

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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JEREMIAH

Why was he such an in-your-face prophet ?

על מימר פומיה דאחיה דמן שילון
 דהוא גבולא דבא יכרם כאן לסלימאן
 פי צאחב אגמהור אעטא אכרם מן
 יחפצה כל אמר יאתי בתמחה אלה
 דרהם פצה פרמי שלי לפני האלה
 לך שלמה ומאתים לנטורים אד
 פרין פד שמע שלמה מלכא דישראל
 נבואתיה דאחיה דמן שילון בעא
 למחפליה וערמ אחיה ואזל למצרים

דאת יתבא לזכאה ולהי יבא זאיה
 מספים לכל מה דאת עבדא יאגוסה
 פי אגנאן אאצחאב מצגיין אסמעני
 צותק ברח דודי ודמה לך ליצבי
 או לעפר האילים עלהרי בשמים
 כי היא שעתא יימרון סבי ישראל
 עדוק לך רחמי מרי עדלא מאדעא
 הלא מסאכתא זות שורי שכינתך
 בשומי מרומא ובעידי עתמי דאנחנא

LAMENTATIONS

Crying For Judah and Jerusalem



How Could This Happen?

Lamentations 1.1-9

1 “How lonely sits the city
That was full of people!
How like a widow is she,
Who was great among the nations!
The princess among the provinces
Has become a slave!

2 She weeps bitterly in the night,
Her tears are on her cheeks;
Among all her lovers
She has none to comfort her.
All her friends have dealt treacherously with her;
They have become her enemies.



How Could This Happen?

Lamentations 1.1-9

3 Judah has gone into captivity,
Under affliction and hard servitude;
She dwells among the nations,
She finds no rest;
All her persecutors overtake her
in dire straits.

4 The roads to Zion mourn
Because no one comes to the set feasts.
All her gates are desolate;
Her priests sigh,
Her virgins are afflicted,
And she is in bitterness.



How Could This Happen?

Lamentations 1.1-9

5 Her adversaries have become the master,
Her enemies prosper;
For the LORD has afflicted her
Because of the multitude of her transgressions.
Her children have gone into captivity
before the enemy.

6 And from the daughter of Zion
All her splendor has departed.
Her princes have become like deer
That find no pasture,
That flee without strength
Before the pursuer.



How Could This Happen?

Lamentations 1.1-9

7 In the days of her affliction and roaming, Jerusalem remembers all her pleasant things That she had in the days of old. When her people fell into the hand of the enemy, With no one to help her, The adversaries saw her And mocked at her downfall.

8 Jerusalem has sinned gravely, Therefore she has become vile. All who honored her despise her Because they have seen her nakedness; Yes, she sighs and turns away.



How Could This Happen?

Lamentations 1.1-9

- 9 Her uncleanness is in her skirts;
She did not consider her destiny;
Therefore her collapse was awesome;
She had no comforter.
“O LORD, behold my affliction,
For the enemy is exalted!”



How Could This Happen?

The style & structure of Lamentations

- “**How? Alas!**”
 - Lamentations beings with language that reflects a death/a funeral - “**How?!**”
 - It was used in the context of the “death” of **nations/cities** • Is 1.21, Jer 48.17
 - It displays an intense sense of **grief, horror** and **disbelief** - “**How?!**”
 - The term not only **titles** the book, it tells us a major **theme** - “**How?!**”
- The word “how” also informs us of the **structure** of the text
 - The term begins with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, aleph - א
 - It starts a series of **alphabetic acrostics** that appear throughout the text



How Could This Happen?

The style & structure of Lamentations

- The word “how” also informs us of the **structure** of the text
 - **Ps 119** follows that pattern - 22 Hebrew letters -> 22 octets = 176 vs.
 - Lamentations has **four sets** of acrostics in the text
 - Chpts 1-4 are acrostics • 1 & 2 - each **vs** of 3 lines **starts** w/alpha letters **in order** • 3 - like 1 & 2 **but each** of the 3 lines start w/alpha letter • 4 - **each** vs of 2 lines starts w/alpha letter
 - Chpt 5 - Has the right number of vss, but does **not** follow acrostic form



How Could This Happen?

The theme of Lamentations

- Lamentations makes Israel's state of affairs **personal - Ch 1**
 - **widow, princess** -> slave 1.1 • **she** weeps, **her** tears/cheeks, **her** lovers, none to comfort **her**, **her** friends, **her** enemies 1.2 • **she** (2x), **her** (2x) 1.3 • **her** gates, priests, virgins, **she** is in bitterness • 1.4 • it's continued throughout the chapter
- Lamentations explains **why** Israel was punished • It's **the Lord's doing - Ch 2**
 - the **Lord**, **His** anger, **He** cast down, **His** footstool/anger 2.1 • the **Lord**, **He** has thrown down, **His** wrath, **He** has brought them down/has profaned 2.2 • **He** has done violence to **His** tabernacle/destroyed **His** place of assembly, The **Lord** has caused 2.6 • The **Lord** has purposed to destroy/has stretched out a line 2.8



How Could This Happen?

