

STUDY 1

*The City Weeping - God's Judgement*

LAMENTATIONS 1-2



Image sourced from [www.pafa.org](http://www.pafa.org)



Image sourced from [thejewishmuseum.org](http://thejewishmuseum.org)

Here is William Wetmore Story's sculpture titled 'Jerusalem in Her Desolation' and James Tissot's painting titled 'The Flight of the Prisoners'. What details stand out to you?

**Read Lamentations 1**

2. What words are used to describe the city of Jerusalem? (e.g 1:1 - like a widow, once great among the nations, deserted, was queen but now slave). See 1:2-3, 4, 7, 10, 12 etc

3. What words are used to describe the people of Jerusalem? (e.g 1:3, 5b, 6b, 11, etc)

**Read Lamentations 2**

4. Who has brought about this devastation? What has happened?

Verses	Who brought this devastation	What has happened
1: 5		
1:9-10		
1:12-13		
1:14		
1:15		
1:17		
2:1		
2:2		
2:3		
2:4		
2:5		
2:6		
2:7		
2:8		
2:16		
2:17		
2:21		

5. Historically the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem. Lamentations provides us with a bigger perspective. Why is this perspective significant?

6. What reasons does the poet give for this judgement of God? (See 1:5, 8-9, 14, 2:17).

7. How is this judgement fulfilling God's word?

**Read Deuteronomy**

**28:25-29**

**28:36-37**

**28:45-59**

What similarities can you see in Lamentations?

Does this judgement seem fair to you?

8. (Optional) *"Is this the city that was called the perfection of beauty, the joy of the whole earth?"* (Lamentations 2:15)

**Read Psalm 48.** What was Jerusalem like before this destruction?

Why does this destruction represent more than a city destroyed?

9. In Lamentations 1:12 & 1:18, the poet calls us as readers to *'Look around and see'* and to *'listen all you peoples, look on my suffering.'* We are invited in to see Jerusalem in her grieving. What do we learn about God's faithfulness and his judgement?

10. The people of Jerusalem had been warned about the results of rejecting God, in Deuteronomy 28, and throughout the prophets. Yet Lamentations says, *"she did not consider her future"* (1:9). We have been able to *'look and see'*, and we have the warning of God's judgement *"It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God"* (Hebrews 10:31). Having a glimpse of God's judgement from Lamentations, what does this mean for considering:

- a) your future?
- b) the future of the world?
- c) evangelism?
- d) the seriousness of sin?
- e) the faithfulness of God?

**Pray**



STUDY 2

# The Individual Weeping - God's Character

## LAMENTATIONS 3

*"I walked a mile with Pleasure;  
She chatted all the way;  
But left me none the wiser  
For all she had to say.*

*I walked a mile with Sorrow;  
And ne'er a word said she;  
But, oh! The things I learned from her,  
When Sorrow walked with me."*

Robert Browning Hamilton

1. What have you learned from any sorrow in your own life, or the sorrow you've seen in other people's lives?

### Read Lamentations 3:1-18

2. This lament is longer, spoken by a different perspective than the first two. It is a personal reflection on suffering.

What is the poet's affliction like?

3. What is surprising, or unexpected about his afflictions?

4. What is the tone by verse 18 of this lament?

### Read Lamentations 3:19- 39

5. By mentioning the LORD's name in verse 18, the poet changes his tone in this next section. What has he remembered?

6. What does he specifically dwell on about the LORD's character?  
List at least six things the poet says about the LORD in these verses.

7. What is the hope in amongst the deep sorrow?

8. In times of sorrow in our own lives, what can we learn from these verses?

9. Why is it important that these verses come with also remembering his personal affliction?  
How can this help us when we talk with others undergoing suffering?

**Read Lamentations 3:40-66**

10. What is the poet calling for his people to do in verses 40-47?

11. How is the tone of suffering in verses 53-66 different to the suffering mentioned in verses 1-18? Why do you think that is?

12. Throughout this lament, there are prophetic echoes of Jesus' sufferings. What are some similarities and differences you can see in Jesus' suffering and the poet's sufferings?

**13. Read James 5:7-11**

As Christians, how are we to live whilst suffering? How are these verses similar to Lamentations 3?

