

LAMENTATIONS

Books 25

What is the Holy Bible?

The Holy Bible is a collection of writings that includes 66 books in English editions. The Bible consists of two parts, the Old Testament and New Testament. The word testament means covenant. The Old Testament includes 39 books, and the New Testament includes 27 books.

These 66 books were written over approximately 1,400 years by 40 different authors in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. The Old Testament writings were affirmed by Jewish leaders, and moreover, by Jesus Christ.¹ The New Testament writings were confirmed by early church leaders. The 66 books of the Bible are the inspired words of God that are used to make and mature disciples of the One true God through Jesus Christ, his Son ([Matthew 28:18-20](#), [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)). The Bible was not created by mere human wisdom but was inspired by God ([2 Peter 1:20-21](#)), is interpreted by His Holy Spirit ([John 16:13](#), [Matthew 23:8-10](#)), and will last forever ([Matthew 24:35](#)).²

If you do a phrase search on the Bible you will find the phrase "the word of the Lord" and "Thus says the Lord" more than 700 times.³ In addition, this book has given reasonable evidence to the claim of being God's word by:

- providing answers that conform with the reality we see around us.
- being a reliable collection of historical documents.
- containing eyewitness accounts that were written during the lifetimes of other eyewitnesses.
- recording supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies.⁴

Notes:

¹ See Matthew 4:4-7, 12:3-5, Mark 7:6-7, 12:26-27, and Luke 19:46 for examples.

² ["What are the Books of the Bible", GotQuestions.org](#)

³ [Blue Letter Bible](#)

⁴ Paraphrased from Voddie Baucham

Our Goals in Studying the Bible

To better

- Understand the Only true God; the Author of the Bible. ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#), [2 Peter 1:20-21](#), [1 John 5:20](#), [Jeremiah 9:23-24](#))
- Learn How He works in the World and in our Lives. ([Job 40:6-14](#), [Isaiah 45:6-7](#), [Isaiah 46:8-10](#), [Philippians 2:12-13](#))
- Understand Ourselves and the Hearts of Mankind. ([Jeremiah 17:9](#), [2 Timothy 3:13](#), [Ephesians 5:7-10](#))
- Come to Know What Pleases and Grieves God. ([1 Thessalonians 4:1](#), [Ephesians 4:26-31](#), [Hebrews 11:6](#), [1 Peter 1:14-19](#))
- To be Transformed into Fruitful Doers of God's Word and not just Hearers. ([Romans 12:2](#), [James 1:27](#), [Matthew 3:8](#))
- Tether Ourselves to God's Word for Our Wisdom, Discernment, and Safety. ([1 Corinthians 6:9-10](#), [Matthew 24:24](#), [Ephesians 4:11-14](#))

[Jeremiah 9:23-24](#) "Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord."

How to Study the Bible

#1. Observation: What does the text say?

Who?

What?

When?

Where?

How?

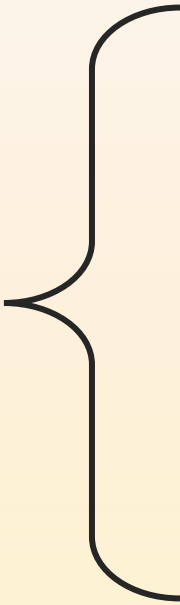
Why?

#2. Interpretation: What does the text mean in context with the passage, book, and whole counsel of God?

#3. Application: How is the Holy Spirit instructing me to apply this understanding at this time in my life?



Study Resources



- Opening Prayer
- Background and Setting
- Book Outline
- Geography Maps
- Key Verses
- Study Questions
- Major Event Timeline
- Book Summary
- Application and Closing Prayer
- Study Leader Support Slides

Opening Prayer Verse: Lamentations

[Lamentations 2:13-14](#), “What can I say for you, to what compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? What can I liken to you, that I may comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For your ruin is vast as the sea; who can heal you? Your prophets have seen for you false and deceptive visions; they have not exposed your iniquity to restore your fortunes, but have seen for you oracles that are false and misleading.”



Review of Jeremiah

Learning Tip: For those studying the Bible in its table-of-contents order, this slide gives you a brief recap of the book you just completed. Studying in a different sequence? You can simply skip this slide or treat it as a gentle nudge to circle back when the time is right.

Brief Summary: The Book of Jeremiah is primarily a message of judgment on Judah for rampant idolatry¹. After the death of King Josiah, the last righteous king, the nation of Judah had almost completely abandoned God and His commandments. Jeremiah compares Judah to a prostitute². God had promised that He would judge idolatry most severely³, and Jeremiah was warning Judah that God's judgment was at hand. God had delivered Judah from destruction on countless occasions, but His mercy was at its end. Jeremiah records King Nebuchadnezzar conquering Judah and making it subject to him ([Jeremiah 24:1](#)). After further rebellion, God brought Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian armies back to destroy and desolate Judah and Jerusalem ([Jeremiah 52](#)). Even in this most severe judgment, God promised the restoration of Judah. After 70 years God pledged to bring Judah back from the Babylonian captivity into the land he gave them ([Jeremiah 25:11-12](#), [Jeremiah 29:10-14](#)), and this was fulfilled in ~538 B.C. under Cyrus, king of Persia. Moreover, also during the declaration of this severe coming punishment, God promised a future time when He will restore all Israel to the land; a time when they will no more stubbornly follow their own evil hearts ([Jeremiah 3:14-18](#), [Romans 11:26](#)).

