

## Lamentations—After the blessing, then what?

Author, most likely, was Jeremiah, 587 BC.

Setup: Kingdom of Judah is in moral decline, and idolatry is taking over (see 2 Kings, 2 Chron). God has had enough, and raises up the Babylonians to conquer them so they would recall Moses' words of Deuteronomy 28, of blessing and cursing.

This book is a lament, a poetic, sad account of how blessing from God had turned into cursing because of a people's sin and disobedience. Jeremiah himself even ends up in prison before the invasion (ch 38).

Judah had long thought of themselves as 'bullet-proof' because God had honored His covenant with them and they had known His goodness for so long. They, however, had not kept their end of the covenant.....

### Lessons from Lamentations

1. Blessing without conditions = entitlement. We are deserving 'just because'.... who does this sound like? hmmm
2. They suffered because of their sin (not always the case); 1:5, 2:14.
3. Judah recognized God's hand in their suffering\*
4. This kind of suffering should see some tears, prayer and repentance (see the 1<sup>st</sup> 1 ½ chapters).
5. Prayer should always center on HOPE, not just remorse (3:21-24)
6. Once you have done what you need to, wait on God. He has not forgotten you.

*\* 44 verses out of about 155 in Lamentations refers to the fact that God is highly involved in the Babylonian's conquering of Judah. 1 out of every 3.5 verses, 28.5% of them, reference that fact. . It's not just those mean old Babylonians. God deals with as sons and daughters, not like we are the neighbor kids.*