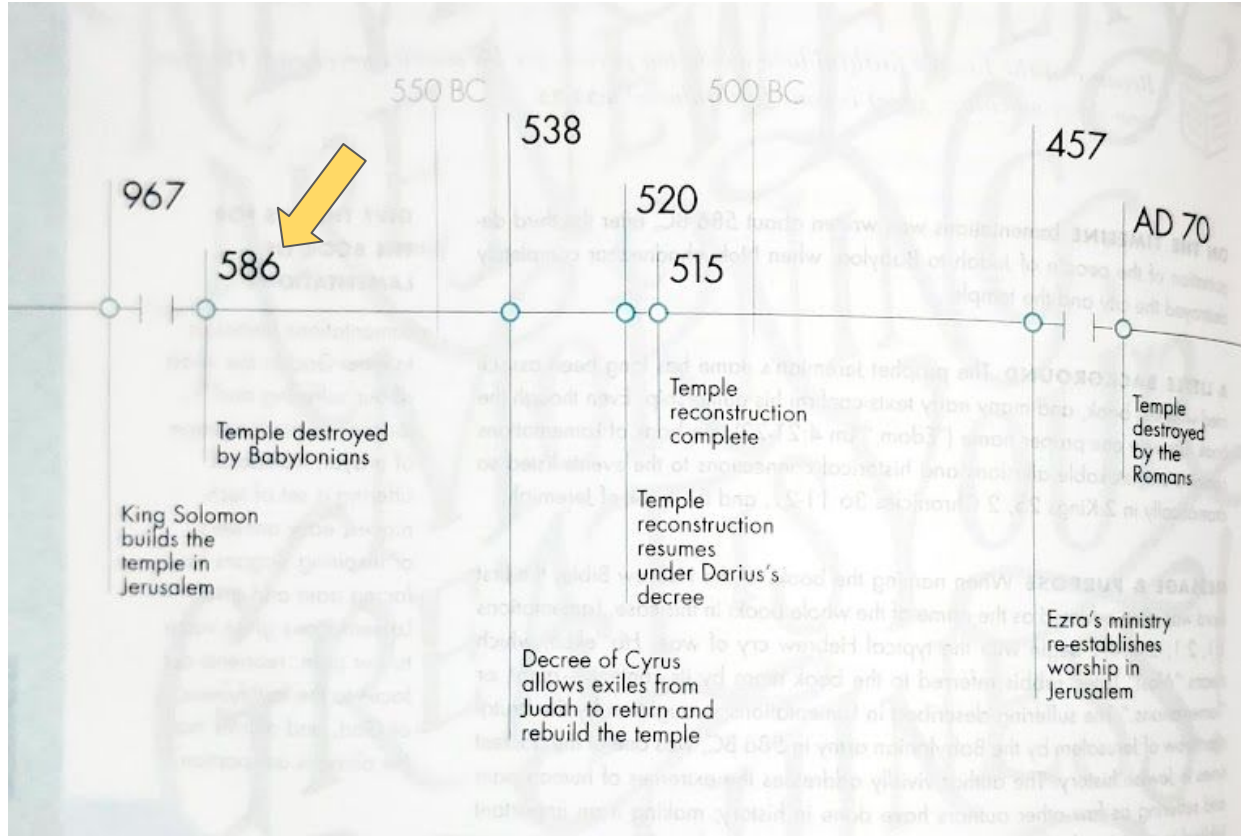
REMEMBRANCE

Tisha b'Av: 9th Day of the Hebrew Month of Av (usually July/August)

- Lamentations is read in the synagogue on this day
- Room darkened, candles lit, read in a mournful tone
 - Eicha_Chapter 1.mp3
- Tradition: both Temples were destroyed on this day (Solomon's and Herod's), as well as other horrible events against the Jews