It is also worth noting that Jeremiah's prophecies also included God's impending judgment against surrounding nations for their sins and some promises of future restoration ([Jeremiah 46:25-26](#)). God utilized the Babylonian conquests to execute his ruling (e.g., [Jeremiah 46:25-26](#)). However, the cruelty of the Babylonians went far beyond God's justice. And, for this they would be later judged ([Jeremiah 25:12](#)).

Foreshadowings: [Jeremiah 23:5-6](#) presents a prophecy of the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ. The prophet describes Him as a Branch from the house of David⁴, the King who would reign in wisdom and righteousness ([Revelation 11:15](#)). It is Christ who will finally be recognized by Israel as her true Messiah as He provides salvation for His chosen ones ([Jeremiah 23:6](#); [Romans 11:25-26](#)).

Notes:

¹ [Jeremiah 7:30-34](#); [16:10-13](#); [22:9](#); [32:29](#); [44:2-3](#)

² [Jeremiah 2:20](#); [3:1-3](#)

³ [Leviticus 26:31-33](#); [Deuteronomy 28:49-68](#)

⁴ [Jeremiah 23:5-6](#); [Matthew 1](#)

Old Testament Table of Contents (39 Books)

THE LAW - 5
GENESIS
EXODUS
LEVITICUS
NUMBERS
DEUTERONOMY

HISTORY – 12
JOSHUA
JUDGES
RUTH
1 SAMUEL
2 SAMUEL
1 KINGS
2 KINGS
1 CHRONICLES
2 CHRONICLES
EZRA
NEHEMIAH
ESTHER

POETRY - 5
JOB
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ISAIAH
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HOSEA
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MICAH
NAHUM
HABAKKUK
ZEPHANIAH
HAGGAI
ZECHARIAH
MALACHI

OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS BY DATE WRITTEN

Historical Books

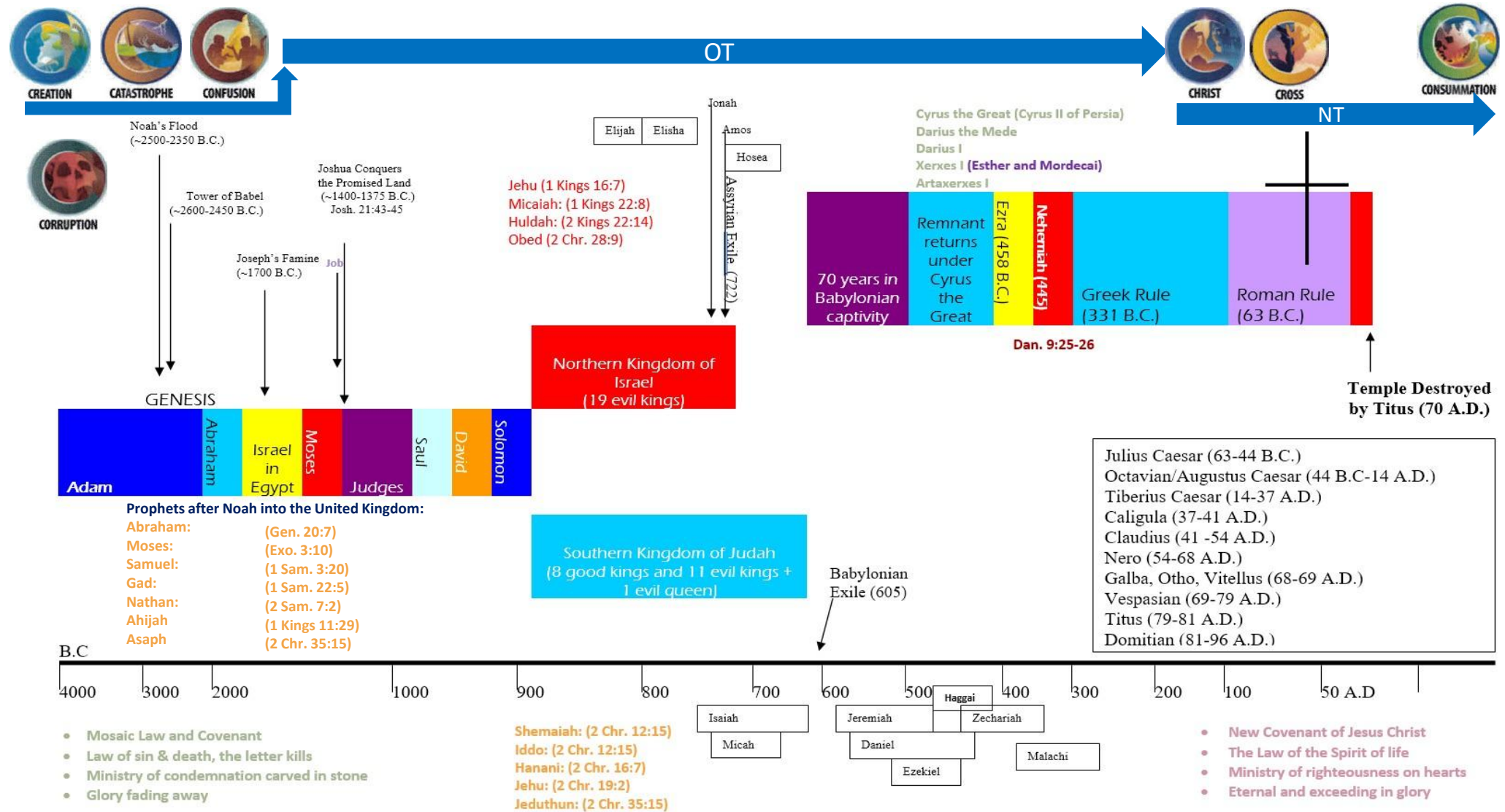
Genesis: c. 1445-1400 B.C.	Exodus: c. 1445-1400 B.C.	Leviticus: c. 1445-1400 B.C.
Numbers: c. 1405 B.C.	Deut: c. 1405 B.C.	Joshua: c. 1405-1385 B.C.
Judges: c. 1043 B.C.	Ruth: c. 1011-971 B.C.	1 & 2 Samuel: c. 960-722 B.C.
1 & 2 Kings: c. 560-540 B.C.	Ezra: c. 460-440 B.C.	Esther: c. 460-350 B.C..
1 & 2 Chron: c. 450-425 B.C.	Nehemiah: c. 445-420 B.C.	

