

HANDOUT FOR LESSON 1 OF LAMENTATIONS

Lamentations is an acrostic poem in which each new line represents one of the 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet. The book is divided into five chapters consisting of five poems, with the first four alphabetic acrostic patterned poems lamenting the desolation of Jerusalem. The Hebrew alphabet has 22 letters; therefore, there are 22 verses in chapters 1, 2, 4, and 5. However, the Third Lament in Chapter 3 has 66 verses, using the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. The fifth Chapter is a lament pleading for mercy and restoration.

- Chapter 1: The First Lament ~ Jerusalem’s destruction (1:1-22).
- Chapter 2: The Second Lament ~ Yahweh’s righteous anger (2:1-22).
- Chapter 3: The Third Lament ~ A Prayer for mercy (3:1-66).
- Chapter 4: The Fourth Lament ~ The Siege of Jerusalem (4:1-22).
- Chapter 5: The Fifth Lament ~ A prayer for restoration (5:1-22).

Summary Outline for Lamentations

BIBLICAL PERIOD	The Babylonian Conquest of Judah				
FOCUS	Four-part lament for the destruction of Jerusalem			The hope of restoration	
COVENANT	The Sinai Covenant and Davidic Covenant				
SCRIPTURE	1:1-----2:1-----3:1-----4:1-----5:1-----22				
DIVISION	Jerusalem’s destruction	Yahweh’s righteous anger	A prayer for mercy	The siege of Jerusalem	A prayer for restoration
TOPIC	Grief	Cause	Hope	Repentance	Penitent nation
LOCATION	Jerusalem				
TIME	587/6 BC				