The theme of Lamentations

- Lamentations makes Israel's condition personal(ized) **for the prophet - Ch 3**
 - **I am the man** who has seen affliction 3.1 • He has led **me** 3.2 • He has turned His hand **against me** 3.3 • He has **aged my flesh/broken my bones**, besieged **me/surrounded me** 3.4-5 • He has set **me** in dark places 3.6 • He has hedged **me** in 3.7 • **I** have become the ridicule all my people 3.14 • He has filled **me** with bitterness/made **me** drink wormwood 3.15 • He has broken **my** teeth/covered **me** with ashes 3.16 [altern.: 3 parallels 1 re she/he personalization]



How Could This Happen?

The theme of Lamentations

- Lamentations pictures how **far Israel had fallen - Ch 4**
 - gold has become **dim/changed**, stones of the sanctuary ... **scattered** 4.1 • the daughter of my people has become **cruel** 4.3 • the **infant** thirsts, **children** ask for bread, **no one provides** 4.4 • from **delicacies** to **desolate**, **scarlet** to **ash heaps** 4.5 • punishment greater than **Sodom** 4.6 • bright Nazarites -> blacker than soot, unrecognized 4.7-8 • the **dead** are better off 4.9 • compassionate women ... **cooked their own children** 4.10 • the **adversary/enemy** entered Jerusalem 4.12 • prophets and priests **are at fault** 4.13



How Could This Happen?

The theme of Lamentations

- Lamentations pictures, in the end, a **glimmer of hope - Ch 5**
 - Like Job/Ecclesiastes, most of the text centers on **negative ... until the end**
 - Most of the fifth/final chapter remains negative
 - the Lord has given our **inheritance to aliens** 5.1-2 • we are **orphans/waifs/widows** 5.3 • we **pay** for food/water 5.4 • we are **pursued**, we **labor** and **have no rest** 5.5 • our fathers sinned ... **we bear their iniquities** 5.7 • **servants** rule us, we have **no deliverer** 5.8 • we get food **at the risk of our lives** 5.9 • our skin is hot as an oven because of the **fever of famine** 5.10 • our women were **ravished** 5.11 • our princes were **executed** 5.12



How Could This Happen?

The theme of Lamentations

- Lamentations pictures, in the end, a **glimmer of hope - Ch 5**
 - Most of the fifth/final chapter remains negative
 - Young men are **servants**, grinding at millstones, carrying wood 5.13 • **no elders** at the gate, **no music** from young men 5.14 • our joy has **ended**, our dance is now **mourning** 5.15 • our crown has **fallen**, **woe** to us ... for we have **sinned** 5.16 • because of this our heart is **faint** and our eyes **grow dim** 5.17



How Could This Happen?

The glimmer of hope ...

- 19 You, O LORD, remain forever;
Your throne from generation to generation.
- 20 Why do You forget us forever,
And forsake us for so long a time?
- 21 **Turn us back to You, O LORD, and we will be restored;**
Renew our days as of old,
- 22 Unless You have utterly rejected us,
And are very angry with us! 5.19-22



How Could This Happen?

Before the glimmer of hope ...

“But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the **LORD** your God, to **observe carefully all His commandments** and **His statutes** which I command you today, that **all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:**” Deut 28.15

“**The LORD will bring a nation against you** from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand, a nation of fierce countenance, which does not respect the elderly nor show favor to the young.” Deut 28.49-50



How Could This Happen?

The glimmer of hope ... was anticipated

“**When Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against You, and when they turn back to You and confess Your name, and pray and make supplication to You in this temple, then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave to their fathers.**” 1 Kgs 8.33-34



How Could This Happen?

Lamentations ... Final Thoughts

- Judah's/Jerusalem's **real** enemy was **not** Babylon ... It was **God** • 2.1-10
- God **allowed** Babylon to punish Judah, God **used** Babylon to punish Judah
- It was **not** just Babylon's might that crushed the city and the kingdom
- It was **God's wrath** against them **because of their sins against God**
- “And do **not** fear those who kill the body but **cannot** kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” • Mt 10.28
- Babylon **could** destroy the body/nation, but Babylon could **not** “kill” souls
- **Only God** could punish Judah/Jerusalem for their sins



How Could This Happen?

Lamentations ... Final Thoughts

- Lamentations ends with hopes of, not fulfillment of, restoration • 5.19-22
- Historically, as Jeremiah prophesied, captivity lasted 70 years • 25.11-12, 29.10
- Restoration at that time, however, **did not** resolve everything ...
 - Everything, in fact, was **different/changed**
 - No **king** • No **army** • No **temple** (at first) • “**Lesser**” temple (later) • No “**standing**” before the nations • Israel was now a **chastened** nation
- The **greater/est** hope ... expressed in later prophets • Dan 2/7, Zech 14
 - Came through **Christ**, who conquers/fulfills all: sin, rulers, powers, • Col 2.13ff

