

# LAMENTATIONS

## "THE PAIN OF DIVINE DISCIPLINE"

"Is it nothing to all you who pass this way? Look and see if there is any pain like my pain which was severely dealt out to me, which the Lord inflicted on the day of His fierce anger."

Lamentations 1:12

– The City of Jerusalem, 586 B. C.

### OUTLINE OF LAMENTATIONS

Prepared by James T. Bartsch

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# LAMENTATIONS

## “THE PAIN OF DIVINE DISCIPLINE”

“Is it nothing to all you who pass this way? Look and see if there is any pain like my pain which was severely dealt out to me, which the Lord inflicted on the day of His fierce anger.”  
Lamentations 2:12

– The City of Jerusalem, 586 B. C.

- A1 THE FIRST POEM: The Distress of the City 1
- A2 THE SECOND POEM: The Prophet’s Pain over the Judgment of God 2
- A3 THE THIRD POEM: The Prophet’s Painful Personal Involvement in the Destruction of Society 3:1-66
- A4 THE FOURTH POEM: The Siege of Jerusalem 4
- A5 THE FIFTH POEM: The Prophet’s Vicarious Prayer On Behalf of His People 5

MAJOR DIVISIONS OF LAMENTATIONS  
Based on THE ANALYSIS OF LAMENTATIONS  
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“Is it nothing to all you who pass this way? Look and see if there is any pain like my pain which was severely dealt out to me, which the Lord inflicted on the day of His fierce anger.”  
Lamentations 2:12

– The City of Jerusalem, 586 B. C.

### **A1 THE FIRST POEM: The Distress of the City 1**

B1 The Pained Perspective of the Prophet 1:1-11

B2 Soliloquy: The Anguished Cry of the City 1:12-22

### **A2 THE SECOND POEM: The Prophet’s Pain over the Judgment of God 2**

B1 God’s Destruction of the City and the Temple 2:1-10

B2 The Prophet’s Grief 2:11-22

### **A3 THE THIRD POEM: The Prophet’s Painful Personal Involvement in the Destruction of Society 3:1-66**

B1 God’s Opposition to the Prophet 3:1-18

B2 The Prophet’s Resolution of God’s Justice in Meting Out Punishment 3:19-42

B3 The Prophet’s Painful Experience of God’s Judgment 3:43-54

B4 The Prophet’s Prayer 3:55-66

### **A4 THE FOURTH POEM: The Siege of Jerusalem 4**

B1 The Terrors Experienced by Different Levels of Society During Jerusalem’s Siege 4:1-11

B2 The Reasons for The Siege of Jerusalem 4:12-20

B3 The Prophet’s Warning to Edom 4:21-22

**A5 THE FIFTH POEM: The Prophet's Vicarious Prayer On Behalf of His People 5**

B1 His Recounting to Yahweh Zion's Despair 5:1-18

B2 His Plea to Yahweh for Restoration 5:19-22

CONDENSED OUTLINE OF LAMENTATIONS

Based on THE ANALYSIS OF LAMENTATIONS

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“Is it nothing to all you who pass this way? Look and see if there is any pain like my pain which was severely dealt out to me, which the Lord inflicted on the day of His fierce anger.”  
Lamentations 2:12

– The City of Jerusalem, 586 B. C.

### **A1 THE FIRST POEM: The Distress of the City 1**

#### **B1 The Pained Perspective of the Prophet 1:1-11**

- C1 The Desolation of Jerusalem 1:1-2
- C2 The Exile of Judah and Jerusalem 1:3-7
- C3 The Sin of Jerusalem 1:8-9
- C4 The Plight of Jerusalem 1:10-11

#### **B2 Soliloquy: The Anguished Cry of the City 1:12-22**

- C1 The plea for sympathy from passers-by for God-inflicted pain 1:12
- C2 The painful discipline of God 1:13-15
- C3 Jerusalem’s sorrow 1:16-19
- C4 The City’s Prayer to Yahweh 1:20-22

