

## Lamentations 4

# *How the Gold Has Darkened*

Sermon Outline for March 18, 2012, the Fourth 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
  - E. Verses - 66-66-66-44-22 (Judgment and Beauty)

- Chapter 1 to Chapter 2 to Chapter 3 to Chapter 4 - The Big Picture (Comfort)
- 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
  - 4:1 How the gold has darkened

### **Chapter 4's Arc - Judgment to Decreation and Recreation**

- I. Golden Children Not valued - vv. 1-5  
Children, the valuable stones, are disregarded  
  
People (mothers) are cruel
  
- II. Greater than Sodom - Judgment and Sin - vv. 6-10  
Sword vs. Starvation (Nazirite warriors fade by latter)  
  
Color (beauty) fades  
  
Self-centered mothers are monsters
  
- III. Pursuers and Pursuer - The Hound of Heaven - vv. 11-19  
God's city/people are shamed  
  
Priests and prophets don't show the people their liability for punishment (iniquities)  
  
Let your face shine and we are....punished  
  
No political hope  
  
Our pursuers were aided by the Lord
  
- IV. The Death of the Anointed - Decreation - v. 20
  
- V. Judgment Concluded - Recreation Begins - vv. 21,22

## Literary Structures of the Old Testament 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 anger and wrath, which has devoured Zion like fire
- 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 mouth 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 Judah's sins and iniquities  
Yahweh has poured out his anger 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 Judah and punish Edom for her sins and iniquities
- our allies failed to help
- Edom rejoices

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

- mitigating note poet's prayer "Restore us, so that we may return"
- terrible reversal of Judah's fortunes
- prosperous days of old (yene qedem) are over
- gates are desolate
- fate of princes
- desperation to acquire bread
- pursuers allow no rest; reason: we have sinned