**Lamentations**

*Affliction Brought About by Sin*

*Lamentations 1*

Lowlights (versus Highlights)

* Children begged food from their mothers
  + They say to their mothers, Where *is* corn and wine? when they swooned as the wounded in the streets of the city, when their soul was poured out into their mothers’ bosom. (Lam 2:12)
* Young men and women were cut down by swords
  + The young and the old lie on the ground in the streets: my virgins and my young men are fallen by the sword; thou hast slain *them* in the day of thine anger; thou hast killed, *and* not pitied. (Lamentations 2:21)
* Mothers used their children for food (4:10)
  + The hands of the pitiful women have sodden their own children: they were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my people. (Lame 4:10)

Highlight

* Hope
  + 21 ¶ This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. 22 *It is of* the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. 23 *They are* new every morning: great *is* thy faithfulness. 24 The LORD *is* my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. (Lam 3:21-24)

Background

* There is a cave at the site of Golgotha that is called Jeremiah’s Grotto. From this cave, you have a tremendous view of the city of Jerusalem as Golgotha is actually the top of what was once called Mount Moriah. Tradition declares that Jeremiah sat in this cave when he wrote the book of Lamentations as he wept and cried over the desolation of the city. (Chuck Smith)
  + CS Lewis in his book, *The Problem of Pain*, wrote that God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is the megaphone to rouse a deaf world. He says that not only is it possible to find God when life is hard, but also that it in some sense is easier than when life is good.
* The weeping over Jerusalem is very similar to the Lord in his last week before his crucifixion.
  + O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not! (Matt 23:37)
* Chapter Breakdown
  + There are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet beginning with Alef (equivalent to our A) and ending with Tav (the equivalent to our T). Chapters 1,2 4 have 22 verses with each verse beginning with one of each of the letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Chapter 3 has 66 verses with a triad or triplet of verses for each of the 22 letters of the alphabet. Chapter 5 has 22 verses but does not follow this acrostic plan.

Overwhelming Grief (v 1)

* Full of People to Widowhood
* Great Among the Nations to Slaves

None to Comfort Her (v 2, 8, 19)

* Lovers Not to Be Found (v 2, 19)
* Abandonment (v 8)

No Rest (v 3)

No Joy (v 4)

No Freedom (v 5, 9)

* The Enemy Magnifies Himself (v 9)
* The Enemy Takes What They Want (v 10)

No Beauty (v 6, 9, 11)

* Filthy (v 9)
* Vile (v 11)

Everything is from the Lord (v 12 -18)

* The Comforter is Far from Me (v 16)
* The LORD is Righteous (v 18)

Cry Out to the LORD (v 20 – 22)

* Admit Rebellion (v 20)
* Leave Vengeance to Him (v 21-22)