

## Lamentations 3

# Memory and Hope at the Center

Sermon Outline for March 11, 2012, the Third Sunday in Lent, by Pastor Dennis Tuuri

**Intro** – Lam. 1:6 And from the daughter of **Zion** All her splendor has departed

The Fading Beauty of the Poetry of the Book of Lamentations (Dr. Kai Soltau, Robert Jones)

- A. Acrostic - Knox Translation, Holman Bible - Fades Away in Chapter 5
- B. Chiasm - Fades Away in Chapters 4 and 5
- C. Concatenation (Chains) - Fades Away in Chapter 3
- D.. 3-2 Chapters - Fading Away

Another Beautiful Alphabetic Structure

3 Speakers, 22 Sections, with Centers Between Exact Word Counts

Chapter One

1. *the LORD has afflicted her because of the multitude of her transgressions. Her children have gone into captivity*
2. *my affliction*
3. *those whom You commanded not to enter*
4. *He has spread a net for my feet and turned me back;*
5. *the Lord trampled as in a winepress the virgin daughter of Judah.*
6. *because the comforter, who should restore my life, is far from me.*
7. *the LORD has commanded concerning Jacob*
8. *for I have been very rebellious*

Chapter Two

9. *mourning and lamentation*
10. *Is this the city that is called 'The perfection of beauty, the joy of the whole earth'?"*
11. *My virgins and my young men have fallen by the sword;*

Chapter Three

12. *And I said, "My strength and my hope Have perished*
13. *Who is he who speaks and it comes to pass, when the Lord has not commanded it?*
14. *You have covered Yourself with a cloud,*
15. *You drew near on the day I called on You,*

Chapter 1 to Chapter 2 to Chapter 3 - The Big Picture

1:1 How lonely sits the city

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

3.1 I am the man

## Chapter 3 - The Heart of the Book - Intensely Personal (Not Cities and Temple)

Arc- Pain: Faith: Instruction: Prayer

"that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God" 2 Cor. 1:4

Counseling Manual, No Name (Beauty?); No Hope; Hit Bottom The Minor Fall

The Value of Ambiguity

Personal Observation; Collective Prayer; Praise and Petition

Third Chapter - Death and Resurrection

Outline Source: Paul House, WBC

I. Personal Suffering and Its Lessons - vv. 1-24

A. Darkness 1-6

Repeated Hitting, Death and Burial; Ps. 143:3; Jer. 38

B. Walk 7-9; Mosaic Covenant Reversed

Trapped and Chained in Darkness; Claustrophobia

C. Traps and Dangers 10-18

Reversal of Abraham (Birds), More Specifically Davidic Covenant (Lion and Bear)

Arrows - Noahic Covenant Reversed

Laughing At Me - Abrahamic Covenant Reversed (Ishmael)

vv. 15-18 Summary (Gravel not Bread)

D. God's Goodness 19-24

Command to Remember is the Practical Pivot

God Is Love (Endures Forever), Not Wrath (For A Moment)

Every Day, God Plans Something Better For Us, History Not Static;

II. What Is Good to Do While Suffering - vv. 25-39

A. What is Good To Do 25-30

Bear Yoke in Youth - Biblical Philosophy of History

Judgment - Something Better Is Coming; Birthpangs

B. God's Justice 31-36

He does not afflict "from His heart"

