



Understanding the Book of Lamentations: Comments and Thoughts. (*outlines*)

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Author of Lamentations: Jeremiah

Introduction

Introduction to Jeremiah

A Priest (Jeremiah 1:1)

The two key events in the life of Jeremiah

Birthplace: Anathoth

Jeremiah served during the reign of these kings and governor

(See image on following page)

Jeremiah's Family

Background (Jeremiah 1:2-3)

Kings & Prophets

Calling (Jeremiah 1:9-10)

Jewish Legends

Message

Speak against

Three central themes of preaching

Persecution

Persecution from His Family (Jeremiah 11:18-19,21; 12:7-11)

Persecution from The People (18:18-21)

Persecution from Pashur (20:1-3)

Persecution from Priests and Princes (26:7-16, 24)

Persecution from Captains and Princes (37:11-21)

Persecution from Shepherds – Princes / officials (38:1-6)

Discouragement

Useless Preaching (8:21; 9:2)

In Perplexity (12:1-3)

Jeremiah, Painful Opposition (15:10-21)

Put to Torture (20:7-18)

The Accumulation of Sufferings (Lamentations 3:1-33)

A note on Baruch (Jeremiah 36)

Two Choices

Jeremiah's Choice (39:10-14; 40:1-6)

The Choice of the People

Chronology of Jeremiah

PERIODS OF PROPHETIC MINISTRY



Jeremiah prophesied from the 13th year of Josiah (627 BC) past the fall of Judah (586 BC) to about 580 BC.

His ministry spanned 4 decades and the reigns of 5 kings of Judah.

The Fall of Jerusalem 586 BCE

Jeremiah 52:1-34, 2 Kings 24:10-25:7.

Northern Kingdom

Fall of Samaria 722 BCE

Deportations

The First Deportation (732 BCE)

The Second Deportation (722 BCE)

Siege of Jerusalem 587 BCE

Jeremiah 52

The Fall of Judah – 2 Kings 24:20 – 25:7

Judgement

Summary

Next week Tisha B'Av



The Ninth of Av

תְּשֻׁעָה בְּאָב

Tisha B'Av the traditional day of mourning for the destruction of the Temples in Jerusalem.

“On the Ninth of Av it was decreed on our fathers, that they would not enter the Promised Land [Numbers 14], the Temple was destroyed [both] the first time and the second time, Beitar (the stronghold of the Bar Kochba rebellion) was captured, and the city (of Jerusalem) was ploughed under.”
(Talmud Taanit 26b)

Historical Background

The Temples

Tragedies

Hebrew Year	Common Year	Event according to Talmud or history
2448	1312	Spies return with evil reports of the Land of Israel. It was decreed by God that the Children of Israel, after the Exodus from Egypt, should not enter the Promised Land; Numbers 14; the point of no return at Kadesh Barnea.
3340 (425)	586 (some Jewish sources say 425)	Destruction of First Temple by the Babylonians, under Nebuchadnezzar ¹ . About 100,000 Jews killed during invasion. Exile of remaining tribes in southern kingdom to Babylon and Persia.
3830	70	Destruction of Second Temple by Romans, under Titus. Over 2,500,000 Jews die as a result of war, famine and disease. Over 1,000,000 Jews exiled to all parts of the Roman Empire. Over 100,000 Jews sold as slaves by Romans. Jews killed and tortured in gladiatorial "games" and pagan celebrations.

¹ *In the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month ...came Nebuzaradan ... and he burnt the house of the LORD...* - 2 Kings 25:8-9, “How then are these dates to be reconciled? On the seventh the heathens entered the Temple and ate therein and desecrated it throughout the seventh and eighth and towards dusk of the ninth they set fire to it and it continued to burn the whole of that day..... How will the Rabbis then [explain the choice of the 9th as the date]? The beginning of any misfortune [when the fire was set] is of greater moment.” Ta’anit 29a

