

*Christmas Week
Lamentations*

Quiet Time Guide

December 18, 2020 - January 22, 2021

Lamentations

The Book of Lamentations normally and naturally follows the prophecy of Jeremiah. In this little book the soul of the prophet is laid bare before us. These are the lamentations (weeping, wailing, crying, sobbing, moaning) of Jeremiah.

Dr. Alexander Whyte, one of the great expositors of the Word of God of days gone by, had said: "There is nothing like the Lamentations of Jeremiah in the whole world. There has been plenty of sorrow in every age, and in every land, but such another preacher and author, with such a heart for sorrow, has never again been born."

Jeremiah was the great exile's favorite prophet. Jeremiah began his ministry during the reign of Josiah. Both he and Josiah were young men, and they were evidently friends. It was Josiah who led the last revival in Judah. It was a revival in which a great many hearts were touched, but on the whole it proved to be largely a surface movement. Josiah met his untimely death in the battle at Megiddo.

Jeremiah continued his prophetic ministry during the reigns of the four wretched (evil, wicked) kings who followed Josiah: Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah, the last king of Judah. His message was a harsh message as he attempted to call his people and his nation back to God, but he was not able to prevent the downward course of Judah.

He witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem; and as he saw it burn, he sat down in the warm ashes, hot tears coursing down his cheeks. The Book of Lamentations is composed of five chapters, and each chapter is an elegy, almost a funeral dirge. These elegies are sad beyond description. In them we see Jeremiah as he stood over Jerusalem weeping. This book is filled with tears and sorrow. It is a hymn of heartbreak, a psalm of sadness, a symphony of sorrow, and a story of examining a person's heart and nation. Lamentations is the wailing wall of the Bible.

Lamentations moves us into the very heart of Jeremiah. He gave a message from God that actually broke his heart. He has been called the prophet of the broken heart. His was a life filled with sadness and pity.

This man, Jeremiah, had a sensitive heart. He was sincere. He was sympathetic. He was as tender as a mother. He had passion and he was authentic. He also gave the strongest and harshest message in the Bible. He announced the destruction of Jerusalem, and he pronounced judgment, counseling the people to surrender to Nebuchadnezzar. His message did nothing but get him into all kinds of trouble.

Jeremiah should remind us of another Man who sat weeping over Jerusalem. The only difference is that Jerusalem was in ruins and the temple already burned as Jeremiah gazed upon the debris. Jesus wept over the same city about six centuries later because of what was going to happen to her. To Jeremiah the destruction of Jerusalem was a matter of history. To Jesus the destruction of Jerusalem was a matter of prophecy.

The key verse in the Book of Lamentations explains the reason Jerusalem lay in ruin: "The LORD is in the right, for I have rebelled against his word; but hear, all you peoples, and see my suffering; my young women and my young men have gone into captivity." (Lam. 1:18 (ESV)).

Quiet Time Text

<u>End of Week</u>	<u>Scripture Reading</u>
Dec 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 1:1-7
<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Scripture Reading</u>
Dec 21	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 1:8-13
Dec 22	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Reading - Luke 1:5-17
Dec 23	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Reading - Luke 1:26-38
Dec 24	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Reading - Luke 1:45-55
Dec 25	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Reading - Luke 2:1-21
<u>Week 2</u>	<u>Scripture Reading</u>
Dec 28	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 1:14-22
Dec 29	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 2:1-7
Dec 30	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 2:8-14
Dec 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 2:15-22
Jan 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 3:1-9
<u>Week 3</u>	<u>Scripture Reading</u>
Jan 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 3:10-18
Jan 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 3:19-25
Jan 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 3:26-33
Jan 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 3:34-42
Jan 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 3:43-51
<u>Week 4</u>	<u>Scripture Reading</u>
Jan 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 3:52-57
Jan 12	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 3:58-66
Jan 13	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 4:1-5
Jan 14	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 4:6-11
Jan 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 4:12-17
<u>Week 5</u>	<u>Scripture Reading</u>
Jan 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 4:18-22
Jan 19	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 5:1-5
Jan 20	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 5:6-12
Jan 21	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 5:13-18
Jan 22	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 5:19-22