Wisdom Book and Prophetic Books

Job: c. 1440 – 950 B.C.	Psalms: c. 1410-500 B.C.	Proverbs and Song of Solomon: c. 965 B.C.
Ecclesiastes: c. 930 B.C.	Obadiah: c. 848-840 B.C.	Joel: c. 835 – 796 B.C.
Jonah: c. 790 – 739 B.C.	Hosea and Amos: c. 760 -725 B.C.	Isaiah and Micah: c. 739 – 681 B.C.
Nahum: c. 663–612 B.C.	Habakkuk and Zephaniah: c. 635-605 B.C.	Jeremiah and Lamentations: c. 630-575 B.C.
Ezekiel and Daniel: c. 593 – 530 B.C.	Haggai and Zechariah: c. 520-470 B.C.	Malachi: c. 440 – 400 B.C.

[Amos 3:7](#) : “For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets.”

BIBLICAL CHRONOLOGICAL BACKGROUND



Aug-2004; jfh
Rev Jun-2026; jfw

GOD's Prophetic Books

The Role of the Prophets

Speak	To speak God's warnings with a goal to bring individuals and nations to repentance. Wording is often poetic and builds to a climax to make an impactful point.
Declare	To declare God's imminent judgment and discipline for continued sinful behaviors.
Reveal	To reveal God's future plans of judgment, deliverance, mercy, and grace.

Time frames of God's Prophetic Word

- God's **past** actions and words in history (e.g., Creation – Confusion, Exodus from Egypt, fulfillment of God's prophetic word, etc.). This is to remind the listeners/readers that God is always at work in the present fulfilling his word, and his past activity gives surety about future events God has declared.
- God's judgments that **will impact the people of or near to the prophet's generation** as he speaks concerning specific nations or lands: (e.g., Judah's exile to Babylon, the rise of Cyrus the Persian, the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem before it is even destroyed).
- Events **far into future generations** that impact the whole earth: (e.g., the 1st coming of Jesus Christ, the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ, and the Millennial kingdom).

[1 Peter 1:10-12](#): "Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look."

Lamentations

Date: c. 586-575 B.C.

Israel's Kings and Prophets¹

United Kingdom									
Years (BC)	King	Start / End	Prophet	Scripture					
1050 - 1010	Saul	Good / Evil	Samuel	1 Sa 8-31 1 Ch 9-10					
1010 - 970	David (Captain)	Good / Good	Samuel	1 Sa 16-31 2 Sa 1-24 1 Ki 1-2 1 Ch 11-29					
			Nathan						
970 - 930	Solomon (Son)	Good / Evil	Nathan	1 Ki 1-11 2 Ch 1-9					
Divided Kingdom									
Judah					Israel				
Years	King	Start / End	Prophet	Scripture	Years	King	Start / End	Prophet	Scripture
931 - 913	Rehoboam (Son)	Evil / Evil	Shemaiah	1 Ki 12, 14 2 Ch 10-12	931 - 910	Jeroboam I (servant)	Evil / Evil	Ahijah	1 Ki 12-14 2 Ch 10
913 - 911	Abijah (Son)	Evil / Evil		1 Ki 15 2 Ch 13					
911 - 870	Asa (Son)	Good/Good	Hanani	1 Ki 15 2 Ch 14-16	910 - 909	Nadab (son)	Evil / Evil		1 Ki 15
					909 - 886	Baasha	Evil / Evil	Jehu	1 Ki 16
					886 - 885	Elah (Son)	Evil / Evil		1 Ki 16
					885	zimri (Captain)	Evil / Evil	Micaiah	1 Ki 16
					885 - 874	Omri (Captain)	Evil / Evil	Elijah 1 Ki 17-19 1 Ki 21 2 Ki 1-2	1 Ki 16
870 - 848	Jehoshaphat (Son)	Good/Good		1 Ki 22 2 Ch 17-20	874 - 853	Ahab (Son)	Evil / Evil		1 Ki 17 2 Ch 18
					853 - 852	Ahaziah (Son)	Evil / Evil		1 Ki 22 2 Ki 1

