

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

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

14C⁴¹ Let us lift our hearts and hands To God in heaven.

⁴²We have transgressed and rebelled; You have not pardoned.

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

⁴⁴*You have covered Yourself with a cloud*, That prayer should not pass through.

⁴⁵You have made us an offscouring and refuse In the midst of the peoples.

⁴⁶All our enemies Have opened their mouths against us.

⁴⁷Fear and a snare have come upon us, Desolation and destruction.

15PR⁴⁸ My eyes overflow with rivers of water For the destruction of the daughter of my people.

⁴⁹My eyes flow and do not cease, Without interruption,

⁵⁰Till the LORD from heaven Looks down and sees.

⁵¹My eyes bring suffering to my soul Because of all the daughters of my city.

⁵²My enemies without cause Hunted me down like a bird.

⁵³They silenced my life in the pit And threw stones at me.

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

⁵⁵I called on Your name, O LORD, From the lowest pit.

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

⁵⁷*You drew near on the day I called on You*, And said, "Do not fear!"

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

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

⁶⁰You have seen all their vengeance, All their schemes against me.

⁶¹You have heard their reproach, O LORD, All their schemes against me,

⁶²The lips of my enemies And their whispering against me all the day.

⁶³Look at their sitting down and their rising up; I am their taunting song.

⁶⁴Repay them, O LORD, According to the work of their hands.

⁶⁵Give them a veiled heart; Your curse be upon them!

⁶⁶In 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 rejoice 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 mpgh 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 withoutpity**
- **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—1 6)

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