TIMELINE



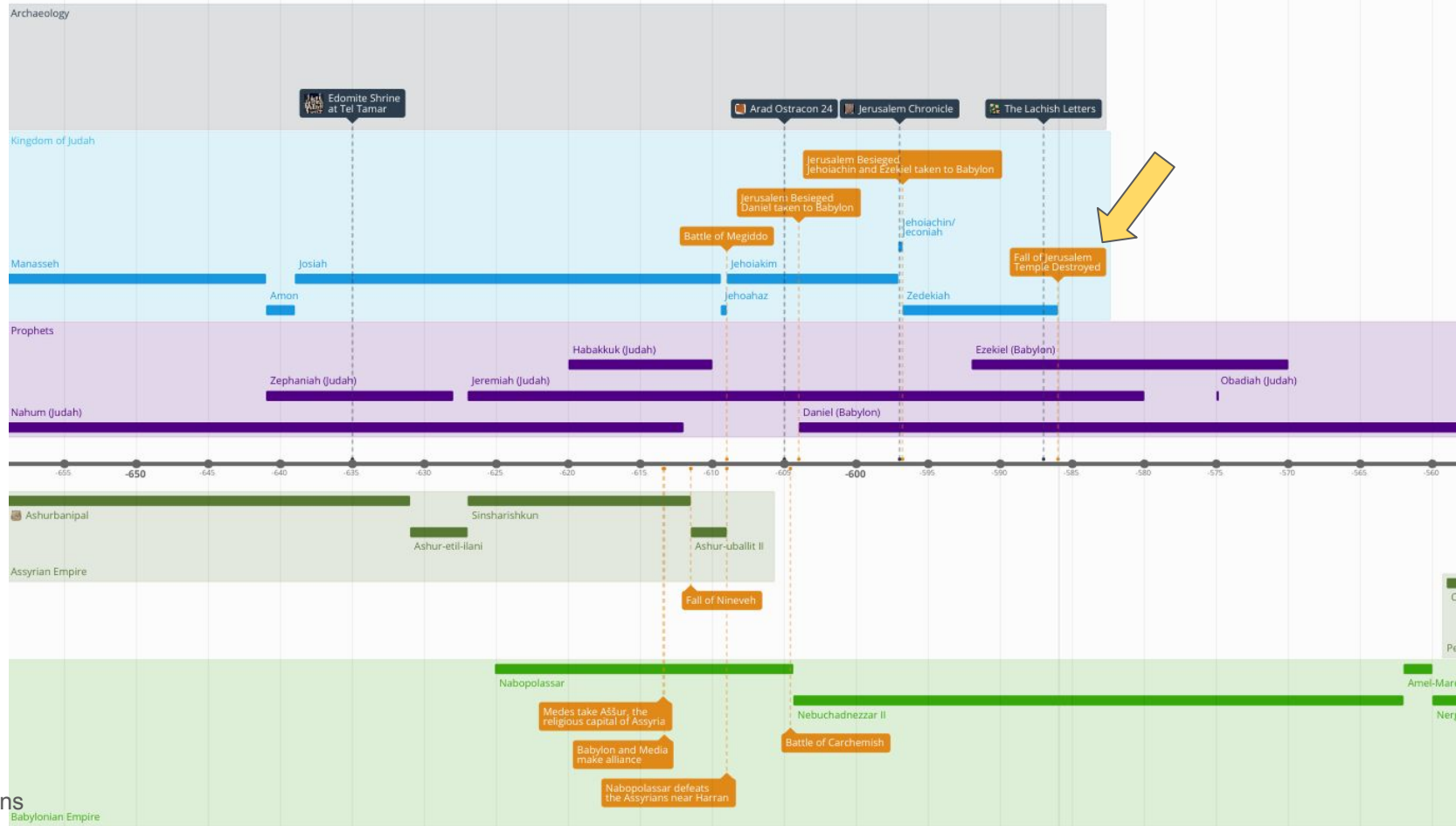
“Lamentations was written about 586 BC, after the third deportation of the people of Judah to Babylon, when Nebuchadnezzar completely destroyed the city and the temple.”

