

The Bible Jesus Used

A Gospel-Centered Glance at
the Old Testament

Bethlehem Baptist Church, fall 2014
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Lamentations at a Glance

Lament	Voice	Alphabetic Acrostic
<i>Lament 1: Jerusalem's Sorrow</i>	Narrator & Zion	22 stanzas-3 lines-1st
<i>Lament 2: God's Punishment</i>	Narrator & Zion	22 stanzas-3 lines-1st
<i>Lament 3: Jeremiah's Hope</i>	Narrator	22 stanzas-3 lines-all 3
<i>Lament 4: Jerusalem's Siege</i>	Narrator & people	22 stanzas-2 lines-1st
<i>Lament 5: Jeremiah's Plea</i>	Narrator & people	22 lines-none

Some Biblical Acrostics:

- *Ps 34*: God's complete protection of the righteous
- *Ps 119*: The psalmist's full-orbed joy in God's law
- *Ps 145*: The absolute perfection of Yahweh's character
- *Prov 31:10–31*: The total package in a woman who fear the LORD
- *Lamentations*: The psalmist's complete agony over Jerusalem's fall

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Lam 3:22–24. The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴ “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

❖ Laments (APTRAP)

- ❖ Address to God in 1st person
- ❖ Petitions, usually for being heard
- ❖ Trouble described
- ❖ Reason why God should answer
- ❖ Assurance declared (confidence or trust)
- ❖ Praise or promise of sacrifice

Lament 5

¹Remember, O LORD, what has befallen us;

Address

¹Look, and see our disgrace!...²¹Renew our days of old.

Petitions

²Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers.... We have become orphans.... ¹⁷Our heart has become sick.

Trouble

²⁰Why do you forget us forever?

(Complaint)

²¹Restore us to yourself, O LORD, that we may be restored! Renew our days as of old—²²unless you have utterly rejected us, and you remain exceedingly angry with us.

Rationale

¹⁹But you, O LORD, reign forever.

Assurance

❖ **God justly cursed Judah for her sin**

❖ **Judah deserved her judgment** (Lam. 1:5, 8, 14, 18, 20, 22; 3:42–43; 4:6, 13; 5:7, 16).

❖ Lam. 1:5, 18, 20. Her foes have become the head; her enemies prosper, because the LORD has afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe.... ¹⁸The LORD is in the right, for I have rebelled against his word....
²⁰Look, O LORD, for I am in distress; my stomach churns; my heart is wrung within me, because I have been very rebellious. In the street the sword bereaves; in the house it is like death.

- ❖ Lam. 3:42–43. We have transgressed and rebelled, and you have not forgiven. ⁴³You have wrapped yourself with anger and pursued us, killing without pity.
- ❖ Lam. 4:6, 13. For the chastisement of the daughter of my people has been greater than the punishment of Sodom, which was overthrown in a moment, and no hands were wrung for her.... ¹³This 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.
- ❖ Lam. 5:7, 16. Our fathers sinned, and are no more; and we bear their iniquities.... ¹⁶The crown has fallen from our head; woe to us, for we have sinned!

- ❖ **Yahweh delivered the judgment in his anger** (1:12; 2:1–9, 22; 3:43; 4:11).
- ❖ Lam. 1:12. Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which was brought upon me, which the LORD inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.
- ❖ Lam. 2:1–2, 22. How the Lord in his anger has set the daughter of Zion under a cloud! He has cast down from heaven to earth the splendor of Israel.... ²The Lord has swallowed up without mercy all the habitations of Jacob.... ²²You summoned as if to a festival day my terrors on every side, and on the day of the anger of the LORD no one escaped or survived; those whom I held and raised my enemy destroyed.

- ❖ Lam. 3:43. You have wrapped yourself with anger and pursued us, killing without pity.
- ❖ Lam. 4:11. The LORD gave full vent to his wrath; he poured out his hot anger, and he kindled a fire in Zion that consumed its foundations.

- ❖ **Yahweh delivered the judgment in accordance with his word (1:21; 2:17; 3:37–38; cf. Lev. 26; Deut. 28)!**
- ❖ Lam. 1:21. They heard my groaning, yet there is no one to comfort me. All my enemies have heard of my trouble; they are glad that you have done it. You have brought the day you announced; now let them be as I am.
- ❖ Lam. 2:17. The LORD has done what he purposed; he has carried out his word, which he commanded long ago; he has thrown down without pity; he has made the enemy rejoice over you and exalted the might of your foes.
- ❖ Lam. 3:37–38. Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? ³⁸Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come?

- ❖ **The covenant curse against Judah only compounds the curse on humanity (Rom 3:19–20).**
- ❖ Rom. 3:19–20. Now we know that whatever the law says it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.
- ❖ **Our hope rests only in Christ, who bears the curse for all who believe (Gal 3:13–14).**
- ❖ Gal. 3:13–14. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us . . . ¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles.