Divided Kingdom									
848 - 841	Jehoram (Son)	Evil / Evil	<i>Obadiah(?)</i>	2 Ki 8 2 Ch 21	852 - 841	Joram (Son of Ahab)	Evil / Evil	Elisha 1 Ki 19 2 Ki 2-9 2 Ki 13	2 Ki 3
841	Ahaziah (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 8-9 2 Ch 22	841 - 814	Jehu (Captain)	Good / Evil		2 Ki 9-10
841 - 835	Athaliah (mother)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 11 2 Ch 22-23					
835 - 796	Joash (son of Ahaziah)	Good / Evil	<i>Joel</i>	2 Ki 11-12 2 Ch 23-24	814 - 798	Jehoahaz (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 13
796 - 767	Amaziah (son)	Good / Evil		2 Ki 14 2 Ch 25	798 - 782	Jehoash (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 13-14
767 - 740	Uzziah aka Azariah (Son)	Good/Evil	<i>Isaiah Micah</i>	2 Ki 15 2 Ch 26	782 - 753	Jeroboam II (Son)	Evil / Evil	<i>Amos Hosea</i> <i>Jonah</i> (2 Kings 14:25; Jonah 1:1)	2 Ki 14
					753 - 752	Zechariah (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 15
					752	Shallum	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 15
					752 - 742	Menahem	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 15
					742 - 740	Pekahiah (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 15
748 - 732	Jotham (Son)	Good/Good		2 Ki 15 2 Ch 27	752 - 740 (rival) 733 - 722 (sole)	Pekah (Captain)	Evil / Evil	<i>Micah</i>	2 Ki 15
732 - 716	Ahaz (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 16 2 Ch 28 Is 7	732 - 722	Hoshea	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 17
716 - 687	Hezekiah (Son)	Good/Good		2 Ki 18-20 2 Ch 29-32 Is 36-39	Israel into Assyrian captivity - 722 BC				
687 - 642	Manasseh (Son)	Evil / Good			2 Ki 21 2 Ch 33	663-612 B.C.			<i>Nahum</i>
642 - 640	Amon (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 21 2 Ch 33					
640 - 608	Josiah (Son)	Good/Good		2 Ki 22-23 2 Ch 34-35	<i>Daniel</i>				
608	Jehoahaz (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 23 2 Ch 36					
608 - 597	Jehoiakim (Son of Josiah)	Evil / Evil	<i>Habakkuk Zephaniah Jeremiah Ezekiel</i> (Lamentations)	2 Ki 23-24 2 Ch 36					
597	Jehoiachin (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 24-25 2 Ch 36					
597 - 586	Zedekiah (Son of Josiah)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 24-25 2 Ch 36					
Judah into Babylonian captivity - 586 BC									
586-450			<i>Jeremiah Haggai Zechariah Malachi</i>						

¹ Biblegateway.com

About the Book and Author of Lamentations

DATE: c. 586-575 B.C.

“Lamentations” was derived from a translation of the title as found in the Latin Vulgate (Vulgate) translation of the Greek Old Testament, the Septuagint (lxx), and conveys the idea of “loud cries.” The Hebrew exclamation ‘ekah (“How,” which expresses “dismay”), used in [Lamentations 1:1](#); [2:1](#); and [4:1](#), gives the book its Hebrew title. However, the rabbis began early to call the book “loud cries” or “lamentations” (cf. [Jeremiah 7:29](#)). No other entire Old Testament book contains only laments, as does this distressful dirge, marking the funeral of the once beautiful city of Jerusalem (cf. [Lamentations 2:15](#)). This book keeps alive the memory of that fall and teaches all believers how to deal with suffering.

