

Lamentations #1

Chapter 1

- 1) Jeremiah wrote Lamentations as a poetic lament for what had happened to Israel after years of warnings, given by God through His prophets, including Jeremiah. What city in Israel did he specifically weep for? (Hint- He calls the city, "Zion")
- 2) What phrases in verse 2 do you think give the book its name?
- 3) "_____ has gone into _____ under affliction, and under harsh servitude; She dwells among the nations, but she has found no rest; all her pursuers have overtaken her in the midst of _____." "
- 4) Millions of Jews would come to Jerusalem (Zion), for the feasts several times a year. What was it like now at feast time according to verse 4?
- 5) After reading verse 5, why do you think this happened?
- 6) "Her little ones have gone away as captives before the adversary." Isn't that sad?
- 7) Did the leaders stay and bravely fight to the end?
- 8) Is homelessness something new?
- 9) How did Israel's adversaries react to the countries devastation?
 - a) They felt sorry for her
 - b) They helped her
 - c) They mocked her
- 10) "Jerusalem _____ greatly, therefore she has become an unclean thing. All who honored her _____ her because they have seen her nakedness; even she herself groans and turns away.
- 11) What does verse 8 say was the cause of her fall?
- 12) What will be the result if we don't consider the future?
- 13) Who was her comforter?
- 14) "See, O LORD, my affliction, for the enemy has magnified himself!" What reason does Jeremiah give here for God to come to the aid of Jerusalem?
- 15) The temple was a sanctuary for Jews only. What happened there?
- 16) What did the people who were left have to give up for food?
- 17) What argument does he use to plead for God's help in verse 11?
- 18) "Is it nothing to all you who pass this way? Look and see if there is any pain like my pain which was severely dealt out to me, which the LORD _____ on the day of His fierce anger."
- 19) Who sent a fire into their bones?
Who spread a net for their feet?
Who turned them back?
Who made them desolate?
Who gave them into the hands of his enemies?
- 20) Is there a time when God will stop pleading with us and will decide to discipline us to get our attention?
- 21) How did they get the juice out of grapes in the old wine press?
- 22) Read verses 16 & 17. Aren't these sad thoughts?
- 23) Although there was no comfort, what was Jeremiah's conclusion in verse 18?
- 24) During the great siege of the city by Nebuchadnezzar, what did most people spend their time doing?
- 25) "Oh, that Thou wouldst bring the day which Thou hast proclaimed, that they may become like me."
What is Jeremiah referring to here when he makes this statement about their enemies?
(see Jeremiah 50:29-32)
- 26) Does God punish those who hurt His people, even if He allowed them to do it because of the disobedience of His people?
- 25) If we continue to reject the instructions of the Lord, will it eventually catch up with us and cause devastation in our lives?

Chapter 2:1-3

- 1) "How the Lord has covered the daughter of Zion with a _____ in His _____."
- 2) What is he referring to here as God's footstool? (see I Chronicles 28:2)
- 3) Read verses 2 & 3. What phrase shows how the enemies were able to prevail?

Lamentations #2

Chapter 2:4-22

- 1) Read verses 2-4. According to verse 2, who is pouring out His *wrath* on Israel?
- 2) What does I Thessalonians say about us? Are we headed for the wrath of God?
- 3) What will happen to those who do not believe in Jesus according to John 3:36?
- 4) Read verse 5. Wouldn't it be sad if God became your enemy?
- 5) Read verses 6-8. Even though the Babylonians were the instruments, who ultimately was the one who destroyed the temple?
- 6) What do you think this phrase means: "Her king and her princes are among the nations;"?
- 7) Did God have prophets giving the people messages at this time?
- 8) Jeremiah expresses his feelings in verses 11 & 12 which, I think, also reflect God's feelings. What really seemed to bother him the most?
- 9) "For your _____ is as vast as the sea; who can heal you?"
- 10) What is the answer to that question?
- 11) Were they getting godly instruction from their Bible teachers (the prophets)?
- 12) This phrase was used by people to describe Jerusalem before it's destruction: "The perfection of _____, a joy to all the earth."
- 13) Did the enemies of Israel attribute their victory to the Lord?
- 14) Read verses 17- 22. How much of what happens to them here is prophesied in Deuteronomy 28:45-57?
- 15) Lamentations 2:19 & 20 are some of the saddest verses in the Bible. Isn't it amazing that this was prophesied so clearly in that Deuteronomy passage?
- 16) As you read verses 21 & 22, do you get the idea that the Israelites were allowed to peacefully surrender in the end?