-She Reads Truth Bible Introduction

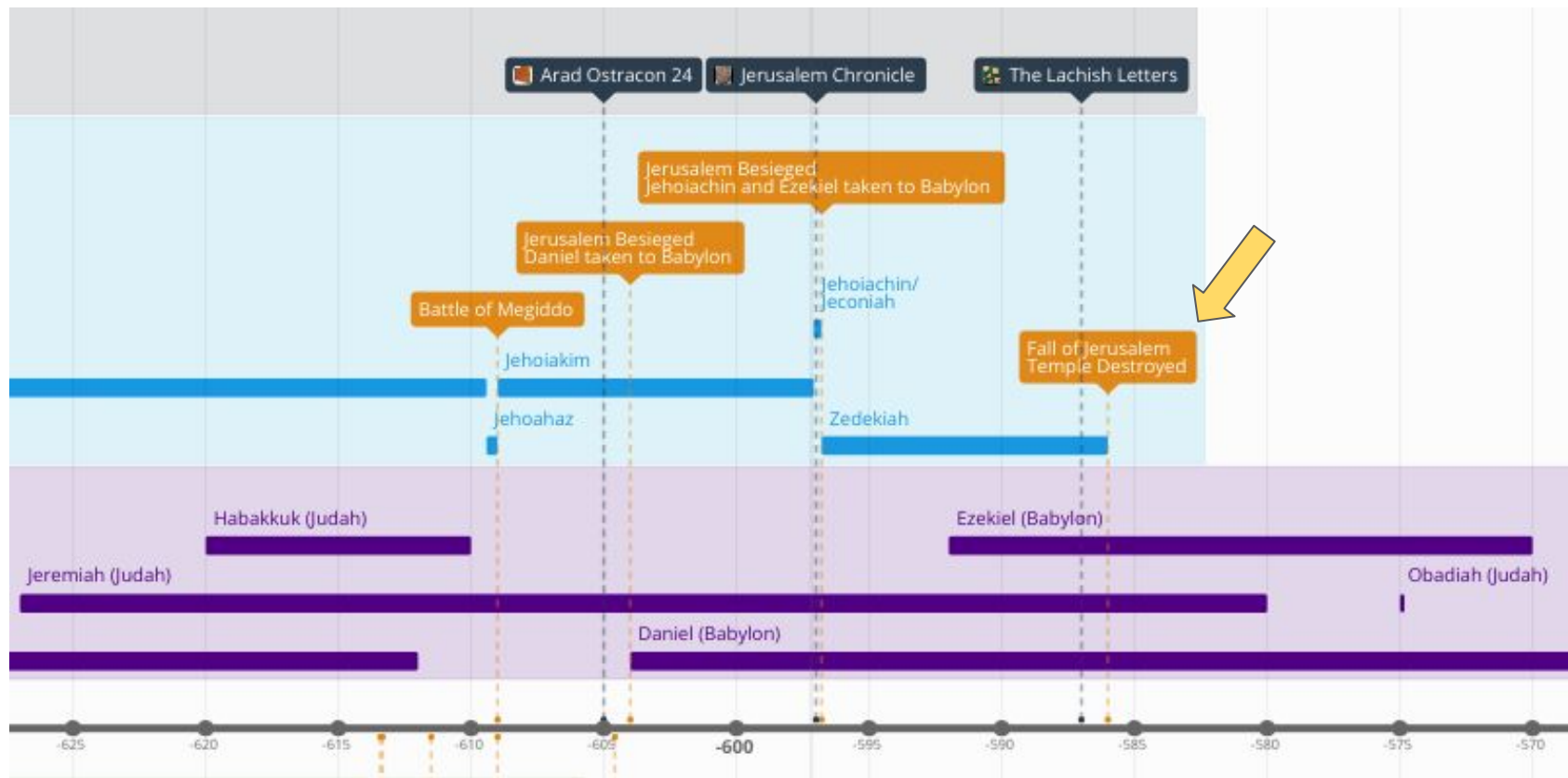


TIMELINE

2612 years ago ● 586 year BC



TIMELINE



OVERVIEW



LAMENTATIONS

DESIGN OF THE FIVE POEMS:

ACROSTIC - ALPHABET POEM	ORDERED & LINEAR STRUCTURE	VS	UNORDERED
1. S (-A) 4. T (-D) ...			UNORDERED
2. U (-B) 21. W (-S)			UNORDERED
3. Z (-G) 22. Y (-T)			UNORDERED



LAMENT POEMS IN THE BIBLE:

(SEE PSALMS 10, 63, 69, 74, 79)

- A FORM OF PROTEST
- A WAY TO PROCESS EMOTION
- A PLACE TO VOICE CONFUSION



LAMENT POEMS RESTORE A SACRED DIGNITY TO HUMAN SUFFERING

1 LADY ZION'S GRIEF & SHAME

LOOK, O LORD, ON MY DISTRESS!

JERUSALEM PERSONIFIED AS "THE DAUGHTER OF ZION"

THE CITY'S DESTRUCTION - THE DEATH OF A LOVED ONE

2 THE FALL OF JERUSALEM & GOD'S WRATH

DIVINE WRATH ≠ VOLATILE ANGER = GOD'S JUSTICE

GOD IS SLOW TO ANGER BUT WILL JUDGE HUMAN EVIL.

3 THE SUFFERING ONE

LANGUAGE DRAWN FROM:

- JOB'S LAMENT (43)
- LAMENT OF PSALMS (22, 69)

LORD, I CALL ON YOUR NAME!

