

Lamentations: The Road to Renewal

9-13-2020

Lamentations 1:1-2; 3:21-23; 5:21

Introduction – God had made covenants of blessing with Israel, but they were conditional. Because of blatant disobedience, the pleasurable aspects of blessing would be replaced by punishment. The moral decline of the kingdom of Judah would lead to its defeat and captivity. This book is literally titled Oh My Gosh! How Could This Have Happened? Lamentations and the United States.

I. Sin – Suffering

1. Jeremiah's writings contrast the formal blessings and strengths of Judah with the chaos and suffering their sin had brought on them (1:7).
2. Jeremiah is sitting in a cave overlooking Jerusalem; he weeps as he sees the rubble of the once glorious city.
3. He smells the stench of decaying bodies. He sees poor starving people poking through the rubble.

II. The tragedy is that this could have been averted.

1. He had warned them to repent and seek God.
2. They continued to rebel against God until it was too late.
3. Jerusalem's destruction came as a result of sin (1:5)

III. Will America experience the Judgement of God?

1. The book of Lamentations must serve as a wake-up call for America.
2. America finds herself depending upon God's long-suffering patience. But when will that run out?
3. Make America Godly again.
4. History records that God blesses nations that honor and respect his word (Deu. 28:1-7).

IV. The compassion of God.

1. Lamentations also conveys hope that is related to God's attribute of compassion.
2. God's mercy and hope (Lamentations 3:22-26).
3. Psalm 30:3-5 underscores the relationship and balance between the wrath of the Almighty and His loving-kindness.
4. Restoration of Israel and Judah (Jeremiah 30:8)
5. Lamentations ends with a prayer (5:21).

“The book is a sad view through the rearview mirror from the one who drove home the clarion message for years — a message that unfortunately fell on deaf ears! May that not be the case with Americans who name the name of Christ.” *Ralph Drollinger*