Chapter 3:1-38

- 1) Jeremiah speaks of the things he was feeling in such a way that he sounds like Jesus who had to take all of the wrath for our sins. Read verses 1-18.
- 2) Which verse reminds you of the fact that it became dark during the crucifixion?
- 3) Which verse cannot be about Jesus? (see John 19:36)
- 4) What do verses 6-9 remind you of?
- 5) As you read verses 10-13, does it seem like God is directly against him?
- 6) Isn't it amazing to think that Jesus would endure such rejection to save us?
- 7) What does verse 14 remind you of? (Matthew 27:41&42)
- 8) Verses 17 and 18 seem so desperate and lonely. I can imagine these verses being the exact thoughts in the mind of Jesus just before He cries out, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" Has Jesus gone the feelings that you go through in times of desperation?
- 9) Look at the following verse from Hebrews: Heb 4:15-16 "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find _____ to _____ in time of _____." "
- 10) Can we be confident that Jesus understands what we are going through?
- 11) Read verses 19-26. Does that sound more positive?
- 12) Read verses 21-23 again. These are some of the most precious verses in Scripture. "This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed _____, _____, for His compassions _____ fail. They are new every morning; _____ is Thy _____." "
- 13) According to verse 26, what should you do when you feel you are in an overwhelming situation?
- 14) Why do you think verse 28 reminds me of Isaiah 53:5-7?
- 15) Does verse 30 remind you of Jesus?
- 16) According to verse 33, does God enjoy causing us grief and affliction?
- 17) Where does most of our suffering come from according to Jeremiah 2:19?
- 18) Does God allow both good and evil according to verse 38?

Lamentations #3

Chapter 3:39-44

- 1) Why do human beings have no right to complain to God about anything?
- 2) "Let us _____ and probe our ways, and let us _____ to the LORD."
- 3) Read Exodus 17:10-17. What does lifting up your hands in the Bible represent?
a) Anger b) Prayer c) Rebellion
- 4) Does reading verses 41-44 make it sound like their prayers were getting through?
- 5) Read Isaiah 59:1 & 2. What can cause God not to hear our prayers?
- 6) What did the people of Israel feel like according to verse 45?
- 7) After reading verses 46 & 47, do you feel like we make it easy on ourselves by sinning against God?
- 8) If you read verses 48-66, doesn't it start to remind you of the feelings of Jesus as he was tortured, killed and buried?
- 9) Look at Luke 19:41-51. Did Jesus ever weep over Jerusalem?
- 10) What things in verses 52-63 remind you of the suffering of Jesus?

- 11) Verse 54 says, "I am cut off." What does Daniel 9:26 prophesy would happen to the Messiah?
- 12) Jesus was a perfect person. Would you be a little hesitant to pray the words in verse 59?
- 13) Verses 61 & 62 speak of the *schemes* of the enemy. Who is scheming against us? (see Ephesians 6:11)
- 14) Do we have to be unaware of his *schemes*? (see II Corinthians 2:11)
- 15) What verse here reminds you of Matthew 27:23-25 (especially verse 25)?

Chapter 4

- 1) What verse or verses seem to refer to the following things?
a) People being sold as slaves.
b) The destruction of the city's buildings
c) The selfishness of parents in face of the starvation and thirst of their children?
- 2) People of royalty and riches used to wear purple. How are these people doing during the destruction of Israel?
- 3) What city is referred to for demonstrating how evil the women of Israel were?
- 4) Look at verse 7 and describe their appearance before the destruction.

- 5) Describe their appearance after their destruction.

- 6) Is it better to be killed in battle or die of starvation?
- 7) Describe the sad events of verse 10.
- 8) Was Jerusalem considered impregnable? Why did it fall?
- 9) Who or what scattered the Jews among the nations?
- 10) Verses 18-20 seem to refer to the incident where the king (the "Lord's anointed") tried to escape Jerusalem just as it was about to be captured. Read II Kings 25:3-7. What terrible price did Zedekiah pay for trying to escape?
- 11) Edom consisted of the descendants of Esau (Jacob's brother). They always hated the people of Israel. What did Jeremiah warn them about when he saw them rejoicing?
- 12) Did Jeremiah predict eternal exile for Israel?

Chapter 5

- 1) Jeremiah starts to appeal to God to notice how big a price Israel has paid. In verse 4, Jeremiah was shocked that Israelites had to pay for what 2 things?
- 2) Verses 5-10 describe the efforts of families, individuals and small groups to escape. Was it easy to escape this judgment?
- 3) What evil befell the women of Israel? (verse 11) How about the princes?
How about the elders? How about the young men?
- 4) Jeremiah sums the book up with this statement: "_____ to us, for we have _____!"
- 5) In which closing verse does Jeremiah acknowledge God's sovereignty?
- 6) What is his final request in verse 21 & 22?
- 7) Will sin bring satisfaction or destruction into your life?