**Lamentations**

**God’s faithfulness and a suffering city – 1:1 -22**

*Is it nothing to all you who pass this way? Look and see if there*

*is any pain like my pain which was severely dealt out to me*

*which the Lord inflicted on the day of His fierce anger* 1:12

 *See, Lord, for I am in distress; My spirit is greatly troubled,*

 *My heart is overturned within me, for I have been very rebellious* 1:20

**Suffering & it’s causes**

1. Suffering from the sin of Adam & Eve – sufferings in a fallen world
2. Suffering for personal sins
3. Suffering from the sins of others
4. Suffering from the wrath & judgment of God
5. Suffering for righteousness
6. Suffering for holiness
7. Suffering from the providence of God

**Types of suffering**

1. Individual suffering
2. Group suffering
3. Physical suffering
4. Emotional suffering
5. Mental suffering
6. Spiritual suffering

**Introduction to Lamentations**

1. Lamentations is a series of 5 primary suffering laments
2. Lamentations is sacred poetry written in acrostic form (each verse begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet from Aleph to Tav or from A to Z)

Chapter 1 – 22 verses

Chapter 2 – 22 verses

Chapter 3 – 66 verses – 3 sets of 22 verses

Chapter 4 – 22 verses

Chapter 5 – 22 verses

1. Lamentation describes real experiences of suffering witnessed by Jeremiah over the destruction of Jerusalem by Babylonians
2. Jeremiah the prophet wrote and shared in the sufferings of God’s judgment on Jerusalem
3. Lamentations teaches there is suffering for sinfulness under the judgment of God
4. Lamentations teaches the way to hopefulness out of suffering
5. Lamentations teaches the importance of complete spiritual lament in sufferings
6. Lamentations teaches complete spiritual lament leads to repentance
7. Lamentations asks the question – **How?** in relation to suffering

How was used to begin funeral laments in the ancient world

***How*** *lonely sits the city*…1:1

***How*** *the Lord has covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in His anger* 2:1

***How*** *dark the gold has become, How the pure gold has changed! The sacred stones are poured out at the corner of every street* 4:1

**The Babylonian Conquest of Jerusalem – Jer. 52:1 – 14**

**Lament #1**

1. **The suffering city – 1:1 -11**
2. She is now a slave – 1:1
3. She has been betrayed by her friends – 1:2
4. She has nowhere to turn – 1:3
5. She is bitter – 1:4
6. She is alone – 1:5
7. She is regretful – 1:7
8. She is grieved & ashamed – 1:8
9. **The judgment of God on the city – 1:12 – 15**
10. The Lord has convicted me – like fire in the bones - 1:13
11. The Lord has trapped me – 1:13
12. The Lord has devasted me – 1:13
13. The Lord has made me sick – 1:13
14. The Lord gave me over to my bondage of sin – 1:14
15. The Lord gave me over to the enemy – 1:14
16. The Lord made me helpless – 1:14
17. The Lord has removed my support from me – 1:15
18. **The confession of sinful suffering – 1:16 – 21**
19. I am sorrowful – 1:16
20. I have no comforter or comfort – 1:16
21. I have lost everything – 1:16
22. I have only enemies no friends – 1:17
23. I have rebelled against God – 1:18
24. I am in pain – 1:18
25. **The prayer for mercy & understanding – 1:10 – 11, 20**
26. *See O LORD my affliction* – 1:10
27. See O LORD and look for I am despised – 1:11
28. See O LORD for I am in distress – 1:20

**Lessons for spiritual lament**

1. Spiritual lament in suffering should be a detailed lament – Tell everything about your suffering
2. Spiritual lament in suffering should be done in the presence of God
3. Spiritual lament in suffering should be done with complete honesty with God
4. Spiritual lament in suffering should be accompanied with prayer for God’s mercy

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**