### **A2 THE SECOND POEM: The Prophet’s Pain over the Judgment of God 2**

#### **B1 God’s Destruction of the City and the Temple 2:1-10**

- C1 Adonai’s anger at Zion 2:1
- C2 Adonai’s wrathful overthrow of the infrastructure, military, and government 2:2
- C3 Adonai’s engineering of Judah’s defeat 2:3-5
- C4 Adonai’s overthrow of the temple 2:6-7
- C5 Adonai’s destruction of the city’s wall and gates 2:8-9a
- C6 Yahweh’s decimation of different segments of Israeli society 2:9b-10

**B2 The Prophet's Grief 2:11-22**

- C1 The description of his grief 2:11a
- C2 The cause of his grief 2:11b-12
- C3 His despondent conversation with the city 2:13-17
- C4 His discussion of prayer 2:18-22

**A3 THE THIRD POEM: The Prophet's Painful Personal Involvement in the Destruction of Society 3:1-66**

**B1 God's Opposition to the Prophet 3:1-18**

- C1 The prophet's experience of affliction from God's wrath 3:1
- C2 God's having driven him into darkness 3:2
- C3 God's relentless opposition toward him 3:3
- C4 God's physical pummeling of him 3:4
- C5 God's having surrounded him with bitterness and hardship 3:5
- C6 God's having placed him in death-like darkness 3:6
- C7 God's imprisonment of him 3:7
- C8 God's silence 3:8
- C9 God's opposition to his steps 3:9
- C10 God's opposition as a beast of prey 3:10-11
- C11 God's opposition as an enemy archer 3:12-13
- C12 The prophet's disrespect from all his people 3:14
- C13 God's opposition through (metaphorical) diet 3:15-16
- C14 The prophet's reaction 3:17-18

**B2 The Prophet's Resolution of God's Justice in Meting Out Punishment 3:19-42**

- C1 His petition for God to remember his affliction 3:19
- C2 His depressing memories 3:20
- C3 His theology of hope 3:21-30
- C4 His theodicy: A defense of God's ways in meting out judgment 3:31-39
- C5 His plea to the people for revival 3:40-42

**B3 The Prophet's Painful Experience of God's Judgment 3:43-54**

- C1 God's hostile stance toward Judah 3:43-45
- C2 The prophet's despair 3:46-52
- C3 The prophet's harrowing personal experience 3:52-54

**B4 The Prophet's Prayer 3:55-66**

- C1 His cry for help 3:55-57
- C2 His recognition of God's efforts on his behalf 3:58-63
- C3 His belief in God's vengeance against his enemies 3:64-66

**A4 THE FOURTH POEM: The Siege of Jerusalem 4**

**B1 The Terrors Experienced by Different Levels of Society During Jerusalem's Siege 4:1-11**

- C1 The deterioration of the city 4:1-2
- C2 The plight of the infants and children 4:3-4
- C3 The trauma of the wealthy 4:5
- C4 The reason for the judgment -- the sin of the citizens 4:6
- C5 The plight of the nobles 4:7-8
- C6 The severity of the famine 4:9-10
- C7 The reason for the tragedy -- the wrath of Yahweh against Zion 4:11

**B2 The Reasons for The Siege of Jerusalem 4:12-20**

- C1 The false belief in the impregnability of Jerusalem 4:12
- C2 The judgment on the religious leaders (priests and prophets) 4:13-16
- C3 Judah's vain reliance on other nations 4:17-20

**B3 The Prophet's Warning to Edom 4:21-22**

- C1 His awareness of Edom's glee at Jerusalem's judgment 4:21
- C2 His prediction that Edom will also taste of judgment 4:21
- C3 His statement of the completion of Zion's punishment 4:22
- C4 His promise of God's punishment of Edom 4:22

**A5 THE FIFTH POEM: The Prophet's Vicarious Prayer On Behalf of His People 5**

**B1 His Recounting to Yahweh Zion's Despair 5:1-18**

C1 The plea to Yahweh to look upon Zion's reproach 5:1

C2 The depiction to Yahweh of Zion's reproach 5:2-18

**B2 His Plea to Yahweh for Restoration 5:19-22**

C1 The ascription of sovereignty to Yahweh 5:19

C2 The agony over Yahweh's abandonment of Zion 5:20

C3 The plea to Yahweh for restoration and renewal 5:21

C4 The despairing agony lest Yahweh's abandonment be irreversible  
5:22

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