

Interesting Facts About Lamentations

MEANING: Lamentations means “laments,” “tears.”

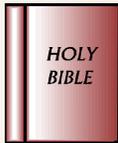
AUTHOR: Internal and external evidence suggests Jeremiah.

TIME WRITTEN: Lamentations was written soon after Jerusalem’s destruction (39:52) at the beginning of the exile.

- Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem from January 588 B.C. to July 19.
- The city and Temple were burned on August 15.
- Therefore, Jeremiah probably wrote Lamentations before he was taken captive to Egypt by his disobedient countrymen not long after the destruction. 43:1-7

POSITION IN THE BIBLE:

- 25th Book in the Bible
- 25th Book in the Old Testament
- 3rd of 17 books of Prophecy (Isaiah - Malachi)
- 3rd of 5 major prophets (Isaiah-Daniel)
- 41 Books to follow it.



CHAPTERS: 5

VERSES: 154

WORDS: 3,415

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT LAMENTATIONS:

- Lamentations describes the funeral of a city—Jerusalem.
- Even in the midst of calamity, Jeremiah cries out to God in Lamentations 3:23 - “Great is your faithfulness.”
- Babylon is God’s instrument of judgment upon Judah.
- Jeremiah writes his lament in an acrostic or alphabetic fashion.
 - There are five sections (poems).
 - Each section begins with the Hebrew letter A (Aleph) and then proceeds through the Hebrew alphabet with the statements in each of the five poems.

LAMENTATIONS

- Jeremiah literally weeps from A to Z.
- The five sections can be divided as follow:
 - The Destruction of Jerusalem - Chapter 1
 - The Anger of Yahweh - Chapter 2
 - The Prayer for Mercy - Chapter 3
 - The Siege of Jerusalem - Chapter 4
 - The Prayer for Restoration - Chapter 5
- Six centuries later Christ would also weep over Jerusalem. Matthew 23:37-38
- Three themes appear in the Book of Lamentations:
 - Mourning over Jerusalem’s holocaust.
 - A confession of sin and an acknowledgment of God’s righteous and holy judgment upon Judah.
 - A note of hope in God’s future restoration.
- In His sorrow, Jeremiah:
 - Sometimes speaks for himself.
 - Sometimes speaks for the captives, some 900 miles away in Babylon.
 - Sometimes speaks for the personified city.