3892	132	Bar Kochba revolt crushed , Beitar destroyed - over 100,00 killed.
3893	133	Tereutius Rufus² ploughs site of Temple. As a consequence 136 C.E. Roman emperor Hadrian established a heathen temple on the site of the Solomonic Temple and rebuilt Jerusalem as a pagan city (Aelia Capitolina). Jews were then forbidden to enter the Holy City.
4855	1095	First Crusade declared by Pope Urban II. 10,000 Jews killed in first month of Crusade. Crusades bring death and destruction to thousands of Jews, totally obliterate many communities in Rhineland and France.
5050	1290	Expulsion of Jews from England by King Edward I, accompanied by pogroms and confiscation of books and property.
5066	1306	The Jews were expelled from France.
5252	1492	Inquisition in Spain and Portugal culminates in the expulsion of the Jews from the Iberian Peninsula. Families separated, many die by drowning, massive loss of property.
5315	1555	The first European Ghetto established in Rome. Pope Paul IV moves all the Jews into a foul smelling area near the Tiber River. The Jews were forced to pay for the wall that was built around the ghetto.
5408	1648	Three thousand Jews perished in Konstantynow in what were known as the Chmielnicki (Sh'mielnitski) massacres
5642	1882	The Ottoman government, which then controlled the Land, barred immigration of Russian and Rumanian Jews and also banned the sale of land in Palestine to Jews.
5674	1914	Britain and Russia declare war on Germany. First World War begins. First World War issues unresolved, ultimately causing Second World War and Holocaust. Over 400 pogroms immediately following WW I in Hungary, Ukraine, Poland and Russia
5702	1942	Deportations from Warsaw Ghetto to the Treblinka concentration camp began.
5765	2005	The Israeli disengagement from Gaza starts in the Gaza Strip, expelling 8000 Jews who lived in Gush Katif.

Mourning Rites

The following rules are observed on the fast of Tisha B'Av

² Josephus War of the Jews 7:2 (31). Footnote on Terentius Rufus (Quintus Tineius Rufus become consul in 127CE): note the word play on the name is the same person whom the Talmud calls Tur'nus Rufus; or "Tyrannus Rufus" (Rufus the Evil) of whom it is said, that "he ploughed up Zion as a field, and made Jerusalem become as heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest;" which was long before foretold by the prophet Micah 3:12, and quoted from him in the prophecies of Jeremiah 26:18. [It is said that he ordered the execution of Rabbi Akiva in Caesarea. [Midrash Shocher Tov (Midrash Mishlei, on Proverbs 9:2), Jerusalem 1968]

Liturgy and Synagogue Ceremony

In Modern Israel

Reform Judaism and the Ninth of Av

An example of acrostic pattern Lamentations

Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 4 are acrostic

1, 2 & 4 in a single pattern and 3 in a triplicate form where each letter has three verses

א (Alef) 1 Alas! The city once full of people
now sits all alone!
The prominent lady among the nations
has become a widow!
The princess who once ruled the provinces
has become a forced laborer!

ב (Bet) 2 Bitterly she weeps at night;
tears stream down her cheeks.
She has no one to comfort her
among all her lovers.
All her friends have betrayed her;
they have become her enemies.

ג (Gimel) 3 Gone into exile Judah has,
under affliction and harsh oppression.
She lives among the nations;
she has found no resting place.
All who pursued her overtook her
in narrow straits.

Should we fast?

We have a new Temple

Essential

Three Generations

Lamentations 5:21

Hashivenu, Adonai elecha	Cause us to return, Lord to you
Vaneshuva	and we shall all return
Chadash yameinu k'kedem	renew our days as of old.

THE BOOK OF LAMENTATIONS

אֵיכָה “EICHA”

Introduction

- A. The title
- B. The author
- C. The date
- D. The place in the canon
- E. The theology of Lamentations
- F. The Contribution of Lamentations
- G. The theme of Lamentations
- H. The style of Lamentations

1. The Destruction and Desolation of Jerusalem, Chapter 1

- A. The Lamentation of Jeremiah 1:1 -11
- B. The Lamentation of Jerusalem 1:12-22
- C. Summary of chapter 1

2. The Anger of the LORD upon Jerusalem, Chapter 2

- A. The indignation of the LORD 2:1-10
- B. The state of Grief 2:11-19
- C. The supplication of Jerusalem 2:20-22
- D. Summary of chapter 2