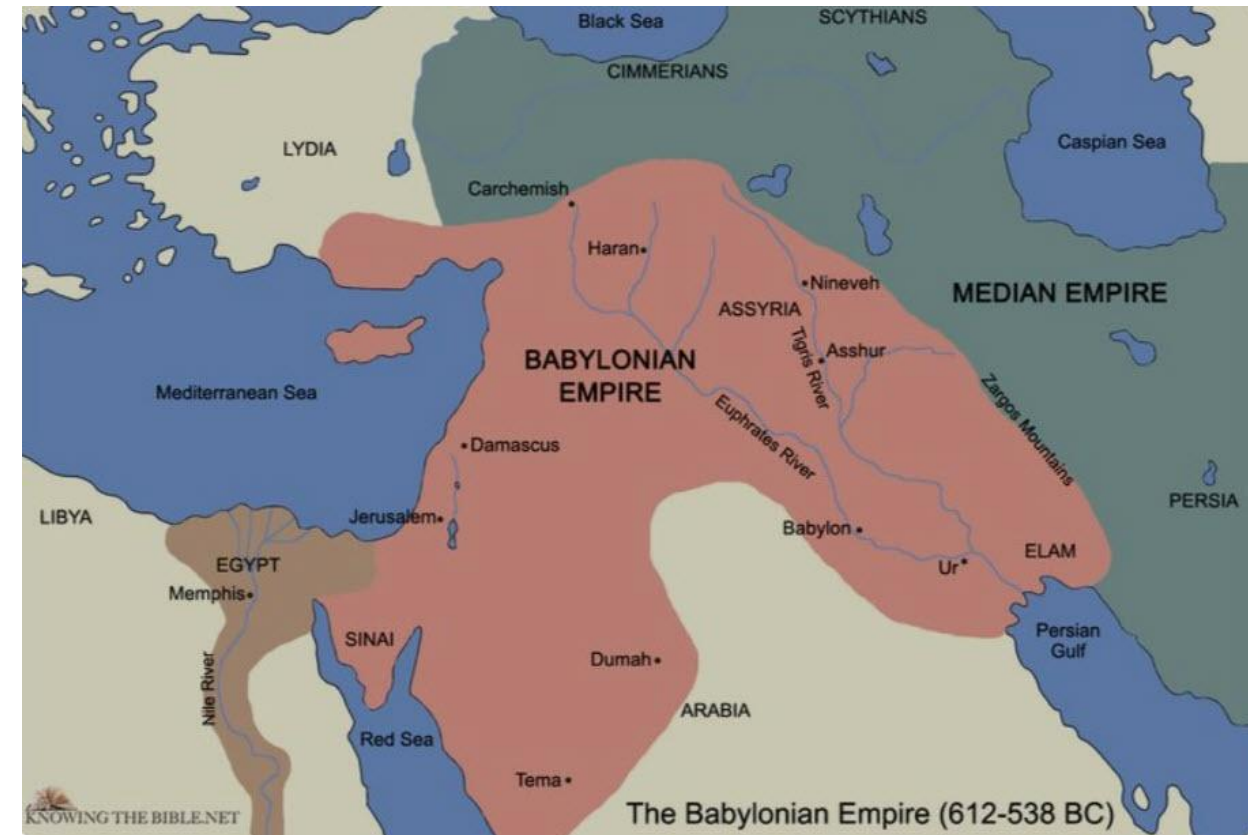
The author of Lamentations is not named within the book, but there are internal and historical indications that it was Jeremiah. He wrote Lamentations as an eyewitness (cf. [Lamentations 1:13-15](#), [2:6](#), [2:9](#); [4:1-12](#))¹, possibly with Baruch’s secretarial help (cf. [Jeremiah 36:4](#); [45:1](#)), during or soon after Jerusalem’s fall in 586 B.C. It was mid-July when the city fell and mid-August when the temple was burned. Likely, Jeremiah saw the destruction of walls, towers, homes, palaces, and the temple; he wrote while the event remained painfully fresh in his memory, but before his forced departure to Egypt c. 583 B.C. (cf. [Jeremiah 43:1-7](#)).

Lamentations: Background and Setting

The prophetic seeds of Jerusalem's destruction were sown through Joshua 800 years in advance ([Joshua 23:15–16](#)). Now, for over 40 years, Jeremiah had prophesied of coming judgment and been scorned by the people for preaching doom (c. 645–605 B.C.). When that judgment came on the disbelieving people from Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian army, Jeremiah still responded with great sorrow and compassion toward his suffering and obstinate people. Lamentations relates closely to the book of Jeremiah, describing the anguish over Jerusalem's receiving God's judgment for unrepentant sins. In the book that bears his name, Jeremiah had predicted the calamity in [Jeremiah 1–29](#). In Lamentations, he concentrates in more detail on the bitter suffering and heartbreak that was felt over Jerusalem's devastation (cf. [Psalm 46:4-5](#)). So critical was Jerusalem's destruction, that the facts are recorded in four separate Old Testament chapters: [2 Kings 25](#); [Jeremiah 39:1-11](#); [Jeremiah 52](#); and [2 Chronicles 36:11-21](#).

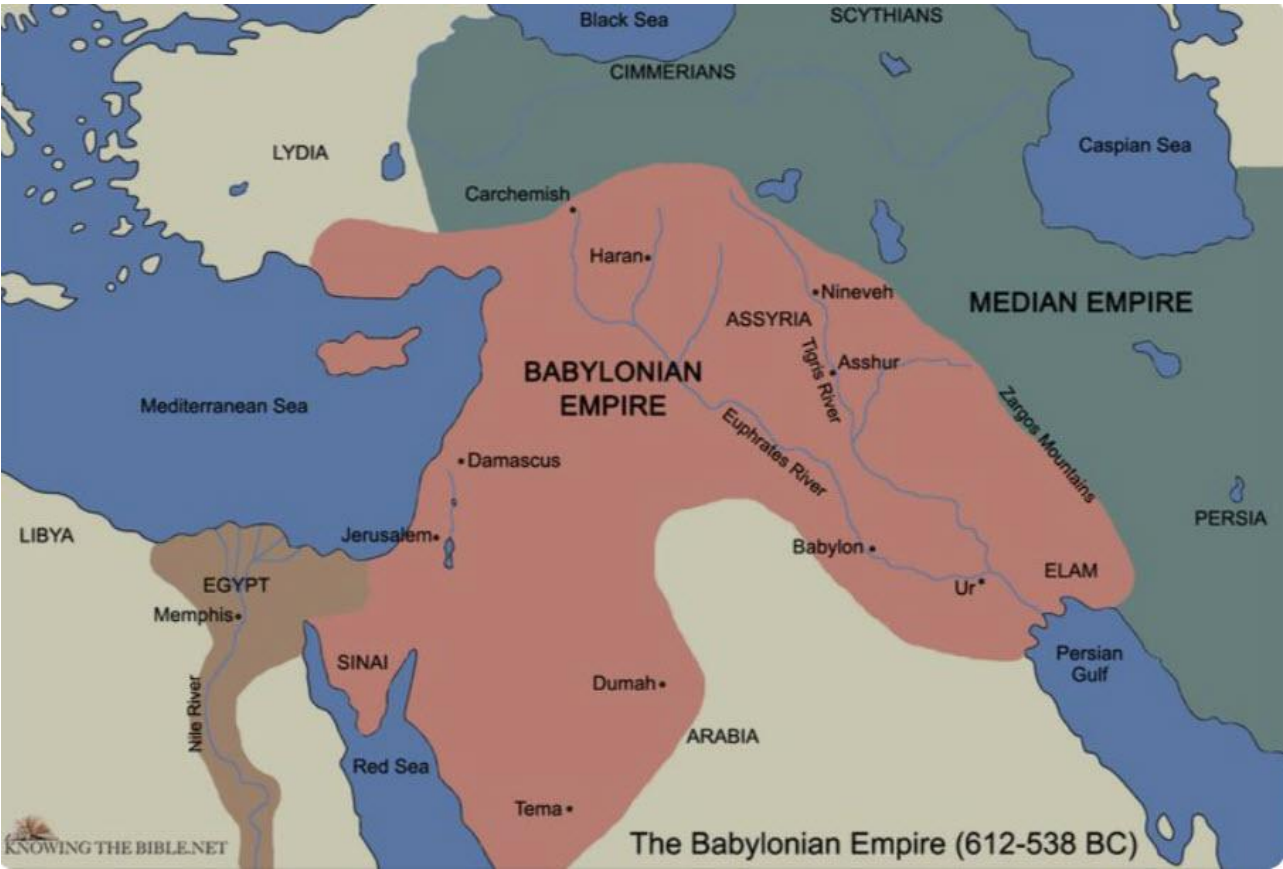
All 154 verses of Lamentations have been recognized by the Jews as a part of their sacred canon. Along with Ruth, Esther, Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes, Lamentations is included among the Old Testament books of the Megilloth, or "five scrolls," which were read in the synagogue on special occasions. Lamentations is read on the ninth of Ab (July/August) to remember the date of Jerusalem's destruction by Nebuchadnezzar. Interestingly, this same date later marked the destruction of Herod's temple by the Romans in A.D.70.

