

## Sept 11<sup>th</sup> 2005: Lamentations: OT Review: Chapter 5

**The book of Lamentations**.....made up of 5 sad songs of mourning

**They are songs read by**...every year on the anniversary of the destruction of the Temple  
**In traditional RC liturgy**.....during the last 3 days of holy week...leading up to Good  
In the present time.....those that **read them aloud**...each week.....at the Wailing Wall

There is a special beauty about them...in their structure

4 of the 5..... have 22-----Hebrew Alphabet

The central chapter.....3.....has 66

**Altho no author** .....most accept.....written by Jeremiah.....**after**.....& before  
**Legend has it**...wrote it with tears...as he sat...north wall.....knoll called Golgotha

**If so .....doesn't surprise me.....**For the pain expressed by J in these laments.....  
..gives us a small insight.....heart of Jesus

**The pain He felt**.....for His own people.....Would prefer to face Judgment alone...  
..rather than receive Him as Saviour

**Listen to the words Jesus spoke**.....as recorded by Matthew **23:37-39**  
And at the time of His triumphal entry.....Luke tells us in 19:41-44.....

**Charles Wesley saw a strong connection**.....between Lamentations 1:12-14.....& all  
that Jesus endured.....in our place

Lam 1:12-14 reads.....Wesley's hymn begins:-

*All ye that pass by to Jesus draw nigh, To you is it nothing that Jesus should die?  
Your ransom and peace, your surety He is; Come see if there ever was sorrow like His*

**Jeremiah associated himself**.....with the sin and the suffering of his people →even tho  
**He uses these 5 songs to express**....the different reasons behind the immense sorrow

**In chapter 1**....emphasis is on the Destruction of Jerusalem.....v1....v8.....

**In chapter 2**....we read of the anger of Jehovah.....2:1.....2:17.....

**In chapter 4**.....we hear about the siege of Jerusalem.....about women cooking

**In chapter 5**.....account of the state of the people after...ends with a prayer 4 restoration

**And then ..bang in the middle of the book**.....In the largest chapter of the three.....  
And right close to its centre.....there are words which are incredible

**Words which give a picture of the heart of God**.....open wide to His erring children  
**3:19-33**.....

**In these sad songs**.....recognition of how much this judgment was deserved  
They had sinned....failed to heed the numerous warnings  
**Consequently**.....no complaint against God for injustice.....He Is Just

**It is that.....which makes this statement about God's mercy...**  
compassion...unfailing love.....so amazingly wonderful

*(This last week.....read about the terrible things happened in Jerusalem →New Orleans  
I'm in no way suggesting.....God's Judgment*

But it made me realise how Jeremiah must have felt...as he looked on his city  
On Jerusalem.....that seemed so unchangeable  
And saw the destruction of her people....and her beauty----  
A destruction...even surpassed

Yet He knew.....that God's faithfulness ....could still be counted on  
God's love....would never stop flowing their way

**God has not changed**  
**His compassion.....mercy....unfailing love.....**  
**Reaches out right now to those in New Orleans**

**And it reaches out to you and me**  
But for any person to receive it....in its fullness.....There is a need to come to Him thro  
His compassion never fails.....His unfailing love.... And its ours thro the cross

**When we link up with God.....**Accept Him as our Father....and act as His children  
Then we can be certain.....each new day....whatever it holds.....also contain faithfulness  
And He will keep us.....and one day welcome us

*(Story of the rose.....p158...)*..... He...and my acceptance of His sacrifice  
is the reason I know that God has me close to His heart

*(Story of the night light.....p91..)*

**God does carry us close to His heart.....**Each one of us  
But we have to want to be there

**Jeremiah knew that .....**

**.→ As far as the Jews were concerned**

He knew that their sins had separated.....The destruction all around....proof of that

**And he also knew....**that they just had to cry out to God for restoration

**So that's how Lamentations ends → 5:21**

**That may well be the case for you too today**

You recognize that you have moved away.....No longer have the closeness  
There is a lament in your heart.....

**God who has never stopped being faithful**.....Calls you to return to Him

**Or it may be that you** have never opened your heart to Jesus.....

Never turned to Him in recognition....of your need...

**He died for you**.....Upon the cross He took your place

He wants to turn your sadness into joy.....Mourning into dancing.