

## Remember, O Lord (Lamentations 5v1-22)

### Background

Lamentations contains five related laments about the fall of Jerusalem in 586BC. Jeremiah's tears flow as he describes the sorrow of Jerusalem and the fierceness of God's anger. The only hope for Jerusalem is the Lord's compassion.

### Questions

The first four laments are acrostics but the final lament is not. It is also shorter than the other laments (consisting of 22 lines compared to 66 in the first three laments and 44 in the fourth). This gives the impression that Jeremiah has run out of words and energy.<sup>1</sup> There is nothing more he can say.

For a final time he calls on God to remember his people's disgrace (1).

- What had happened to their inheritance (2)? What problems was this causing (3-10)? What was happening to the women (11), the princes and elders (12), the young men (13-4) and the old men (14)?

Joy had turned into sorrow (15). The crown, referring both to Jerusalem's position among the nations and also to their king, had been taken away (16-18).

- Why had these things happened (7, 16)? Who was the only one who could help them (19)? Was he going to help them (20-22)?

Lamentations ends on a low note but it does not end without hope. Jeremiah knew that God's mercies would not fail (3:19-24). His hopes, and the hopes of all God's people, were fulfilled with the coming of God's Son (Luke 1:46-55, 68-75).

### Application

"The God of all grace who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast" (1 Peter 5:10). He will not forsake us if we have faith in his Son.

---

<sup>1</sup> We see something similar in Job chapter 22-27, where the third and final cycle of speeches is much shorter than the previous two.

## Lamentations

### Chapter 1 Jerusalem Weeps

How lonely sits the city

That was full of people!

How like a widow is she,

Who was great among the nations!

The princess among the provinces

Has become a slave!

### Chapter 2 The Day of the Lord's Anger

How the Lord has covered the daughter of Zion

With a cloud in His anger!

He cast down from heaven to the earth

The beauty of Israel,

And did not remember His footstool

In the day of His anger.

### Chapter 3 Hope for the Hopeless

I am the man who has seen affliction

by the rod of His wrath.

He has led me and made me walk

In darkness and not in light.

Surely He has turned His hand against me

Time and time again throughout the day.

### Chapter 4 The Great Reversal

How the gold has become dim!

How changed the fine gold!

The stones of the sanctuary are scattered

At the head of every street

### Chapter 5 Remember, O Lord

Remember, O Lord, what has come upon us;

Look, and behold our reproach!