3. The Lamentation & Prayer of Jeremiah, Chapter 3

- A. The grief and despair of Jeremiah 3:1-18
- B. God’s faithfulness and compassion is the basis of hope 3:19-39
- C. Prayer and confession of Sin 3:40-54
- D. The comfort of Jeremiah 3:55-66
- E. Summary of chapter 3

4. The Description of the siege of Jerusalem, Chapter 4

- A. The conditions during the siege 4:1-10
- B. The cause of judgment 4:11-16
- C. The fall of hope 4:17-20
- D. The judgment upon Edom 4:21-22
- E. Summary of chapter 4

5. The Prayer of Jeremiah 5:1-22

- A. The prophet’s sorrow 5:1-18
- B. The prayer for restoration 5:19-22
- C. Summary of chapter 5

Conclusion to the Book of Lamentations

Alef	Bet & vet	Gimel	Dalet	He	Vav [O]	Zayin	Chet	Tet	Yod	Kaf & chaf/sofit
א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט	י	כ - ך
Lamed	Mem / sofit	Nun / sofit	Samech	Ayin	Peh & feh/sofit	Tsadi / sofit	Qof	Resh	Shin & sin	Tav
ל	מ - ם	נ - ן	ס	ע	פ - ף	צ - ץ	ק	ר	ש	ת

Chapter 1 – Acrostic Pattern

Verse 1,	Alef	-	אֵיכָה	-	eicha	-	“how”, “alas”
Verse 2,	Bet	-	בָּכוּ	-	bacu	-	“weeps”
Verse 3,	Gimel	-	גָּלְתָּ	-	galta	-	“into captivity”
Verse 4,	Dalet	-	דַּרְכֵי	-	dareche	-	“the ways of”
Verse 5,	He	-	הָיוּ	-	hayu	-	“they were” or “they became”
Verse 6,	Vav	-	וַיֵּצֵא	-	vayetze	-	“and it is departed”
Verse 7,	Zayin	-	זָכְרָהּ	-	tzach’rah	-	“she remembered”
Verse 8,	Chet	-	חָטְאָהּ	-	chate’ah	-	“sinned”
Verse 9,	Tet	-	טִמְאַתָּהּ	-	tum’atah	-	“her filthiness”
Verse 10,	Yud	-	יָדוֹ	-	yado	-	“his hand”
Verse 11,	Kaf	-	כָּל־עַמָּהּ	-	kol amah	-	“All her people”
Verse 12,	Lamed	-	לֹא	-	lo	-	“nothing”
Verse 13,	Mem	-	מִמְרֹם	-	mimmarom	-	“from on high”
Verse 14,	Nun	-	נִשְׁקָד	-	nish’qad	-	“is bound”
Verse 15,	Samech	-	סִלַּח	-	silah	-	“to be set at nought”
Verse 16,	Ayin	-	עַל	-	all	-	“upon”
Verse 17,	Pe	-	פָּרְשָׁהּ	-	persshah	-	“spread forth”
Verse 18,	Tzadi	-	צַדִּיק	-	tzadik	-	“righteous one”
Verse 19,	Qof	-	קָרָאתִי	-	qarati	-	“I called”
Verse 20,	Resh	-	רְאֵה	-	r’eh	-	“behold” or “see”
Verse 21,	Shin	-	שָׁמְעוּ	-	sham’u	-	“they have heard”
Verse 22,	Tav	-	תָּבֵא	-	tavo	-	“let it come”

Parallels in Lamentations & Deuteronomy 28.