KEY GEOGRAPHY of LAMENTATIONS



KEY GEOGRAPHY of LAMENTATIONS (PAST vs. PRESENT)

612 – 538 B.C.



2017 A.D.



Lamentations: Outline

Jerusalem's Devastation

Lamentations 1

- Jeremiah's sorrow (Lam. 1:1-11)
- Jerusalem's sorrow (Lam. 1:12-22)

The Lord's Anger Explained

Lamentations 2

- The Lord's Perspective (Lam. 2:1-10)
- A Human Perspective (Lam. 2:11-19)
- Jeremiah's Prayer (Lam. 2:20-22)

Jeremiah's Griefs Expressed

Lamentations 3

- His Distress (Lam. 3:1-20)
- His Hope (Lam. 3:21-38)
- His Counsel/Prayer (Lam. 3:39-66)

God's Wrath Detailed

Lamentations 4

- For Jerusalem (Lam. 4:1-20)
- For Edom (Lam. 4:21-22)

The Remnant's Prayers

Lamentations 5

- To be remembered by the Lord (Lam. 5:1-18)
- To be restored by the Lord (Lam. 5:19-22)

Lamentations: Key Verses

Lamentations 1:1, "How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow has she become, she who was great among the nations! She who was a princess among the provinces has become a slave."

Lamentations 1:15-18, "The Lord rejected all my mighty men in my midst; he summoned an assembly against me to crush my young men; the Lord has trodden as in a winepress the virgin daughter of Judah. For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears; for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my spirit; my children are desolate, for the enemy has prevailed. Zion stretches out her hands, but there is none to comfort her; the LORD has commanded against Jacob that his neighbors should be his foes; Jerusalem has become a filthy thing among them. The LORD is in the right, for I have rebelled against his word; but hear, all you peoples, and see my suffering; my young women and my young men have gone into captivity."

Lamentations 2:5-6, "The Lord has become like an enemy; he has swallowed up Israel; he has swallowed up all its palaces; he has laid in ruins its strongholds, and he has multiplied in the daughter of Judah mourning and lamentation. He has laid waste his booth like a garden, laid in ruins his meeting place; the Lord has made Zion forget festival and Sabbath, and in his fierce indignation has spurned king and priest."

Lamentations 2:13-14, "What can I say for you, to what compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? What can I liken to you, that I may comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For your ruin is vast as the sea; who can heal you? Your prophets have seen for you false and deceptive visions; they have not exposed your iniquity to restore your fortunes, but have seen for you oracles that are false and misleading."

Lamentations 2:17, "The LORD has done what he planned; he has fulfilled his word, which he decreed long ago. He has overthrown you without pity, he has let the enemy gloat over you, he has exalted the horn of your foes."

Lamentations 3:19-26, "Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall! My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD."

Lamentations 4:12-13, "The kings of the earth did not believe, nor any of the inhabitants of the world, that foe or enemy could enter the gates of Jerusalem. This was for the sins of her prophets and the iniquities of her priests, who shed in the midst of her the blood of the righteous."

Lamentations 5:19-22, "The crown has fallen from our head; woe to us, for we have sinned! For this our heart has become sick, for these things our eyes have grown dim, for Mount Zion which lies desolate; jackals prowl over it. You, O LORD, reign forever; your throne endures from generation to generation. Why do you always forget us? Why do you forsake us so long? Restore us to yourself, O LORD, that we may return; renew our days as of old unless you have utterly rejected us and are angry with us beyond measure."