- ❖ **The curses were very severe** (Lam. 2:11–12, 20–22; 3:1–18, 44; 4:4–11; 5:10–13; cf. 2 Kgs. 25 with Deut. 28).
- ❖ **Hunger and thirst** (2:11–12, 19; 4:4–5, 9)
- ❖ **Cannibalism** (2:20; 4:10)
- ❖ **Slaughter** (2:20–22)
- ❖ **Affliction, tribulation, hopelessness** (3:1–18)
- ❖ **Divine distance** (3:8, 44)
- ❖ **Lack** (4:5)
- ❖ **Famine and heat** (4:7–8; 5:10)
- ❖ **Rape** (1:4; 5:11)
- ❖ **Humiliation** (5:12)
- ❖ **Forced labor** (5:13)

❖ **In accordance with his word (e.g., Gen. 12:3; Jer. 25:15–38), God must punish Judah’s enemies, who are equally deserving of judgment (Lam. 1:21–22; 3:61–66; 4:21–22; cf. Deut. 30:7).**

❖ Gen. 12:3. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse.

❖ Jer. 25:15–16. Thus the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: “Take from my hand this cup of the wine of wrath, and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it. ¹⁶ They shall drink and stagger and be crazed because of the sword that I am sending among them.”

- ❖ Lam. 1:21–22. They heard my groaning, yet there is no one to comfort me. All my enemies have heard of my trouble; they are glad that you have done it. You have brought the day you announced; now let them be as I am. ²²Let all their evildoing come before you, and deal with them as you have dealt with me because of all my transgressions; for my groans are many, and my heart is faint.”
- ❖ Lam. 3:61–66. You have heard their taunts, O LORD, all their plots against me. ⁶²The lips and thoughts of my assailants are against me all the day long. ⁶³Behold their sitting and their rising; I am the object of their taunts. ⁶⁴You will repay them, O LORD, according to the work of their hands. ⁶⁵You will give them dullness of heart; your curse will be on them. ⁶⁶You will pursue them in anger and destroy them from under your heavens, O LORD.

❖ Lam. 4:21–22. Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, you who dwell in the land of Uz; but to you also the cup shall pass; you shall become drunk and strip yourself bare. ²²The punishment of your iniquity, O daughter of Zion, is accomplished; he will keep you in exile no longer; but your iniquity, O daughter of Edom, he will punish; he will uncover your sins.

Rom. 9:17–24. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”¹⁸ So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.¹⁹ You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?”²⁰ But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?”²¹ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?²² What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—²⁴ even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

❖ **The purpose of suffering is to highlight the worth and character of God (e.g., his mercy, grace, steadfast love, and faithfulness) and to stress that hope is found in him alone.**

❖ **God is full of love and faithfulness (Lam. 3:19–25 with 26–38; cf. Exod. 34:5–7).**

❖ Exod. 34:5–7. Yahweh descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of Yahweh. ⁶Yahweh passed before him and proclaimed, “Yahweh, Yahweh, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.”

- ❖ Lam. 3:19–25. Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall! ²⁰My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me. ²¹But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: ²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” ²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

❖ Lam. 3:26–38. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. ²⁷It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth. ²⁸Let him sit alone in silence when it is laid on him; ²⁹let him put his mouth in the dust— there may yet be hope; ³⁰let him give his cheek to the one who strikes, and let him be filled with insults. ³¹For the Lord will not cast off forever, ³²but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; ³³for he does not willingly afflict [lit., afflict from his heart] or grieve the children of men.... ³⁷Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? ³⁸Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come?

Heb. 12:5–11. “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

❖ **God reigns and will ultimately redeem his people (3:31–32; 4:22; 5:19–22)!**

❖ Lam. 3:31–32. For the Lord will not cast off forever, ³²but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

❖ Lam. 4:22. The punishment of your iniquity, O daughter of Zion, is accomplished; he will keep you in exile no longer; but your iniquity, O daughter of Edom, he will punish; he will uncover your sins.

❖ Lam. 5:19–22. But you, O LORD, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations. ²⁰Why do you forget us forever, why do you forsake us for so many days? ²¹Restore us to yourself, O LORD, that we may be restored! Renew our days as of old—²²unless you have utterly rejected us, and you remain exceedingly angry with us.

The Old Covenant Structure

Law (Established)	Prophets (Enforced)		Writings (Enjoyed)	
	<i>Former</i>	<i>Latter</i>	<i>Former</i>	<i>Latter</i>
Genesis	Joshua	Jeremiah	Ruth	Daniel
Exodus	Judges	Ezekiel	Psalms	Esther
Leviticus	1–2 Samuel	Isaiah	Job	Ezra-Nehemiah
Numbers	1–2 Kings	The Twelve	Proverbs	1–2 Chronicles
Deuteronomy			Ecclesiastes	
			Song of Songs	
			Lamentations	
Narrative	Narrative	Commentary	Commentary	Narrative

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