Lamentations		Deuteronomy 28	
1:5	the multitude of her transgressions	28:15-68	Cursed shall you be...
1:5a	Her foes have become the head	28:44	He shall be the head, and you shall be the tail.
1:5c	her children have gone away, captives before the foe.	28:32a	Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people,
1:6c	they fled without strength before the pursuer.	28:25b	flee seven ways before them.
1:14	“My transgressions were bound into a yoke; ...	28:48	And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you.
1:18c	my young women and my young men have gone into captivity.	28:41	You shall father sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours, for they shall go into captivity.
2:9b	the law is no more, and her prophets find no vision from the LORD.	28:36b	And there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone.
2:15a	All who pass along the way clap their hands at you	28:37	And you shall become a horror, a proverb, and a byword among all the peoples where the LORD will lead you away
2:20b	Should women eat the fruit of their womb,	28:53-57	And you shall eat the fruit of your womb,...
2:21a	In the dust of the streets lie the young and the old	28:50b	... shall not respect the old or show mercy to the young.
3:2	he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light;	28:29a	and you shall grope at noonday, as the blind grope in darkness
3:45	You have made us scum and garbage among the peoples.	28:37a	And you shall become a horror,
4:10a	The hands of compassionate women have boiled their own children	28:56-57	...the most tender and refined woman among you, her afterbirth that comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears, because lacking everything she will eat them secretly,
4:14	They wandered, blind, through the streets; they were so defiled with blood that no one was able to touch their garments.	28:28-29	The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness ... and there shall be no one to help you.
4:15	The people said among the nations, “They shall stay with us no longer.”	28:65a	And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot
4:16	The LORD himself has scattered them	28:64-65	“And the LORD will scatter you among all peoples...”
4:19	Our pursuers were swifter than the eagles in the heavens;	28:49	he LORD will bring a nation against you from far away, from the end of the earth, swooping down like the eagle, ...
5:2b	our homes (<i>turned over</i>) to foreigners	28:30b	You shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it.
5:5b	we are given no rest.	28:65a	And among these nations you shall find no respite....
5:10b	... the burning heat of famine	28:16; 28:48	and cursed shall you be in the field....; and lacking everything.
5:11a	Women are raped in Zion.	28:30	You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall ravish her....
5:12b	no respect is shown to the elders	28:50b	no respect (<i>for</i>) the old or show mercy to the young....
5:18	jackals (<i>foxes</i>) prowl over it (<i>Mount Zion</i>)	28:26	And your dead body shall be food for all birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten them away.

Lamentations 1-2

1. The Destruction and Desolation of Jerusalem, Chapter 1

A. The Lamentation of Jeremiah 1:1-11

B. The Lamentation of Jerusalem 1:12-22

1. The Affliction by God - 1:12-15

2. The Confession of Jerusalem - 1:16-19

3. The Plea of Jerusalem - 1:20-22

C. Summary of chapter 1

2. The Anger of the LORD upon Jerusalem, Chapter 2

A. The indignation of the LORD 2:1-10

1. What God Has Done - 2:1-8

2. The Results of What God Has Done - 2:9-10

B. The state of Grief 2:11-19

1. The Famine - 2:11-13

2. The False Prophets - 2:14

3. The Mockery of the Enemy - 2:15-16

4. The Decree of God - 2:17

5. The Lamentation of Jerusalem - 2:18-19

C. The supplication of Jerusalem 2:20-22

D. Summary of chapter 2

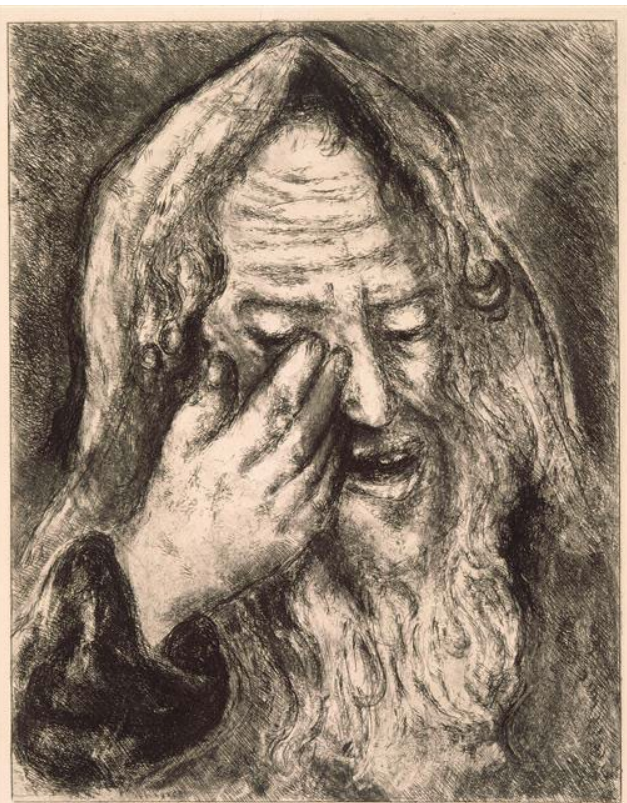
Parallels in Lamentations 1-2 & Deuteronomy 28