LAMENTATIONS: STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read [Lamentations 3:30-33](#).
 - a. What does this passage teach us about our God?
 - b. Does this Old Testament passage bring anything to your mind from the New Testament? (See also [Matthew 26:64-68](#).)
2. Read [Lamentations 3:37-44](#).
 - a. List the characteristics these verses teach us about the God of heaven and earth?
 - b. Based on this passage explain how we should respond to this knowledge of our God?

LAMENTATIONS



Lamentations 3:30-33, “Let him give his cheek to the one who is going to strike him; Let him be filled with shame. For the Lord will not reject forever, For if He causes grief, Then He will have compassion In proportion to His abundant mercy. For He does not afflict willingly Or grieve the sons of mankind. (NASB)

Major Events on God's Timeline
God's creation of the Heavens and the Earth, every living creature, and Mankind (~4000 B.C.)
The Fall of Mankind, the Promise of a Savior (Gen 3:15), the Global Flood, the Tower of Babel, the birth of the Nations ~4000 - 2640 B.C.
Abraham and God's covenant with him to bless him and through him to bless all the nations of the earth ~2000 B.C.
Israel freed from Slavery, entering the Promised Land, the United Kingdom, and God's covenant with David that His Descendant would reign forever ~1800 B.C. - 971 B.C.
The Divided Kingdoms of Israel and the Assyrian Conquest and Exile of Northern Israel Prophetic fulfillment: 722 B.C.
The Babylonian Conquest, Exile of Southern Israel, and Destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple Prophetic fulfillment: 586 B.C.
Israel's return to Jerusalem under Cyrus' decree to Rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem (Prophetic fulfillment: ~ 538 B.C.) And the Rebuilding of Jerusalem ~446 B.C.
God's silence for ~400 years
The 1st Coming of Christ His Ministry, Death, Burial, Resurrection, and Ascension Prophetic fulfillment: ~4 B.C. - 32 A.D.
The Church Age Prophetic fulfillment: ~ 32 A.D. - Present
The Great Tribulation and Final War
Jesus is Crowned King of Kings in the Millennial Kingdom (Dan 7, Rev 20)
Every knee will bow at the name of Jesus Christ to the Glory of God the Father (Isa 45:23, Phil 2:10-11)
White Throne Judgment/2nd Resurrection and 2nd Death (Rev 20, Col 3:23-24)
New Heaven and New Earth (Rev 21, 1 Cor 15:22-28)

God's Prophetic Timetable Events



Notes

Though Lamentations is a poetic response to the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. and not a prophetic or eschatological book, the above passage does speak of God's abundant compassion and mercy and a hope for future restoration. God's ultimate mercy is demonstrated in Jesus Christ who did give his cheek to be struck and endured the shame of the cross for our sakes. Because of Him the Lord has not rejected forever but has redeemed us, will glorify us with Him, and one day wipe away every tear.

Summary of Lamentations

Brief Summary: The Book of Lamentations is divided into five chapters. Each chapter represents a separate poem. In the original Hebrew, the verses are acrostic, each verse starting with a succeeding letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The chief focus of Lamentations is on God's judgment in response to Judah's unrepentant sin and rebellion. This theme can be traced throughout the book.¹ The Prophet Jeremiah understands that the Babylonians were God's tool for bringing judgment on Jerusalem and in the prophetic prequel titled by his name, Jeremiah mentions Babylon and her king, Nebuchadnezzar, more than 150 times.² However, in Lamentations he never once explicitly names Babylon or its king. Only the Lord is identified as the One who dealt with Judah's sin.³

A second theme that surfaces in Lamentations is the hope found in God's compassion. Though the book deals with disgrace, it turns to God's great faithfulness ([Lamentations 3:22-25](#))⁴ and closes with grace as Jeremiah moves from lamentation to consolation ([Lamentations 5:19-22](#)). Lamenting is appropriate in a time of distress, but it should quickly give way to contrition, repentance, and hope in the God who loves, forgives, and restores.⁵

Foreshadowings: Jeremiah was known as the “weeping prophet” for his deep and abiding passion for his people and their city.⁶ This same sorrow over the sins of the people and their rejection of God was expressed by Jesus as He approached Jerusalem and looked ahead to her destruction at the hands of the Romans ([Luke 19:41-44](#)). Because of the Jews' rejection of their Messiah, God used the Roman siege to punish His people. But God takes no joy in having to punish His children ([Lamentations 3:32-33](#)), and His offer of Jesus Christ as a provision for sin shows His great compassion and abundant mercy. One day, because of Christ, God will wipe away all tears ([Revelation 7:17](#)).

Notes:

¹ [Lamentations 1:5, 1:8-9, 1:18, 1:20; 3:42; 4:6, 4:13, 4:22; 5:16](#)

² [Jeremiah 20:4 - 52:34](#)

³ [Lamentations 1:12-15; 2:1-8; 4:11](#)

⁴ [Lamentations 3:22-25, 3:31-33](#); cf. [Psalm 30:3-5](#)

⁵ [Lamentations 3:16-26, Lamentations 3:40-42; 5:21-22](#)

⁶ [Lamentations 3:48-49](#)

Lamentations: Practical Application

Practical Application: Even in terrible judgment, God is a God of hope ([Lamentations 3:24-25](#)). No matter how far we have gone from Him, we have the hope that we can return to Him and find Him compassionate and forgiving ([1 John 1:9](#)). Our God is a loving God ([Lamentations 3:22](#)), and because of His great love and compassion, He sent His Son so that we would not perish in our sins but can live eternally with Him ([John 3:16](#)). God's faithfulness ([Lamentations 3:23](#)) and deliverance ([Lamentations 3:26](#)) are attributes that give us great hope and comfort. He is not disinterested or capricious, but a God who will deliver us when we turn to Him, admit we can do nothing to earn His salvation, and call upon the Lord's mercy so that we will not be consumed ([Lamentations 3:22](#), [Hebrews 12:28-29](#)).