SUFFERING SERVANT POEMS (ISAIAH 53)

"BECAUSE OF THE LORD'S COVENANT FAITHFULNESS, WE DO NOT PERISH. HIS MERCIES NEVER FAIL: THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING. HOW GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS, O GOD. SO I SAY TO MYSELF, 'THE LORD IS MY INHERITANCE, THEREFORE I WILL PUT MY HOPE IN HIM.'"

- 3:22-24

GOD'S JUDGMENT BECOMES THE SEEDBED OF HOPE

4 THE SIEGE OF JERUSALEM

THE PAST

THE SIEGE

5 COMMUNAL PRAYER FOR GOD'S MERCY

LAMENT ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

REMEMBER US, O LORD: LOOK ON OUR DISGRACE!

THE BOOK ENDS WITH A PARADOX:

O LORD, YOU REIGN AS KING FOREVER!

WHY DO YOU FORGET AND FORSAKE US? UNLESS YOU'VE TOTALLY REJECTED US...?

OVERVIEW



KEY THEMES

- Approaching God with Lament
- Hope for God's Justice & Mercy
- The Complexity of God's Wrath



Big Idea

As a memorial to the Israelites' pain and confusion following the destruction of Jerusalem, Lamentations shows how prayerful lament is a crucial part of our journey of faith in a broken world.

DESIGN

Structure

The structure of Lamentations is divided into five parts:

Chapter 1: Lament and Grief over Jerusalem (22 verses - AA)

Chapter 2: The Judgement and Fall of Jerusalem (22 verses - AA)

Chapter 3: Pivots to the Hope of God's Mercy (66 verses - AA)

Chapter 4: Terrors of the Besieged City and Hardship of Exile (22 verses - AA)

Chapter 5: Communal Prayer for God's Mercy and Restoration (22 verses - Not AA)

Who Wrote the Book of Lamentations?

Tradition holds it's Jeremiah but not explicitly stated

Context

Events around the fall of Jerusalem and exile to Babylon in 586 B.C.E.

Literary Style

Poetry

Alphabetic Acrostic (AA)

- Alphabetic poems
- Each verse begins with a new letter of Hebrew alphabet (22 letters)
- Chapters 1 through 4 are alphabetic acrostics, but Chapter 5 is not

Chiasm

- Literary device where words or concepts are repeated in reverse order
- Inverted mirror-like structure
- Sometimes called introverted parallelism
- Points to the middle

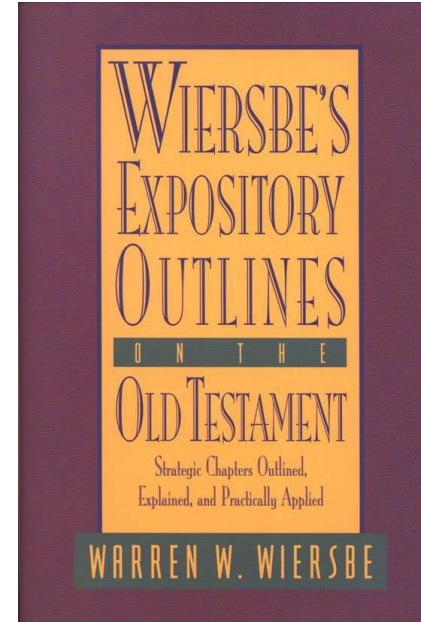
HIGHLIGHTS



COMMENTARY

FIVE IMPORTANT LESSONS ABOUT GOD AND HIS WILL

1. The Awfulness of God's Judgments (1:1–6)
2. The Righteousness of God's Wrath (1:18–22)
3. The Truthfulness of God's Word (2:17)
4. The Tenderness of God's Heart (1:12–16)
5. The Faithfulness of God's Mercy (3:18–36)



LAMENT

“...These human words of grief addressed to God have become part of God’s word to His people.”

LAMENT IN THE LARGER STORY OF THE BIBLE

- Other Lament Poems: Psalms 10, 63, 69, 74, 79
- Draws attention, including God’s, to the horrible things in the world that should not be tolerated
- A way of processing emotion
 - Emotional explosion
 - Venting anger, dismay, etc. caused by sin and violence
- Gives voice to our confusion about God’s character and promises
- Give a sacred dignity to human suffering

MAKE SPACE FOR LAMENT

- Call out the darkness
- HEALTHY way to process it WITH GOD

LAMENTATIONS 1 & 2

1: Grief, Shame, and Trauma Personified in Lady Zion

Chapters 1 and 2 each have **one verse per letter**, giving them a similar design, but they differ greatly in their themes. Chapter 1 focuses on the grief and shame of a figure called Lady Zion as the poet personifies the city of Jerusalem as a widow, also referred to as the daughter of Zion. She sits alone, bereaved of her loved ones, devastated, and with no one to comfort her. When Lady Zion speaks, she calls on the Lord to notice her fate. It's a **powerful metaphor**. Through this imagery, the poet shows that the city's destruction brought a new level of **psychological trauma** on the Israelites that can only be expressed as a funeral, as they mourn the death of a loved one.

