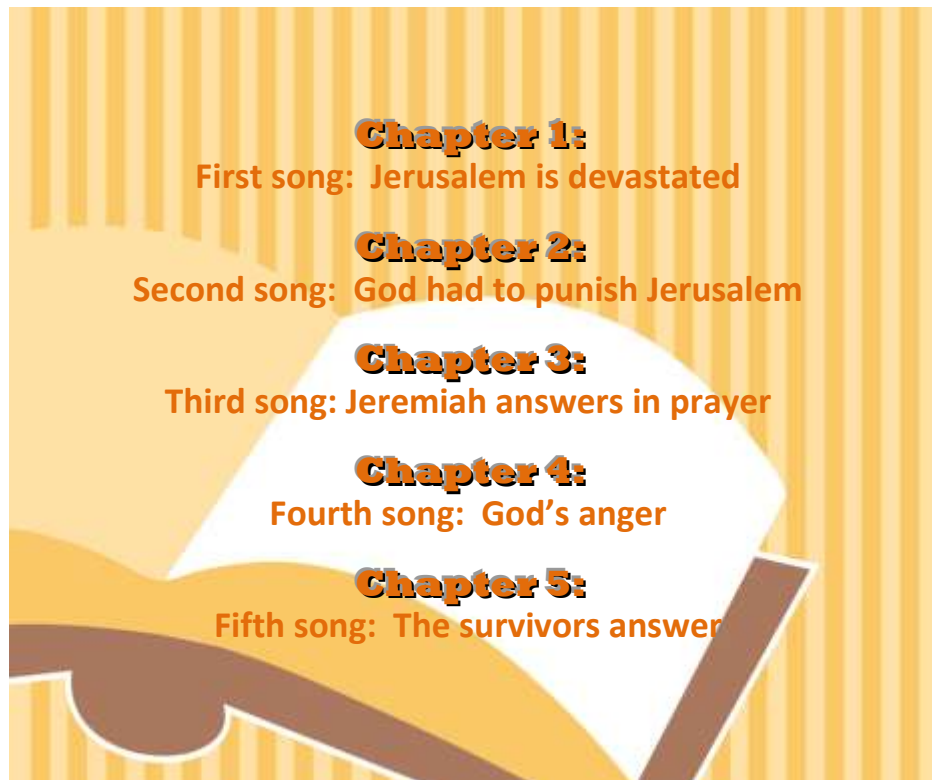


Lamentations

"Great is Your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:23



How it started: This book is a collection of five songs of lament (therefore "Lamentations"). Each chapter contains one song. Although the author isn't mentioned by name, it is obvious that it is Jeremiah.

Several statements and thoughts in Lamentations occur also in the prophecies of Jeremiah. Compare Lamentations 1:2 with Jeremiah 30:14 or Lamentations 4:21 with Jeremiah 49:12! In both books, the author says of himself that his eyes are a fountain of tears (Jeremiah 9:1; 9:18; Lamentations 1:16; 2:11), and in both books he is eye

witness of the terrible conquest of Jerusalem by Babylon (Jeremiah 19:9; Lamentations 2:20; 4:10).

What it is all about: The city of Jerusalem was conquered and destroyed by the Babylonians in 856BC. Jeremiah had to watch this event! Terrible things happened during the siege and destruction of Jerusalem - the chosen city of God.

But as the Jews were serving idols and living in serious sin, God allowed this defeat. In Lamentations, you will read how much the people had to suffer under the cruel war against the Babylonians.

Jeremiah is one of the few who recognize that the conquest of Jerusalem is God's punishment for the idol worship and sins of the inhabitants. But he also knows that God is a gracious God who wants to forgive sins.

How about today? You may wonder what relevance the destruction of a city around 2500 years ago has for today. Well, certainly more than you would think at first glance.

First of all, there are still terrible cruelties happening in the world today, similar to what is described in Lamentations. Mankind has certainly not changed for the better. Until today, God is despised by many either openly or by their careless lifestyle. Secondly, God's judgment is again at the door. Yet this time, it's not only for Israel but for all people who don't ask after God and reject the Lord Jesus as Saviour. – Learn from Jeremiah how to behave as a man of God in difficult times!