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2:9b	the law is no more, and her prophets find no vision ...	28:36b	And there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone.
2:15a	All who pass along the way clap their hands at you	28:37	And you shall become a horror, a proverb, and a byword among all the peoples
2:20b	Should women eat the fruit of their womb,	28:53-57	And you shall eat the fruit of your womb,....
2:21a	In the dust of the streets lie the young and the old	28:50b	... shall not respect the old or show mercy to the young.

Marc Chagall: Lamentations Of Jeremiah

(Lamentations 2:1-5)

How the Lord in His anger has set the daughter of Zion under a cloud! He has cast down from



heaven to earth the splendour of Israel; He has not remembered his footstool in the day of his anger. The Lord has swallowed up without mercy all the habitations of Jacob; in His wrath He has broken down the strongholds of the daughter of Judah; He has brought down to the ground in dishonour the kingdom and its rulers. He has cut down in fierce anger all the might of Israel; He has withdrawn from them His right hand in the face of the enemy; He has burned like a flaming fire in Jacob, consuming all around. He has bent his bow like an enemy, with His right hand set like a foe; and He has killed all who were delightful in our eyes in the tent of the daughter of Zion; He has poured out His fury like fire. The Lord has become like an enemy; He has swallowed up Israel; He has swallowed up all its palaces; He has laid in ruins its strongholds, and He has multiplied in the daughter of Judah mourning and lamentation.

Chapter 2 – Acrostic Pattern

Verse 1,	Alef	-	אֵיכָה	-	eicha	-	“how” or “alas”
Verse 2,	Bet	-	בִּלַּע	-	bila	-	“swallowed” or “devoured”
Verse 3,	Gimel	-	גָּדַע	-	gala	-	“cut off” or “to fell”
Verse 4,	Dalet	-	דָּרַךְ	-	darach	-	“bend”
Verse 5,	He	-	הָיָה	-	hayah	-	“has become”
Verse 6,	Vav	-	וַיַּחַמְסוּ	-	vayachmos	-	“and He violently”, “broken down”
Verse 7,	Zayin	-	זָנַח	-	tzanach	-	“cast off” or “rejected”
Verse 8,	Chet	-	חָשַׁב	-	chashav	-	“purposed” or “determined”
Verse 9,	Tet	-	טָבְעוּ	-	tav’u	-	“they have sunk”
Verse 10,	Yud	-	יָשְׁבוּ	-	yeshuv	-	“they sit”
Verse 11,	Kaf	-	כָּלוּ	-	kalu	-	“they fail”
Verse 12,	Lamed	-	לְאִמּוֹתָם	-	l’imotam	-	“to their mothers”
Verse 13,	Mem	-	מָה	-	mah	-	“what”
Verse 14,	Nun	-	נְבִיאֶיךָ	-	n’viayich	-	“your prophets”
Verse 15,	Samech	-	סָפְקוּ	-	saphku	-	“they clap”
Verse 16,	Pe	-	פָּצוּ	-	patsu	-	“they opened” or “they rend”
Verse 17,	Ayin	-	עָשָׂה	-	ashah	-	“he has done”
Verse 18,	Tzadi	-	צָעַק	-	tsa’ak	-	“cried”
Verse 19,	Qof	-	קוּמִי	-	qumi	-	“arise”
Verse 20,	Resh	-	רְאֵה	-	r’eh	-	“behold” or “see”
Verse 21,	Shin	-	שָׁכְבוּ	-	shach’vu	-	“they lie” “lie down”
Verse 22,	Tav	-	תִּקְרָא	-	tik’ra	-	“you called” or “you summoned”