2: The Fall of Jerusalem and God's Wrath

Chapter 2 focuses on the **fall of Jerusalem** and how it was a consequence of Israel's sin brought about by **God's wrath**, a key word in this poem. Now, it's important to remember that in the Bible, God's wrath is not spontaneous, volatile anger. The biblical poets and prophets use this word to talk about God's justice. **Israel entered a covenant agreement that they have been violating for centuries** through their worship of other gods and allowing injustice towards the poor. While God is slow to anger, he does still get angry at human evil and will eventually bring his justice in the form of punishment. In the case of Jerusalem, that meant allowing Babylon to conquer the city. Chapter 2 acknowledges that God's wrath was justified, but this doesn't keep the poet from **lamenting and asking God to once again show compassion**.

DESCRIPTIONS OF GOD

- Burning, fierce anger
- Without compassion
- Wrath
- Like an enemy
- Unrestrained destruction
- Destroyed
- Multiplied mourning and lamentation
- Did what He planned
- Accomplished His decree which he ordained

LAMENTS

- No comfort
- Betrayed
- Affliction
- No rest
- Grief
- Bitterness
- Suffering
- Exhaustion
- Sinning grievously
- Despised
- Precious belongings seized
- Groaning
- Pain
- Desolation
- Sickness
- Rejection
- Weeping
- Tears

LAMENTATIONS 3

3: Hope for Justice in the Midst of Grief

Chapter 3 **breaks the design pattern** by having **three verses per letter**, making it the longest poem in the book. The voice is that of a lonely, suffering man who speaks as a representative of the entire people of Israel. What's interesting is that this chapter is full of language drawn from other parts of the Old Testament, including the laments of Job (Job 3), important lament psalms (Ps. 22, 69), and even the suffering servant poems in Isaiah (Isa. 53). The poet **sees his hardship as a form of God's justice**, just as chapter 2 asserted. But, paradoxically, this gives the poet hope and leads him to offer the only optimistic words in the book.

“Because of the Lord’s covenant faithfulness, we do not perish. His mercies never fail. They are new every morning. How great is your faithfulness, O God. So I say to myself, ‘The Lord is my inheritance, Therefore I will put my hope in him.’” (Lam. 3:22-24)

If God is consistent enough to bring his justice on Israel's evil, then he will also be consistent with his covenant promises and not allow evil and sin to get the last word. For this poet, **God's judgment becomes the seedbed of hope.**

DARK TONE BEGINS TO CHANGE

Yet I call this to mind, and therefore I have HOPE.

-Lamentations 3:21

REFLECTION & REPENTANCE

The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the person who seeks him.

It is good to wait quietly for salvation from the LORD.

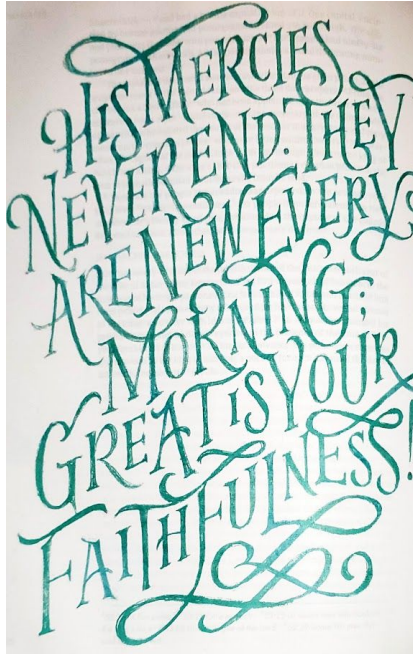
*Let us examine and probe our ways,
And turn back to the LORD.*

-Lamentations 3:25-26, 40

LAMENTATIONS 3

DESCRIPTIONS OF GOD

Wrath
Faithful love
Neverending mercies
Great faithfulness
Good
Disciplines
Causes suffering
Compassionate
Both adversity and good come
from Him
Angry
Without compassion
Hears my plea
Comes near
Says "Do not be afraid."
Champion
Redeems



