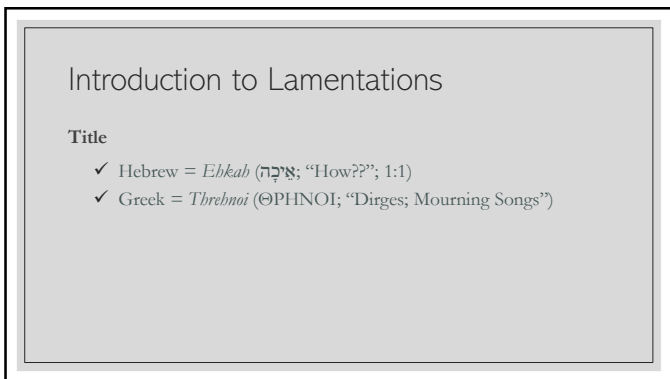


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Introduction to Lamentations

WHO—Authorship

- ✓ Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiah

WHO—Audience

- ✓ Judah and all those who are being exiled by Babylon

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Introduction to Lamentations

WHEN

- ✓ July or August of 586 BC
- ✓ Jeremiah is probably 60 to 61 years old

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Introduction to Lamentations

WHERE

- ✓ Jerusalem (Mount of Olives)

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Introduction to Lamentations

WHERE

- ✓ Jerusalem (Mount of Olives)
- ✓ A culture of a competition of gods (cf. Ezek 20:9)
- ✓ Hand-to-mouth situation
- ✓ Torturous situation
- ✓ Jeremiah is the Weeping Prophet
- ✓ God is faithful **because** of the suffering, not in spite of it

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Introduction to Lamentations

WHY

To mourn and remember the faithfulness of God to His Word in bringing suffering and devastation to Israel because of their faithlessness to the covenant, but to also remember that because God was faithful to His Word to bring destruction, He will also be faithful to bring promised mercy and restoration under a new covenant.

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Introduction to Lamentations

HOW—Terminology

- ✓ How?? (1:1; 2:1; 4:1, 2)
- ✓ Comfort (1:2, 9, 16, 17, 21; 2:13)
- ✓ Lovingkindness (3:22, 32)
- ✓ New, Newness (3:23; 5:21)

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Introduction to Lamentations

HOW—Literary Structure*

- ✓ God's Wrath upon Jerusalem (1:1–22)
- ✓ God's Relationship with Jerusalem (2:1–22)
- ✓ God's Faithfulness toward His People (3:1–66)
- ✓ God's Relational Justice on Jerusalem (4:1–22)
- ✓ God's Remembrance of Jerusalem (5:1–22)

Lamentations is constructed into five clearly discerned acrostic poems (22 verses in each, except for chapter 3, which has 66). The 5 divisions also work as a chiasm.

*Adapted from Dr. Abner Chou's commentary on Lamentations in the Evangelical Exegetical Commentary series.

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