

Lecture 25: LAMENTATIONS
 “The God who is righteous and faithful”
 Jason S. DeRouchie, PhD

I. Introduction

II. Structure:

- A. Lament 1:** Jerusalem’s Shameful State
- B. Lament 2:** Yahweh’s Punishment
- C. Lament 3:** The Prophet’s Pain
- D. Lament 4:** Jerusalem’s Siege
- E. Lament 5:** The Prophet’s Prayer after Jerusalem’s Fall

III. The Message

A. God justly cursed Jerusalem for her sin.

1. Judah deserved her judgment (Lam 1:5, 8, 14, 18, 20, 22; 3:42–43; 4:6, 13; 5:7, 16).
2. Yahweh punished in his just anger (1:12; 2:1–9, 22; 3:43; 4:11)
3. Yahweh delivered the judgment according to his covenant word (1:21; 2:17; 3:37–38)

B. The curses were very severe.

1. Hunger and thirst (2:11–12, 19; 4:4–5, 9)
2. Cannibalism (2:20; 4:10)
3. Slaughter (2:20–22)
4. Affliction, tribulation, hopelessness (3:1–18)
5. Divine distance (3:8, 44)
6. Lack (4:5)
7. Famine and heat (4:7–8; 5:10)
8. Rape (1:4; 5:11)
9. Humiliation (5:12)
10. Forced labor (5:13)

C. Yahweh must also punish Judah's enemies (Gen 12:3; Jer 25:15–16; Lam 3:61–66; 4:21–22).

D. Yahweh has purposes in suffering.

1. It highlights his worth and character (3:19–25, 26–38).
2. It moves us to recognize that hope is found in him alone (3:31–32; 4:20, 22; 5:19–22)

IV. Summary:

- A. Long:** Although God has justly judged Jerusalem, he reigns forever as a King who remembers his people with new mercies every morning—mercies that ensure he will restore them from death and renew them through the intercessory, substitutionary work of the anointed one who will represent the daughter of Jerusalem.
- B. Short:** God exiled his people for their sins, but he is faithful, he will remember all his promises, and he will have mercy on those sufferers who hope in him.