LAMENTS

Seen affliction
Bitterness
Hardship
Darkness
Weighed down
Mocked
Laughingstock
Cower
Deprived of peace
Lost future
Lost hope
Depressed
Hope
Examine and probe our ways
Turn back to the Lord
Sin and rebel
Panic and pitfall
Devastation and destruction
Tears
Grief
Hunted by enemies
Slandered

*Because of the LORD'S faithful love we do not perish, for His mercies never end.
They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness!
I say, "The LORD is my portion, therefore I will put my hope in Him."*

- Lamentations 3:22-23

LAMENTATIONS 4 & 5

4: Contrasting Life Before and During the Babylonian Siege

Chapter 4 goes back to the same **acrostic** structure as chapters 1 and 2. It's a vivid and disturbing depiction of the two-year siege. The poem contrasts how great things were in the Jerusalem of the past with how terrible it was during the siege. Children once laughed in the streets; now they beg for food. The wealthy once ate lavish meals; now they look for whatever they can find in the dirt. The royal leaders were once full of splendor; now they are famished, dirty, and unrecognizable. Their anointed king from the line of David has now been captured and dragged away. **The poem's power comes from the shock of these contrasts, exploring the depth of the suffering Israel has brought on itself.**

5: A Communal Prayer for God's Mercy

The final poem is unique and completely **breaks the design pattern**. It's the same length as the previous acrostic poems in that there are 22 lines, but the **alphabetical order is gone**. It's as if the poet can't hold it together anymore and his grief has exploded back into chaos. The poem is a long communal prayer for God's mercy. Israel begs God not to ignore their pain or abandon them. The poem also offers a long list of all the different kinds of people who were devastated by Jerusalem's fall and asks God not to forget them. Here, we see how lament poems can be written on behalf of others to give expression to their pain. **Suffering in silence is not a virtue in this book. God's people are not asked to deny their emotions. Rather, they are to voice their protest, to vent, and to pour it all out before God.**

MAIN TAKEAWAYS

- Remember and bring honor to the suffering of the Jewish people.
- Make room in your life for lamenting with God.
- Trust and obey God's Word.
- Listen to God's warnings through reflection and repentance from sin.
- Trust in God's faithfulness and mercy.
- Choose hope even in the middle of grief and failure.

PORTIONS OF PSALM 32 THE JOY OF FORGIVENESS

My strength was drained.

*Then I acknowledged my sin to You
and did not conceal my iniquity.*

I said,

*"I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
And You forgave the guilt of my sin.*

When great floodwaters come,

You are my hiding place

You protect me from trouble.

You surround me with joyful shouts of deliverance.

—

*I will instruct you and
show you the way to go;*

With My eye on you,

I will give you counsel.

—

*The one who trusts in the LORD
will have faithful love surrounding him.*

*Be glad in the LORD and rejoice,
you righteous ones;*

*Shout for joy,
all you upright in heart.*

FURTHER STUDY



ASSOCIATED BIBLE PASSAGES

GOING DEEPER PASSAGES *From She Reads Truth Bible*

Lamentations 1: Lament over Jerusalem - **Psalm 109:14-15, Romans 3:19**

Lamentations 2: Judgement on Jerusalem - **Psalm 48: 1-3, Jeremiah 8:19-22**

Lamentations 3: Hope through God's Mercy - **Psalm 88: 3-7, Romans 8:18-25**

Lamentations 4: Terrors of the Besieged City - **Isaiah 40:2, Joel 2:1-2**

Lamentations 5: Prayer for Restoration - **Psalm 102:25-27, Matthew 11:29**

UNDERSTANDING LAMENTATIONS *From What the Bible is All About by Henrietta Mears*

"God's grace always shines above the clouds of sin (**see Romans 5:20**), and it will always shine in the heart that is trusting in God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who gives "to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair" (**Isaiah 61:3**)."

CONTEXTUAL/HISTORICAL PASSAGES *From This Presentation*

2 Kings 25 - Nebuchadnezzar's Siege of Jerusalem and Jerusalem Destroyed

2 Chronicles 36:11-21 - Judah's King Zedekiah and the Destruction of Jerusalem

The Book of Jeremiah

Deuteronomy 28:15-28 - Curses for Disobedience

OTHER LAMENT POEMS *From The Bible Project Guide for Lamentations*

Psalms 10, 63, 69, 74, 79

LAMENTATIONS 3 LANGUAGE *From The Bible Project Guide for Lamentations*

"What's interesting is that this chapter is full of language drawn from other parts of the Old Testament, including the laments of Job (Job 3), important lament psalms (**Ps. 22, 69**), and even the suffering servant poems in Isaiah (**Isa. 53**)."

