

Lamentations: A Nation Suffering

Wednesday, August 24

Lamentations was written to help us interpret suffering and respond to God.

- 1. Who Wrote Lamentations?** The author is not named
 - A. But Jeremiah's prophecy (19:9) came true (Lam 2:20). Lamentations is the post-script to Jeremiah.
 - B. The author of both was a man of tears (Jer 9:1 and Lam 1:16)

- 2. When Was Lamentations Written?**
 - A. After Babylon defeated Judah in 586 B.C.
 - B. After one to the world's greatest tragedies. Because they wanted to live like the idolaters, God let them live with the idolaters.

- 3. What is the Message of Lamentations?** To show that one reason we suffer is our sin.

- 4. How is the Message Developed?**
 - 1. The City Suffers Loneliness (Chapter One)**
 - A. The man of God laments over the city (1:1-11) Third Person
 - B. Jerusalem laments her loneliness (1:12-19) First Person
 - C. Jerusalem prays to God (1:20-22)

 - 2. The Temple Suffers God's Anger (Chapter Two)**
 - A. The anger of God (2:1-10)
 - B. The response of the people (2:11-19)
 - C. The people pray to God (2:20-22)

 - 3. The Prophet Suffers Because Others (Chapter Three)**
 - A. The godly believer suffers (3:1-20)
 - B. The godly believer hopes in the Lord (3:21-40)
 - C. The godly believer prays (3:41-66)

 - 4. The People Suffer for Their Sin (Chapter Four)**
 - A. The suffering (4:1-11). They lose their wealth (4:1-6) and health (4:7-11)
 - B. The cause (4:12-22)
 - C. No prayer

 - 5. The Remnant Suffers and Prays (Chapter Five) Chapter 5 is all prayer**
 - A. O Lord, Respond (5:1-18)
 - B. O Lord, Rule (5:19-20)
 - C. O Lord, Restore (5:21-22)