

Bible Reading Notes  
**Lamentations**

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## Lamentations 1

We believe that Lamentations was written by Jeremiah after the fall of Jerusalem.

Lamentations 1 is an acrostic pattern with each verse beginning with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

**1:18** – This verse gives the context for all the horrors of this lamentation.

**1:21 – day you announced** – None of the horrors that have taken place were a surprise. Jeremiah’s ministry had been to announce the Lord’s plan to Israel.

## Lamentations 2

Lamentations 2 is an acrostic pattern with each verse beginning with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

**2:14 – false and deceptive visions** – This had been Jeremiah’s contention during his ministry. Israel preferred the “fake news” of the false prophets over having their own sins exposed.

**2:17 – The LORD** – Jeremiah is quite clear in Lamentations that it is the LORD who has brought about the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile. He makes this point over and over again.

## Lamentations 3

This is another acrostic work, but this time there are 3 verses for each Hebrew letter.

**3:1 – man** – This lament is spoken by a man who has experienced God’s wrath and speaks to teach others the lessons he has learned.

- 3:22-23** –The Lord’s mercies and faithfulness are professed in the midst of the worse tribulation Jeremiah’s generation had ever experienced. It is easy to sing, “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” when things are going well. This statement is made in the midst of great calamity.
- 3:32** – It is only when we admit God’s sovereignty in trials and disasters that we can have hope for compassion and restoration.
- 3:52 - I** – Jeremiah reflects on his own afflictions which now all of Israel shares.

## **Lamentations 4**

This lament returns to the acrostic pattern of chapters 1-2 with each new verse beginning with the next Hebrew letter.

- 4:1-11** – Jeremiah rehearses the horrors Jerusalem faced in their siege.
- 4:17 – nation which could not save us** – Judah had hoped that Egypt would come to their aid, even though they had been warned not to put their trust in them.

## **Lamentations 5**

This final lament follows the pattern of chapters 1-2 and 4 of each new verse beginning with the next Hebrew letter.

- 5:19** – Jerusalem may fall and King Zedekiah with it, but the LORD continues to reign and will do so forever.
- 5:20-22** – These verses express the feeling of the people of Israel, but the Lord has already promised he will restore them. He has not forgotten his people.