ARTICLES & OTHER RESOURCES

Book of Lamentations introduction, as well as introductions to each of the chapters:

[https://www.sefaria.org/Lamentations.1.1?lang=en&p2=Steinsaltz Introductions to Tanakh%2C Lamentations%2C Book Introduction&lang2=en](https://www.sefaria.org/Lamentations.1.1?lang=en&p2=Steinsaltz%20Introductions%20to%20Tanakh%2C%20Lamentations%2C%20Book%20Introduction&lang2=en)

Interesting article:

[When Was the Book of Lamentations Written? - Chabad.org](#)

The Bible Project Website [Book of Lamentations | Guide with Key Information and Resources](#)

POSTER: <https://bibleproject.com/view-resource/233/PosterDownload.jpg>

VIDEO SUMMARY: [TheBibleProject_LamentationsVideoSummary_YouTube](#) or [TheBibleProject_DownloadVideo_Lamentations.mp4](#)

Joshua Tallent's TTB Website: [Through the Bible - Joshua Tallent](#)

Warren Wiersbe's Expository Outlines (Book)

What the Bible is All About (Book)

She Reads Truth Bible (CSB version)

ADDITIONAL PODCASTS/VIDEOS

BEMA PODCAST

Marty Solomon

[The BEMA Podcast 57: Lamentations — Lament and Hope](#)

YISRAEL LEVITT TEACHINGS

Messianic Jewish teacher and friend of Joshua Tallent's who passed away a few years ago.

[Book of Eichah \(Lamentations\) Study - Introduction | Beth Immanuel Messianic Synagogue](#)

[Book of Eichah \(Lamentations\) Study - Chapter 1, part 1 | Beth Immanuel Messianic Synagogue](#)

[Book of Eichah \(Lamentations\) Study - Chapter 1, part 2 | Beth Immanuel Messianic Synagogue](#)

[Book of Eichah \(Lamentations\) Study - Chapter 2, part 1 | Beth Immanuel Messianic Synagogue](#)

[Book of Eichah \(Lamentations\) Study - Chapter 2, part 2 | Beth Immanuel Messianic Synagogue](#)

<https://www.bethimmanuel.org/media/book-eichah-lamentations-study-chapter-3-part-1>

[Book of Eichah \(Lamentations\) Study - Chapter 3, part 2 | Beth Immanuel Messianic Synagogue](#)

[Megillat Eichah \(The Book of Lamentations\) Study - Chapter 3, part 3 | Beth Immanuel Messianic Synagogue](#)

[Megillat Eichah \(The Book of Lamentations\) Study - Chapter 4 - part 1 | Beth Immanuel Messianic Synagogue](#)

<https://www.bethimmanuel.org/media/megillat-eichah-book-lamentations-study-chapter-4-part-2>

[Megillat Eichah \(The Book of Lamentations\) Study - Chapter 5 - part 1 | Beth Immanuel Messianic Synagogue](#)

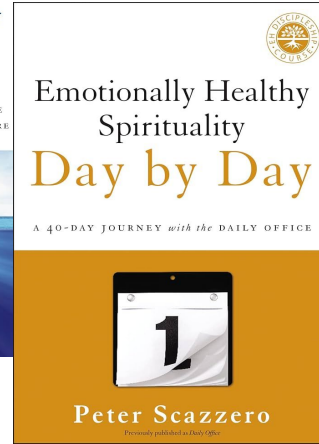
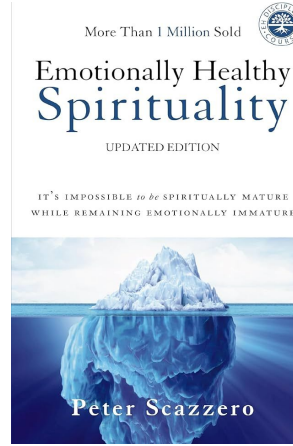
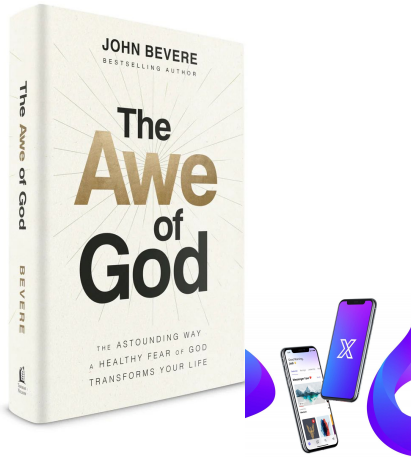
[Megillat Eichah \(The Book of Lamentations\) Study - Chapter 5 - part 2 | Beth Immanuel Messianic Synagogue](#)

