

# **The Book of Lamentations**

# I. Literary Style

- A. The entire book of Lamentations is poetic in its form
- B. Each chapter of the book is comprised of a poem making five poems in all
- C. The poems use the literary style of an acrostic where the poem is build around the alphabet
- D. The structure of Lamentations is as follows:

1. Chapter 1

Twenty-two verses—sixty-six lines

2. Chapter 2

Same as chapter 1

### 3. Chapter 3

Sixty=six line (one per verse).

Each line begins with the appropriate letter

#### 4. Chapter 4

Same as chapters 1—2 except that there are two lines per stanza rather than three

#### 5. Chapter 5

The alphabet is not used, but there are twenty-two lines.

## II. Situation

- A. Egypt alone with malcontents
- B. Israel lost 1:3
- C. Jerusalem lost 1:1-2
- D. Temple lost 1:10
- E. Ark lost 1:10, 2:7
- F. Bible's application is lost 2:5, 2:9
- G. Her fault 1:8, 12
- H. Jeremiah is deeply lamenting 1:13, 3:1-9

# III. Promises

- A. God still loves and sees and rules 3:21-24 (key verse)
- B. Waiting wins 3:25-27
- C. God never ends his love 3:31-32
- D. God does not enjoy discipline 3:33
- E. God is sovereign 3:37
- F. God is there and active in bad times 3:55-57

# IV. Application

- A. Drugs if lamenting for no objective reason - Tipper Gore
- B. Drugs if there is a needed respite
- C. Allow lamenting to have it's effect
  - A. Cupcake college students
  - B. Matthew 5:3-5
- D. No great man of God in history or Bible who did not lament