3 Cases of Injustice That God Will Judge

C. God's Sovereignty 37-39

III. Exhortation to Corporate Prayer of Confession of Sin - vv. 40-47

A. Call to Prayer 40-41

Self-examination Leads to Fuller Confession

HC Q2

B. Confession of Sins 42-45

C. What Enemies Have Done to Them 46-47

IV. Personal Prayer of Confidence in the Lord - vv. 48-66

A. Speaker's Grief 48-51

B. What Enemies Have Done 52-54

C. God's Past Help 55-63

D. Confidence in God's Actions to Enemies 64-66

The Postmillennial Cycle - Judgement (And Hope!) for the World

**12PR** <sup>1</sup>I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of His wrath.  
<sup>2</sup>He has led me and made me walk In darkness and not in light.  
<sup>3</sup>Surely He has turned His hand against me Time and time again throughout the day.  
<sup>4</sup>He has aged my flesh and my skin, And broken my bones.  
<sup>5</sup>He has besieged me And surrounded me with bitterness and woe.  
<sup>6</sup>He has set me in dark places Like the dead of long ago.  
<sup>7</sup>He has hedged me in so that I cannot get out; He has made my chain heavy.  
<sup>8</sup>Even when I cry and shout, He shuts out my prayer.  
<sup>9</sup>He has blocked my ways with hewn stone; He has made my paths crooked.  
<sup>10</sup>He has been to me a bear lying in wait, Like a lion in ambush.  
<sup>11</sup>He has turned aside my ways and torn me in pieces; He has made me desolate.  
<sup>12</sup>He has bent His bow And set me up as a target for the arrow.  
<sup>13</sup>He has caused the arrows of His quiver To pierce my loins.  
<sup>14</sup>I have become the ridicule of all my people— Their taunting song all the day.  
<sup>15</sup>He has filled me with bitterness, He has made me drink wormwood.  
<sup>16</sup>He has also broken my teeth with gravel, And covered me with ashes.  
<sup>17</sup>You have moved my soul far from peace; I have forgotten prosperity.  
<sup>18</sup>*And I said, “My strength and my hope Have perished from the LORD.”*  
<sup>19</sup>Remember my affliction and roaming, The wormwood and the gall.  
<sup>20</sup>My soul still remembers And sinks within me.  
<sup>21</sup>This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope.  
<sup>22</sup>Through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.  
<sup>23</sup>They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.  
<sup>24</sup>“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I hope in Him!”  
<sup>25</sup>The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him.  
<sup>26</sup>It is good that one should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the LORD.  
<sup>27</sup>It is good for a man to bear The yoke in his youth.  
<sup>28</sup>Let him sit alone and keep silent, Because God has laid it on him;  
<sup>29</sup>Let him put his mouth in the dust— There may yet be hope.  
<sup>30</sup>Let him give his cheek to the one who strikes him, And be full of reproach.  
<sup>31</sup>For the Lord will not cast off forever.  
<sup>32</sup>Though He causes grief, Yet He will show compassion According to the multitude of His mercies.  
<sup>33</sup>For He does not afflict willingly, Nor grieve the children of men.

**13PR** <sup>34</sup>To crush under one’s feet All the prisoners of the earth,  
<sup>35</sup>To turn aside the justice due a man Before the face of the Most High,  
<sup>36</sup>Or subvert a man in his cause— The Lord does not approve.  
<sup>37</sup>*Who is he who speaks and it comes to pass, When the Lord has not commanded it?*  
<sup>38</sup>Is it not from the mouth of the Most High That woe and well-being proceed?  
<sup>39</sup>Why should a living man complain, A man for the punishment of his sins?  
<sup>40</sup>Let us search out and examine our ways, And turn back to the LORD;

**14C**<sup>41</sup> Let us lift our hearts and hands To God in heaven.

<sup>42</sup> We have transgressed and rebelled; You have not pardoned.

<sup>43</sup> You have covered Yourself with anger And pursued us; You have slain and not pitied.

<sup>44</sup> You have covered Yourself with a cloud, That prayer should not pass through.

<sup>45</sup> You have made us an offscouring and refuse In the midst of the peoples.

<sup>46</sup> All our enemies Have opened their mouths against us.

<sup>47</sup> Fear and a snare have come upon us, Desolation and destruction.

**15PR** <sup>48</sup> My eyes overflow with rivers of water For the destruction of the daughter of my people.

<sup>49</sup> My eyes flow and do not cease, Without interruption,

<sup>50</sup> Till the LORD from heaven Looks down and sees.

