

# The Book of Lamentations

## Structure

### Acrostic 66 Lines

#### Acrostic 22 Lines

##### Poem #1

Lady  
Zion's  
Grief and  
Shame

#### Acrostic 22 Lines

##### Poem #2

The  
Wrath of  
God and  
the Fall of  
Jerusalem

##### Poem #3

The  
Suffering  
One

#### Acrostic 22 Lines

##### Poem #4

The Siege  
of  
Jerusalem:  
Before and  
After

#### Non-Acrostic 22 Lines

##### Poem #5

Prayer for  
Mercy

book

### Main Idea: The

of Lamentations is a collection of five

lament poems which reflect upon the siege of Jerusalem and the exile to Babylon, that help us to understand the expression of grief, pain, suffering, and despair as an important aspect in our relationship with God.

## Study Questions:

1. How does the author personify Jerusalem in the first poem? What are some significant features of this literary device?
2. What is the significance in the imagery of the "Lone suffering man" vs. the daughter of Zion? What are some similarities and differences?
3. The wrath of God is a major theme in Lamentation. What brought about the wrath of God? Why was he so angry?
4. If the wrath of God is not arbitrary, or fitful rage, like we see in Greek mythology in the pantheon of gods, for examples, what is God's wrath an expression of?
5. Who is the suffering one in the third poem supposed to remind us of?
6. Do you think it is okay to emotionally vent to God like the author of Lamentations? Has anyone ever encouraged you to do so?
7. How do you express your emotions, frustration, pain, suffering, etc.? Do you do so toward or with God? Why or why not?
8. Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt deep emotions and grief as expressed in Lamentations? If so, what were some of the most beneficial things that aided in your healing?
9. Think for a moment...have you ever just sat with someone in their suffering without saying something like, "it's going to be okay, you're going to be fine, God's got a plan" too soon? What would it look like for you to do this with your children or spouse?
10. Throughout some ideas that you think would be helpful in helping someone express their emotions and frustrations to God?