BOOKS/DEVOTIONALS

BOOK: The Awe of God

APP: Messenger X

Lots of associated tools, including videos and a devotional



**Emotionally Healthy Spirituality &
Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Day by Day
A 40-Day Journey with The Daily Office**

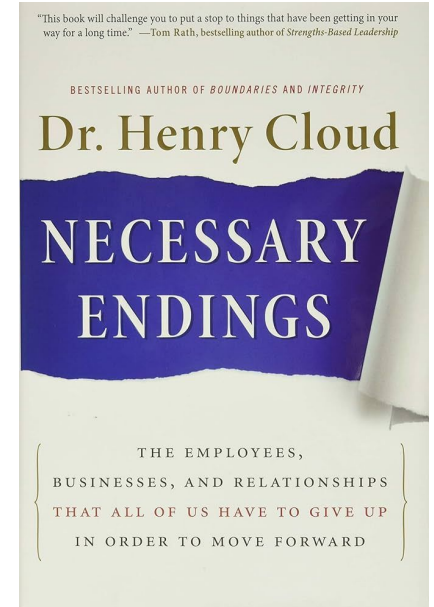
Chapter 5/Week 5:

Enlarge Your Soul Through Grief and Loss - Surrendering to Your Limits

Necessary Endings

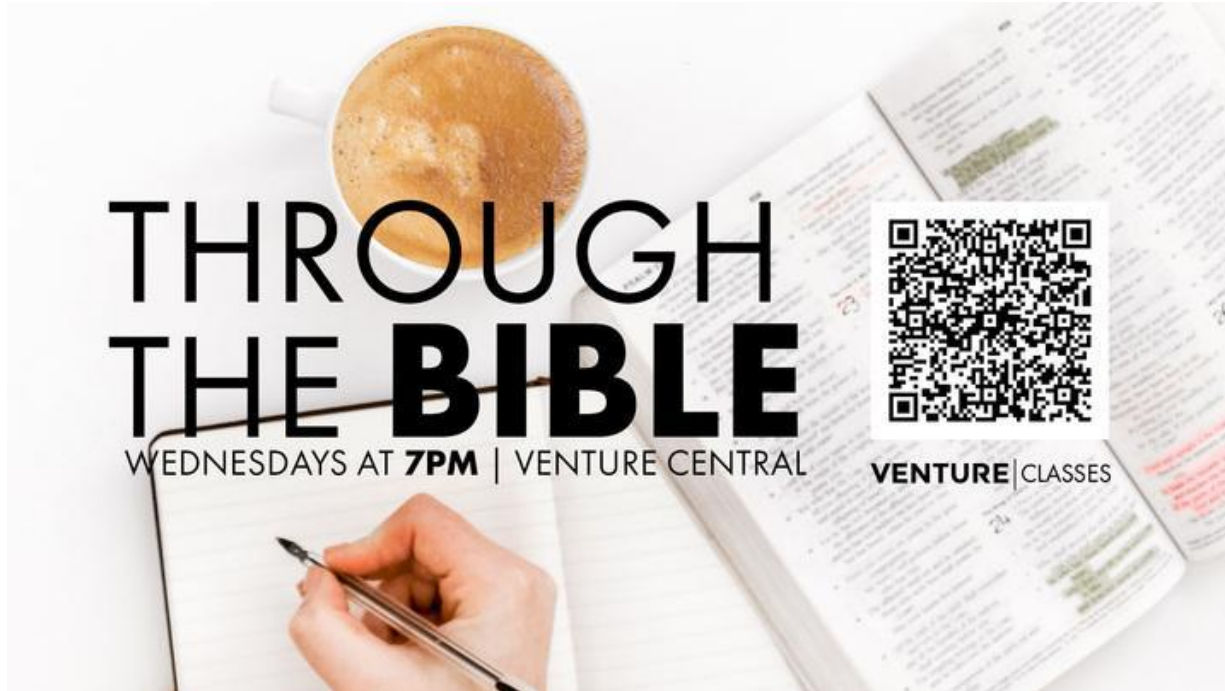
By Dr. Henry Cloud

*Chapter 12: Embrace the Grief:
The Importance of Metabolizing
Necessary Endings*





Invite a Friend to Join Us!



ourventurechurch/groups/through-the-bible