



The Lamentations of Jeremiah

Lamenting the Condemned

Lamentations 3:1-66

- I. THE JUDGE AND THE JUDGED (Lamentations 3:1-20)
 - A. Introduction to the Judged (Lamentations 3:1)
 1. The speaker identified—"I am the man."
 - a. The description is written from the standpoint of one man.
 - b. This was very likely speaking of Jeremiah who was speaking on behalf of the nation.
 2. The conditions set forth
 - a. One who viewed affliction
 - b. One who experienced the rod of God's wrath
 - B. The Conditions of the Judged (Lamentations 3:2-16)
 1. The emphasis on the Judge (Lamentations 3:2-16)
 - a. He hath (Lamentations 3:2)
 - b. He brought (Lamentations 3:2)
 - c. Against me is He turned (Lamentations 3:3).
 - d. He turneth His hand (Lamentations 3:3).
 - e. Hath He made old (Lamentations 3:4)
 - f. He hath broken (Lamentations 3:4)
 - g. He hath builded (Lamentations 3:5)
 - h. He hath compassed (Lamentations 3:5)
 - i. He hath set (Lamentations 3:6)
 - j. He hath hedged (Lamentations 3:7)
 - k. He hath made (Lamentations 3:7)
 - l. He shutteth out (Lamentations 3:8)
 - m. He hath inclosed (Lamentations 3:9)
 - n. He hath made (Lamentations 3:9)
 - o. He was unto me (Lamentations 3:10)
 - p. He hath turned (Lamentations 3:11)
 - q. He hath pulled (Lamentations 3:11)
 - r. He hath made (Lamentations 3:11)
 - s. He hath bent (Lamentations 3:12)
 - t. He hath set me (Lamentations 3:12)
 - u. He hath caused (Lamentations 3:13)
 - v. He hath filled (Lamentations 3:15)
 - w. He hath made (Lamentations 3:15)
 - x. He hath also broken (Lamentations 3:16)
 - y. He hath covered (Lamentations 3:16)



2. The resulting conditions of the judged (Lamentations 3:2-16)
 - a. Brought into darkness rather than light (Lamentations 3:2)
 - (1) He hath led me.
 - (2) He hath brought me.
 - (3) Into darkness
 - (4) But not into light
 - b. Opposition to the Lord and to His hand (Lamentations 3:3, 12-13)
 - (1) Against me is He turned (Lamentations 3:3).
 - (2) He turneth His hand against me all the day (Lamentations 3:3).
 - (3) He bent His bow and set me as a mark for the arrow (Lamentations 3:12).
 - (4) He caused the arrows to enter into my reins (Lamentations 3:13).
 - c. Physical decay (Lamentations 3:4)
 - (1) My flesh and my skin is made old.
 - (2) My bones are broken.
 - d. Bondage and oppression (Lamentations 3:5, 7, 9)
 - (1) He hath built against me (Lamentations 3:5).
 - (2) He hath encompassed me with gall and travail (Lamentations 3:5).
 - (3) He hath hedged me about, that I cannot get out (Lamentations 3:7).
 - (4) He hath made my chain heavy (Lamentations 3:7).
 - (5) My ways has He enclosed with hewn stones (Lamentations 3:9).
 - (6) He has made my paths crooked (Lamentations 3:9).
 - e. Spiritual death (Lamentations 3:6)
 - (1) He hath set me in dark places.
 - (2) As they that be dead of old
 - f. Hindered prayer (Lamentations 3:8)
 - (1) When I cry and shout
 - (2) He shutteth out my prayer.
 - g. Surprise dangers (Lamentations 3:10)
 - (1) He was unto me as a bear lying in wait.
 - (2) He was unto me as a lion in secret places.
 - h. Brokenness (Lamentations 3:11, 15-16)
 - (1) My ways are turned aside (Lamentations 3:11).
 - (2) I am broken in pieces (Lamentations 3:11).
 - (3) I am filled with bitterness (Lamentations 3:15).
 - (4) I am drunken with wormwood (Lamentations 3:15).
 - (5) My teeth have been broken with gravel stones (Lamentations 3:16).
 - (6) I have been covered with ashes (Lamentations 3:16).
 - i. Loneliness (Lamentations 3:11, 14)
 - (1) I have been made desolate (Lamentations 3:11).
 - (2) I was a derision to all my people (Lamentations 3:14).
 - (3) I became their song all the day (Lamentations 3:14).



- C. The Enlightenment of the Judged (Lamentations 3:17-20)
1. The shift to prayer (Lamentations 3:17)
 - a. Up to this point, the writer has been using the pronoun HE to talk about God.
 - b. Now the pronoun shifts to THOU suggesting that, at least for a space of time, the judged is speaking to God.
 2. The reflection on past blessings (Lamentations 3:17-18)
 - a. The loss of peace (Lamentations 3:17)
 - (1) When Israel came into the land of promise, they came in as a united kingdom.
 - (2) They came with a promise of God's help to conquer the nations that had been the land's inhabitants prior to their arrival.
 - (3) If my numbers are correct, Israel entered the land around 2,768 years from the creation of Adam. Around year 3,245 (just shy of 500 years after entering the land) from Adam's creation, the kingdom split into the northern and southern kingdoms. Jeremiah is writing Lamentations just under 400 years later.
 - (4) In other words, we have been warring with others the entire lifetimes of those alive at the time of the writing this book.
 - (5) In fact, the northern kingdom has already been in captivity to Assyria for over 100 years.
 - b. The loss of prosperity (Lamentations 3:17)
 - (1) The land when we entered (Deuteronomy 8:7-9)
 - a) A land with water (Deuteronomy 8:7)
 - b) A land of food (Deuteronomy 8:8-9a)
 - c) A land of resources (Deuteronomy 8:9)
 - (2) The land now
 - a) The people sigh, they seek bread (Lamentations 1:11).
 - b) The children are dying in the streets for lack of food and drink (Lamentations 2:12; Lamentations 4:4).
 - c) In other words, "I FORGAT prosperity."
 - c. The loss of strength (Lamentations 3:18)
 - (1) When Israel was strong, it failed to drive out the inhabitants of the land (Judges 1:28).
 - (2) Now Israel is "gone without strength before the pursuer" (Lamentations 1:6).
 - d. The loss of hope (Lamentations 3:18); the strength and hope had come from the Lord, but now they were perished from the Lord.
 3. The remembrance of present troubles (Lamentations 3:19-20)
 - a. The details of remembrance (Lamentations 3:19)
 - (1) Affliction and misery
 - (2) Wormwood and gall
 - b. The results of remembrance (Lamentations 3:20)
 - (1) My soul hath them STILL in remembrance.
 - (2) My soul is humbled in me.