Lamentations 3

3. The Lamentation & Prayer of Jeremiah, Chapter 3

A. The grief and despair of Jeremiah 3:1-18

B. God's faithfulness and compassion is the basis of hope 3:19-39

C. Prayer and confession of Sin 3:40-54

D. The comfort of Jeremiah 3:55-66

E. Summary of chapter 3

Parallels in Lamentations 3-4 & Deuteronomy 28

Lamentations		Deuteronomy 28	
3:2	he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light;	28:29a	and you shall grope at noonday, as the blind grope in darkness
3:45	You have made us scum and garbage among the peoples.	28:37a	And you shall become a horror,
4:10a	The hands of compassionate women have boiled their own children	28:56 - 57	...the most tender and refined woman among you, her afterbirth that comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears, because lacking everything she will eat them secretly,
4:14	They wandered, blind, through the streets; ...	28:28 - 29	The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness ... and there shall be no one to help you.
4:15	The people said among the nations, "They shall stay with us no longer."	28:65a	And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot
4:16	The LORD himself has scattered them	28:64 - 65	"And the LORD will scatter you among all peoples..."
4:19	Our pursuers were swifter than the eagles in the heavens;	28:49	he LORD will bring a nation against you from far away, from the end of the earth, swooping down like the eagle, ...

Parallels in Lamentations, 2 Kings 25 & Jeremiah

<i>Parallels</i>	Lamentations	2 Kings 25	Jeremiah
Siege of Jerusalem	2:20-22; 3:5, 7	1-2	39:1-3; 52:4-5
Famine in the city	1:11, 19; 2:11-12; 2:19-20; 4:4-5, 9-10; 5:9-10	3	37:21; 38:9; 52:6
Flight of the army & the king	1:3, 6; 2:2; 4:19-20	4-7	39:4-7; 52:8-11
Burning of the palace, Temple, & city	2:3-5; 4:11; 5:18	8-9	39:8; 52:13
Breaching of the city walls	2:7-9	10	33:4-5; 52:7
Exile of the populace	1:1, 4-5, 18; 2:9, 14; 3:2, 19; 4:22; 5:2	11-12	28:3-4, 14; 39:9-10
Looting of the Temple	1:10; 2:6-7	13-15	51:51
Execution of the leaders	1:15; 2:2, 20	18-21	39:6
Vassal status of Judah	1:1; 5:8-9	22-25	40:9
Collapse of the expected foreign help	4:17; 5:6	<u>24:7</u>	27:1-11; 37:5-10

Acrostic Pattern in Chapter 3

Verse	Letter	Word	Transliteration	Meaning
Verse 1,	Aleph	אני	ani	“I”
Verse 2,	Aleph	אותי	oti	“me”
Verse 3,	Aleph	אך	ach	“surely”
Verse 4,	Beth	בילה	bilah	“it is worn out”
Verse 5,	Beth	בנה	banah	“he built”
Verse 6,	Beth	במחשכים	b'mach'shakim	“in dark places”
Verse 7,	Gimel	גדר	gadar	“he walled, he fenced about”
Verse 8,	Gimel	גם	gam	“also”
Verse 9,	Gimel	גדר	gadar	“he walled, he fenced about”
Verse 10,	Dalet	דב	dov	“bear”
Verse 11,	Dalet	דרכי	d'rachai	“my ways”
Verse 12,	Dalet	דרד	darach	“he bent”
Verse 13,	He	הביא	hevi	“he drove”, “he caused”
Verse 14,	He	הייתי	hayiti	“I have become”
Verse 15,	He	השביעני	hish'biani	“he has filled me”
Verse 16,	Vav	ויגרס	vayagres	“he has grind down”
Verse 17,	Vav	ותזנח	vatitz'nach	“and you have removed.”
Verse 18,	Vav	ואמר	va'omar	“and I said”
Verse 19,	Zayin	זכר	tz'char	“remember”
Verse 20,	Zayin	זכור	tzachor	“remembrance”
Verse 21,	Zayin	זאת	tzot	“this”
Verse 22,	Chet	חסדך	chasde'	“steadfast love”, “loyal love”
Verse 23,	Chet	חדשים	chadashim	“new things”, “new ones”
Verse 24,	Chet	חלקי	chel'ki	“my portion”
Verse 25,	Tet	טוב	tov	“good”
Verse 26,	Tet	טוב	tov	“good”
Verse 27,	Tet	טוב	tov	“good”
Verse 28,	Yud	ישב	yeshev	“he sits”
Verse 29,	Yud	יתן	yiten	“let him put”, “let him give”
Verse 30,	Yud	יתן	yiten	“let him put”, “let him give”
Verse 31,	Kaf	כי	ki	“that”, “for”, “when”
Verse 32,	Kaf	כי	ki	“that”, “for”, “when”
Verse 33,	Kaf	כי	ki	“that”, “for”, “when”
Verse 34,	Lamed	לדכא	l'dake	“to crush”, “to oppress”
Verse 35,	Lamed	להטות	l'hattot	“to turn aside”
Verse 36,	Lamed	לעוות	l'avvet	“to make crooked”, “to subvert”
Verse 37,	Mem	מי	mi	“who”
Verse 38,	Mem	מפי	mipi	“from the mouth”
Verse 39,	Mem	מה	mah	“what”, “therefore”
Verse 40,	Nun	נחפשה	nach'p'shah	“to search”
Verse 41,	Nun	נשא	nasa	“to lift”