**Pray**

STUDY 3

*Leadership's Failure - God's Mercy*

**LAMENTATIONS 4**

1. Who is someone who has had a big influence on your life? What do you admire about them?

**Read Lamentations 4**

2. What similarities do you see with this chapter and the verses of Lamentations 1 & 2?

3. Do you find anything specifically distressing about this fourth lament?

4. In this lament, the poet refers to three leadership roles in the Israelite community - the Kings, the Prophets and the Priests.

What were they meant to do?

**King - Deuteronomy 17:18-19**

**Prophet - Deuteronomy 18:18-19**

**Priest - Malachi 2:7**

5. What does the poet say about them in Lamentations 4?

Verses	What does the Poet say about the Kings?
5	
7-8	
12	
20	

6. (Optional) **Read Jeremiah 36.** What were these kings like?

7. **Lamentations 4:13-16** refers to the prophets and the priests of Israel. What does it say about them? (Notice some of the sad irony in these verses).

Verses	What does the Poet say about the Priests & Prophets?	Any sad irony?
13		
14		
15		
16		

8. **Read Jeremiah 6:13-15 & Jeremiah 23:11&14-15.** What were many of the priests and prophets like? Why is this so abhorrent to the Lord?

9. The leadership of Judah had failed to point the people back in repentance to God, to lead by example, and to speak the words of God to the people. What do the people need now, to fix this failed leadership?

Read: **Jeremiah 23:5-8** (King)

Read: **Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19** (Prophet)

Read: **Psalms 110:4** (Priest)

Who are these promises ultimately referring to? And how is he different from those mentioned in Lamentations 4?

10. How do you see Jesus fulfilling these roles in his life? Can you think of any specific verses, or Bible passages?

11. In God's merciful kindness, He gave the Israelites leaders to teach, and point them to God. Sadly many of those leaders led the people away from God. In God's merciful kindness, He has given us Jesus, who will never lead us away from living for God, whom the writer of Hebrews describes as "*the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being*". As Christians, how do our lives show that we treat Jesus as:

Our King?

Our Prophet?

Our Priest?

**Pray**

STUDY 4

*The Poet Prays - God's Salvation*

**LAMENTATIONS 5**

1. What are some of your favourite 'big reveal' movies or books?  
(e.g The Sixth Sense; Agatha Christie book, etc)

Are you a 'skip to the end', or a 'I hate surprises, just tell me', or a 'I love to guess' person?

**Read Lamentations 5:1-18**

2. What is different about this lament?

3. Now that Zion has been destroyed, what are their lives like? Which description do you personally find the saddest?

4. How do verses 7 and 16 fit together?

5. Why is the poet praying this prayer, asking the LORD to remember, look and see (v.1)?

**Read Lamentations 5:19-22**

6. What is the poet asking for in this prayer?

7. After all the poet has said about the LORD's character, and affirming in Lamentations 4:22 that God will rescue Judah from exile, why is Lamentations 5:22 so surprising? Why do you think the poet has ended this lament, and the whole book of Lamentations this way?

After 70 years in exile, God did bring his people back to rebuild Jerusalem. But it was never rebuilt to its previous glory, and the Israelites were never truly free and victorious again, like they once were. The answer to the poet, is one he could not see. Ultimately, the answer is that the LORD, who reigns for ever, restores his people to himself through his son, Jesus.

**Read 1Peter 1:3-12**

8. Where, when and how does true restoration take place?

9. What is better about this inheritance, than the inheritance of the Promised Land?



10. The poet, who was writing prophetically, raised the question of God's anger and rejection, but he couldn't see the answer. What does this passage say about that?

11. Jesus is the way that God restored his people and continues to restore his people today. On the cross, God rejected and poured out his anger on his Son, so that we may be saved. Unlike the poet, we know the 'big reveal' ending.

**Read 1Peter 1:13-16**

As Christians, in light of all that God has done for us, how should we live?

12. What will that look like on a day to day basis?

13. How has studying Lamentations encouraged you in your understanding of:  
God's judgement?

God's character?

God's mercy?

God's salvation?

**Pray**

*Extra Notes*



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---