**LAMENTATIONS**

**Context**

* Just after Jerusalem is destroyed
* Jerusalem personified

**Theme**

*We are in mourning because God has done this, even though it’s our fault. Now we need Him to change our hearts, for He will again comfort us.*

**The City’s Sin and the Judge’s Wrath (Chapters 1, 2, 4)**

First poem: the fall of Jerusalem

Second and Fourth poems: Sin and judgment

**The Compassion of God (Chapter 3)**

God’s compassion (3:21-26)

**God’s Kingship and Mercy** **(Chapter 5)**

**A Study Outline for Jeremiah**

1. Jeremiah 1-45 – Yahweh and His People
   * 1. Ch. 1-29 – The proclamation against Judah
     2. Ch. 30-33 – The promise of a New Covenant
     3. Ch. 34-45 – The final destruction of Jerusalem
2. Jeremiah 46-52 – Yahweh and the Nations

**A Study Outline for Lamentations**

1. Lamentations 1-2 – A Hebrew Acrostic
2. Lamentations 3-4 – Acrostic at a Quicker Pace
3. Lamentations 5 – Fractionalized, Still Quicker, Acrostic

## Core Seminars—Old Testament

**Class 21: Jeremiah & Lamentations**

**JEREMIAH**

**Context**

* Jewish exiles go off to Babylon in 605, 597, and 586 BC.
* The covenant people are engaged in gross idolatry.
* The covenant curses have now come upon them.

**Theme**

*The old covenant has failed; not because it itself was defunct, but because the people were not able to keep it due to their sinful hearts. Therefore a new covenant is needed which will involve new hearts for the people of God.*

1. **Chapters 1-45**

**1. Breach of Covenant – Jeremiah 2:9-12, 3:20**

**2. Repeated, Widespread Sin**

God repeatedly warns them (7:13, 25:3-4)

The people listen instead to false prophets (6:14)

**3. Total Depravity**

* Jeremiah 6:10 – The people are unable to hear…
* Jeremiah 17:1, 9 – …because sin is engraved on their hearts…
* Jeremiah 18:12 – …which now controls them…
* Jeremiah 13:23 – …and they cannot change this.

**4. Proclamation of Judgment**

Disaster the people cannot escape (11:11-2)

Disaster that is horrific

(5:15-17, 6:26, 8:13, 9:22, 12:11-12, 15:7-8)

**5. Judgment as the Undoing of Creation**

(4:23-28)**II. Jeremiah the Prophet**

A man of God in love with the word of God (20:9, 1:9)

God’s word earned Jeremiah enemies (chapters 26, 37)

**III. The New Covenant: Jeremiah 31:31-37**

Theological climax of the book

The solution: give the people new hearts

**IV. Judgment and Destruction: Jeremiah 34-52**

Judgment against Egypt, the Philistines, Moab, Ammon, Edom, and others

Judgment against Babylon (chapters 50-51)

The destruction of Jerusalem (chapter 52)