<sup>51</sup> My eyes bring suffering to my soul Because of all the daughters of my city.

<sup>52</sup> My enemies without cause Hunted me down like a bird.

<sup>53</sup> They silenced my life in the pit And threw stones at me.

<sup>54</sup> The waters flowed over my head; I said, "I am cut off!"

<sup>55</sup> I called on Your name, O LORD, From the lowest pit.

<sup>56</sup> You have heard my voice: "Do not hide Your ear From my sighing, from my cry for help."

<sup>57</sup> You drew near on the day I called on You, And said, "Do not fear!"

<sup>58</sup> O Lord, You have pleaded the case for my soul; You have redeemed my life.

<sup>59</sup> O LORD, You have seen how I am wronged; Judge my case.

<sup>60</sup> You have seen all their vengeance, All their schemes against me.

<sup>61</sup> You have heard their reproach, O LORD, All their schemes against me,

<sup>62</sup> The lips of my enemies And their whispering against me all the day.

<sup>63</sup> Look at their sitting down and their rising up; I am their taunting song.

<sup>64</sup> Repay them, O LORD, According to the work of their hands.

<sup>65</sup> Give them a veiled heart; Your curse be upon them!

<sup>66</sup> In Your anger, Pursue and destroy them From under the heavens of the LORD.

## Lamentations by David Dorsey

### 24.1 The Book of Lamentations

a she—Zion—is desolate and devastated (1:1—11)

- terrible reversal of Judah's fortunes

- prosperous days of old (y qedem) are over

- gates are desolate

- fate of princes

- desperation to acquire bread

- pursuers allow no rest; reason: she has sinned

b I—Zion—was betrayed and defeated: there is none to help or comfort me (1:12—22)

- they rej9jce over my fall

- vain hope for help from allies

- cry for vengeance

c he—Yahweh—has caused this in his anger (2:1—8)

- Yahweh has poured out his gg and wrath, which has devoured Zion like

d they—princes, maidens, nurslings, children, mothers—suffer (2:9—12)

- children starve and perish in the town squares

e you—Zion—should cry out to God (2:13—22)

- let tears stream down like a river without ceasing or rest

- enemies open mpgth against you

- Yahweh has slain without pity

f he—Yahweh—has afflicted ('nh) me (3:1—20)

- the poet—a man (geber)—is afflicted; his complaint

g CLIMAX: Yahweh's great love! (3:21—32)

f' he—Yahweh—afflicts ('nh) humans (3:33—39)

- mitigating note Yahweh does not enjoy afflicting humans

- a man (geber) shouldn't complain if he suffers for sins

e' you—Yahweh—to you I cry out (3:40—66)

- mitigating note prayer for Yahweh's justice

- my tears stream down like a river without ceasing or rest

- enemies open mouths against me

- Yahweh has slain without pity

- prayer

d' they—princes, maidens, nurslings, children, mothers—suffer (4:1—10)

- mitigating note Yahweh is just; his punishment was because Judah's sins and iniquities were worse than Sodom's

- children starve and perish in the town squares

c' he—Yahweh—has caused this in his anger (4:11—16)

mitigating note Yahweh is just; his punishment was for iudah's sins and iniquities

Yahweh has poured out his and wrath, which has devoured Zion like fire

b' we—the people of Zion—were betrayed and defeated (4:17—22)

- mitigating note Yahweh is just; he will restore iudah and punish Edom for her sins and iniquities

- our allies failed to help

- Edom rejoices

' we—the people of Zion—are desolate and devastated (5:1—22)

- mitigating note poet's prayec "Restore us, so that we may return"

- terrible reversal of Judah's fortunes

- prosperous days of old (y qedem) are over

- are desolate

- fate of princes

- desperation to acquire

- pursuers allow no rest; reason: we have sinned