Verse 42,	Nun	נַחֲנוּ	nachnu	“we”
Verse 43,	Samech	סָכַתָּה	sacotah	“you have covered”
Verse 44,	Samech	סָכַוְתָה	sacotah	“you have covered”
Verse 45,	Samech	סֶחִי	sechi	“scum”, “off scourging”
Verse 46,	Peh	פָּצְוּ	patzu	“they have opened wide”
Verse 47,	Peh	פָּחַד	pachad	“fear”
Verse 48,	Peh	פָּלְגֵי	palge	“streams of”
Verse 49,	Ayin	עֵינִי	eni	“mine eye”
Verse 50,	Ayin	עַד	ad	“until”
Verse 51,	Ayin	עֵינִי	eni	“mine eye”
Verse 52,	Tzadi	צֹד	tzod	“hunt”, “hunted”
Verse 53,	Tzadi	צָמְתּוּ	tzamtu	“they have cut off”
Verse 54,	Tzadi	צָפוּ	tzaphu	“they flowed”
Verse 55,	Qof	קָרָאתִי	qarati	“I called”
Verse 56,	Qof	קוֹלִי	qoli	“my voice”
Verse 57,	Qof	קָרַבְתָּ	qaravta	“you drew near”
Verse 58,	Resh	רָבַתָּ	rav'ta	“you have pleaded”
Verse 59,	Resh	רָאִיתָהּ	ra'itah	“you have seen”
Verse 60,	Resh	רָאִיתָהּ	ra'itah	“you have seen”
Verse 61,	Shin	שָׁמַעְתָּ	shama'ta	“you have heard”
Verse 62,	Shin	שִׁפְתֵי	saf'te	“the lips of”
Verse 63,	Shin	שִׁבְתָּם	shivtam	“sitting down”
Verse 64,	Tav	תָּשִׁיב	tashiv	“you will cause to return”
Verse 65,	Tav	תִּתֵּן	titen	“you will give”
Verse 66,	Tav	תִּרְדֹּף	tir'dof	“you will pursue”

Lamentations 4

Jeremiah 52:3 “*For because of the anger of the LORD it came to the point in Jerusalem and Judah that he cast them out from his presence...*”

Background readings

Jeremiah 37:1-10; 39:1-2; 52:4-7,13-14; 2 Kings 25:1-7

Overview of Chapters 1-3

The Description of the siege of Jerusalem, Chapter 4

A. The conditions during the siege 4:1-10

1. *The Effects on the People - 4:1-3*

2. *The Effects of the Famine - 4:4-10*

B. The cause of judgment 4:11-16

C. The fall of hope 4:17-20

D. The judgment upon Edom 4:21-22

E. Summary of chapter 4

Isaiah 63:9 “*In all their affliction He was afflicted, And The Angel of His Presence saved them; In His love and in His mercy He redeemed them; And He lifted them and carried them all the days of old.*”

