

Grieving but grateful

Lament 1

Widow's grief

Chapter 1
His grief for a city that was great



'How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people! how is she become as a widow! she that was great among the nations, and princess among the provinces, how is she become tributary', Lam. 1. 1.

The widow and her **great loss**, vv. 1-11.
The widow and her **great lament**, vv. 12-17.
The widow and her **great loneliness**, vv. 18-22.

Key words:

'Sorrow', Lam. 1. 12, 18.
'Sigh', Lam. 1. 4, 11, 22.

Lament 2

Wrath of God

Chapter 2
His tears for a city facing God's anger



'How hath the Lord covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in his anger, and cast down from heaven unto the earth the beauty of Israel, and remembered not his footstool in the day of his anger', Lam. 2. 1

Mourning God's anger towards the city, her **sanctuary** and **security**, vv. 1-9.
Mourning the agony of the city, her **famine** and **families**, vv. 10-17.
Making an appeal to God for the city, her **heart** and **hands**, vv. 18-22.

Key words:

'anger', Lam. 2. 1, 3, 6, 21, 22.
'walls', Lam. 2. 7, 8, 18.

Lament 4

Worthless gold

Chapter 4
His lament for a city wrecked by sin.



'How is the gold become dim! how is the most fine gold changed! the stones of the sanctuary are poured out in the top of every street . . . Our persecutors are swifter than the eagles of the heaven: they pursued us upon the mountains', Lam. 4. 1, 19.

God's fury and the **carnage**, vv. 1-11.
God's fury and the **cause**, vv. 11-20.
God's fury and the **consequences**, vv. 21, 22.

Key words:

'Fury', Lam. 4. 11.
'Streets', Lam. 4. 1, 5, 8, 14, 18.

Lament 5

Weakness is great

Chapter 5
His prayer for a city needing restoration.



'Remember, O Lord, what is come upon us: consider, and behold our reproach . . . Turn thou us unto thee, O Lord, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old', Lam. 5. 1, 21.

The plight of the people's **devastation**, vv. 1-18.
A prayer for God's **restoration**, vv. 19-22.

Key words:

'Remember', Lam. 5. 1.
'Turn', Lam. 5. 21.

Chapter 1, 2 and 4 have twenty-two verses beginning with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Chapter 3 has three verses to each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Chapter 5 has twenty-two verses but not alphabetically arranged.
Large crowds visit the 'wailing wall' on Jewish holidays, when the destruction of the first and second temples are remembered, and mourners recite the book of Lamentations while seated on the ground.

Lament 3

'He shuttest out my prayer', Lam. 3. 8.

Waiting on God

'Thou hast heard my voice', Lam. 3. 56.

Jeremiah's grave condition but God's great compassion, **vv. 1-38**

Chapter 3 His grief for the nation personally.

Jeremiah's great confession before God and his confidence in God, **vv. 39-66**

'And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the Lord', Lam. 3. 18.

'This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope', Lam. 3. 21.

Great is thy faithfulness

'The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him', Lam. 3. 24.

'It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD', Lam. 3. 26.

'He putteth his mouth in the dust; if so be there may be hope', Lam. 3. 29.