

Jeremiah 42-52, Lamentations, Ezekiel 1-10

- ✓ What did the people ask Jeremiah to do? What did they promise? What was God's answer? (chapter 42)
- ✓ Despite their promises, what did the leaders of the remnant do? What did God tell them? (chapter 43)
- ✓ What excuse did the people give for rejecting God's message and continuing to worship the "Queen of Heaven"? Was this the sin against the Holy Spirit? (chapter 44)
- ✓ Note: Pharaoh Hophra reigned 589-570 BC and was killed by his rivals.
- ✓ What message is there for us in God's message to Baruch? (chapter 45)
- ✓ The battle of Carchemish was fought in 605 BC. What did Egypt think about herself? What did God say? (chapter 46)
- ✓ Who is the Lord about to destroy? Who was supposed to have destroyed them? (chapter 47)
- ✓ Why will Moab be destroyed? (chapter 48)
- ✓ Why will Ammon be destroyed? (chapter 49)
- ✓ Who would God use to punish Babylon? In punishing Babylon what would God do for his people? (chapter 50)
- ✓ What had the Lord not done to Israel and Judah? (51:5)
- ✓ Who wrote chapter 52?
- ✓ Despite all the strong words of judgment God gave to Jeremiah, how does the book end? What does this tell us about God?

Lamentations:

The author never mentions his name, but it is probably Jeremiah. The book obviously refers to the time of the fall of Jerusalem, which Jeremiah witnessed. The troubles the writer endured also match things that happened to Jeremiah. Tradition suggests that Jeremiah is the author.

The book consists of 5 poems, the first four of which are acrostic (each verse begins with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet which has 22 letters). Chapter 3 is a triple acrostic. This longer poem, which is also the middle of the book, emphasizes God's grace and compassion.

“Lamentations is not a pleasant book to read. It weighs one down. It brings home to the reader the inescapable results of sin and unbelief. But even more it points to the Lord, the God of love and grace. It assures us that in him we are never without hope.” (Gosdeck)

- ✓ Who were Israel’s lovers and what did they do? (chapter 1)
- ✓ Why does God say that the visions of the prophets were false and worthless? (2:14) What application does this have today?
- ✓ What were some of the terrible things Jeremiah witnessed as Jerusalem was under siege and captured?
- ✓ In the midst of God’s judgment and the death and destruction that came with it, what gives Jeremiah hope? (chapter 3)
- ✓ Instead of complaining about their situation and all the terrible things that had happened, what does Jeremiah encourage the people to do?
- ✓ How can Jeremiah speak of God’s grace and mercy and at the same time call upon God to pay back, curse and destroy his enemies?
- ✓ How was Jerusalem worse off than Sodom? (chapter 4)
- ✓ What does the literary structure of the book of Lamentations tell you about the doctrine of inspiration?

Ezekiel:

Ezekiel was among those taken captive to Babylon along with King Jehoiachin. (597 BC) He was married, lived in his own house and enjoyed a relatively free existence while in Babylon. He was from a priestly family and was called by God to be a prophet when he was 30, the normal time for a priest to begin his service. He served as the Lord’s prophet to the exiles for about 22 years.

God used Ezekiel as an object lesson for the exiles, having him lay on his side, pack his belongings, and even forbidding him to publicly mourn the death of his wife. Ezekiel received visions that are very similar to the ones John received and recorded in Revelation. God also gave him allegories/parables to speak to the people. Yet the message was crystal clear. Jerusalem will be destroyed because of the idolatry of Israel. God will execute judgment so that one way or the other “they will know that I am the Lord.”

A simple outline of the book: Theme “Then they will know that I am the Lord”

- 1.24 God will reveal that he is Lord in the destruction and Jerusalem and the temple.
- 25.32 God will reveal that he is Lord in bringing judgment on the surrounding nations.
- 33.48 God will reveal that he is Lord through the restoration and renewal of Israel.

Something that ties the book together is the fact that Ezekiel sees a vision of the glory of the Lord leaving the Temple. Then, later in the book he sees a vision of the glory of the Lord returning to his Temple.

Ezekiel clearly points out that God works in all things for the purpose of showing us that he is the one and only true God and moving us to recognize and trust in him alone.

- ✓ Like Revelation, Ezekiel receives a vision of God's throne in heaven and attempts to describe the indescribable to us. What feeling do you get as you read Ezekiel's description? (chapter 1)
- ✓ Our theologians teach that the gospel creates the faith it calls for. How is this thought illustrated here? (chapter 2)
- ✓ What was Ezekiel called to do? How did God illustrate this? (chapter 3)
- ✓ What is the responsibility that God gave Ezekiel and that he gives to us (Mat 18) as watchmen/our brother's keeper? What is not our responsibility?
- ✓ Ezekiel was to be a human object lesson to the exiles in Babylon, making a clay depiction of the siege of Jerusalem and lying on his side for over a year. What concession did God make to Ezekiel when he complained? (chapter 4)
- ✓ What was God picturing by having Ezekiel shave his head and beard and divide the hair into thirds? (chapter 5)
- ✓ Despite the fact that Judah had God's word and the temple, what was true of them? (5:7)
- ✓ Why does God tell Ezekiel to prophesy against the mountains? (chapter 6)
- ✓ The theme of this book comes out repeatedly in this chapter. What is it?
- ✓ God's message to Judah is summarized in three words. What are they? (7:2, 5, 7)
- ✓ When God took Ezekiel in spirit to the temple in Jerusalem, what did he show him? (chapter 8)
- ✓ How does this vision help us understand John's vision of the 144,000 in Revelation 7? (chapter 9)
- ✓ What did the glory of the Lord do as Ezekiel watched the temple? (chapter 10)