The Acrostic Pattern in Chapter 4

Verse 1, Aleph -	אֵיכָה	-	eicha	-	“alas”, “how”
Verse 2, Beth -	בְּנֵי	-	b’ne	-	“sons”
Verse 3, Gimel -	גַּם	-	gam	-	“also”, “even”
Verse 4, Dalet -	דָּבַק	-	davak	-	“he sticks”, “cleaved”
Verse 5, He -	הֶאֱכָלִים	-	ha’ochlim	-	“ate” “feasted”
Verse 6, Vav -	וַיִּגְדֹּל	-	vayigdol	-	“and greater”
Verse 7, Zayin -	זָכוּ	-	tzacu	-	“they were pure”, “bright”
Verse 8, Chet -	חָשַׁךְ	-	chasach	-	“they became dark”, “blacker”
Verse 9, Tet -	טוֹבִים	-	tovim	-	“better”, “happier”
Verse 10, Yud -	יָדַי	-	y’de	-	“the hands of”
Verse 11, Kaf -	כִּלָּה	-	kilah	-	“full”, “vent”, “he accomplished”
Verse 12, Lamed -	לֹא	-	lo	-	“not”, “no”
Verse 13, Mem -	מִחַטָּאת	-	mechattot	-	“for sins”
Verse 14, Nun -	נָעוּ	-	na’u	-	“they wandered”
Verse 15, Samech -	סוּרוּ	-	suru	-	“depart you”, “go away”
Verse 16, Peh -	פְּנֵי	-	p’ne	-	“the face of”, “the anger”
Verse 17, Ayin -	עוֹדֵינָה	-	odinah	-	“our eyes”
Verse 18, Tzadi -	צָדוּ	-	tzadu	-	“they hunted”. “dogged”
Verse 19, Qof -	קָלִים	-	qalim	-	“swifter”
Verse 20, Resh -	רוּחַ	-	ruach	-	“breath”, “wind”, “spirit”
Verse 21, Shin -	שִׂישִׁי	-	sisi	-	“rejoice”
Verse 22, Tav -	תָּם	-	tam	-	“accomplished” “finished”

Elie Wiesel who had his faith in God shattered during the Shoah, in a Nazi concentration camp at Buna. The pivotal event that drove Wiesel to unbelief was the execution of a young boy. Wiesel and others prisoners were forced to watch the Nazis lead two men and a young boy to the gallows to be hanged. After the sentence was carried out Wiesel and the other inmates were forced to march past the execution sight. Listen to the depth of the emotions in Wiesel’s description: *“The two adults were no longer alive. Their tongues hung swollen, blue tinged. But the third rope was still moving; being so light, the child was still alive...For more than half an hour he stayed there, struggling between life and death, dying in slow agony under our eyes. And we had to look him full in the face. He was still alive when I passed in front of him. His tongue was still red; his eyes were not yet glazed. Behind me I heard a man asking: ‘Where is God now?’ And I heard a voice within me answer: Where is He? Here He is - He is hanging here on this gallows.”*

Elie Wiesel; *Night*, pp 76

Lamentations 5 & Conclusion

5. The Prayer of Jeremiah Chapter 5

A. The prophet's sorrow 5:1-18

1. The Condition of the Remnant - 5:1-10

2. The Effects of the Fall on Jerusalem's Society - 5:11-14

3. The result of sin - 5:15-18

B. The prayer for restoration 5:19-22

C. Summary of chapter 5

Practical Application from Lamentations

Conclusion to the Book of Lamentations

Parallels in Lamentations 5 & Deuteronomy 28

Lamentations		Deuteronomy 28	
5:2b	our homes (<i>turned over</i>) to foreigners	28:30b	You shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it.
5:5b	we are given no rest.	28:65a	And among these nations you shall find no respite....
5:10b	... the burning heat of famine	28:16; 28:48	and cursed shall you be in the field....; and lacking everything.

Lamentations 5:21

הַשִּׁיבֵנו יְהוָה

Restore us back to You, LORD

אֵלֵינוּ וְנִשְׁוֵב תְּחַדֵּשׁ יָמֵינוּ כְּקִדְמָם

and we shall be restored; renew our days as of old