Closing Prayer Verse

[Lamentations 5:19-22](#), “The crown has fallen from our head; woe to us, for we have sinned! For this our heart has become sick, for these things our eyes have grown dim, for Mount Zion which lies desolate; jackals prowl over it. You, O LORD, reign forever; your throne endures from generation to generation. Why do you always forget us? Why do you forsake us so long? Restore us to yourself, O LORD, that we may return; renew our days as of old unless you have utterly rejected us and are angry with us beyond measure.”

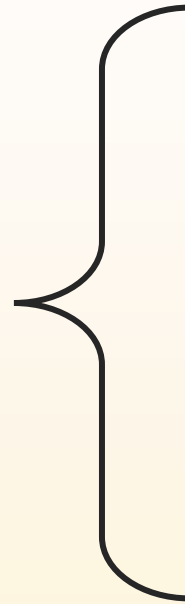




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3. **Inductive Bible Study Method:** Adapted from Precept.org.
4. **Creation – Consummation Icons:** Adapted from AnswersInGenesis.org.
5. **Definitions:** Adapted from Websters 1828 Dictionary.
6. **Bible Reference Software and Quotes:** All Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible using primarily the English Standard Version (ESV) or New American Standard Bible (NASB) translations. Links to Scripture references utilize BibleRef.com, which is a Got Questions Ministries' website.

Study Leader Assistance



Sample Prayers

Study Question Answer Keys

Sample Opening Prayer: Lamentations

[Lamentations 2:13-14](#), “What can I say for you, to what compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? What can I liken to you, that I may comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For your ruin is vast as the sea; who can heal you? Your prophets have seen for you false and deceptive visions; they have not exposed your iniquity to restore your fortunes, but have seen for you oracles that are false and misleading.”

Sample Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, Jeremiah wept over the destruction you brought upon Judah and Jerusalem for their unrepentant sin and rebellion. He clearly stated that what caused this demise were the false prophets who had not exposed their sins but instead claimed false visions and words the people preferred to hear. Oh Lord, in answer to Jeremiah’s rhetorical question: only you can heal. Only you can enable us to test and correctly discern those who teach truth from those who are deceptive. Cause us to desire truth over comfort and help us to accept reproof and correction so that we may abide in Your love and in our Lord Jesus bear fruit. In His name we pray and give thanks. Amen.



LAMENTATIONS: STUDY QUESTION ANSWERS

1. Read [Lamentations 3:30-33](#).

- a. What does this passage teach us about our God? **Answer:** Though our God may cause grief as consequences for our sins or instruction for our maturity, He is compassionate and abundant in steadfast love. It does not please his heart to afflict us, but He does so out of somber necessity. Our God loves us and will not cast us off forever.
- b. Does this Old Testament passage bring anything to your mind from the New Testament? (See also [Matthew 26:64-68](#).) **Answer:** It makes me think of Jesus Christ, God's Son, who is God's greatest demonstration of his abundant love and mercy. Jesus offered his face to be struck and his body and blood as a ransom to redeem us from God's judgment of our sinful lives. He took on insults and the shame of the cross for our sakes (Hebrews 12:1-2).

2. Read [Lamentations 3:37-44](#).

- a. List the characteristics these verses teach us about the God of heaven and earth? **Answer:** God commands both good and bad (i.e., calamity) on His earth. God is patient with us when we sin, but His patience has an end with unrepentant nations and individuals where forgiveness is no longer an option and punishment is inevitable. Jeremiah lamented that this had happened to the generation he had warned for 40 years but understood God's anger and the just disaster He brought upon the nation of Judah.
- b. Based on this passage explain how we should respond to this knowledge of our God? **Answer:** We as humans should not complain about the punishment God renders for our sins. Instead, we should examine our ways and return to the Lord. We are to acknowledge our sins and rebellion before God and seek his forgiveness. Though He may find it necessary to send misfortune during our days, He is abundant in mercy and will not cast us off forever.

Sample Closing Prayer

[Lamentations 5:19-22](#), “The crown has fallen from our head; woe to us, for we have sinned! For this our heart has become sick, for these things our eyes have grown dim, for Mount Zion which lies desolate; jackals prowl over it. You, O LORD, reign forever; your throne endures from generation to generation. Why do you always forget us? Why do you forsake us so long? Restore us to yourself, O LORD, that we may return; renew our days as of old unless you have utterly rejected us and are angry with us beyond measure.”

Sample Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, we are so thankful that you are not a God who forgets us or stays angry forever. But you, O Lord, are abundant in steadfast love, mercy and grace. You will not cast off your people forever; instead, You have made a way for our sins to be cast off as far as the east is from the west to be remembered by You no more. How blessed is the man whose sin you do not hold against him. How blessed we are that through Jesus Christ you have provided our forgiveness, adoption, and future crowns for our heads. We love you and exclaim with all of heaven that to You and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

