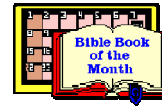


LAMENTATIONS – Teacher’s Notes



Jeremiah’s Funeral Song

This book is the eulogy of Jerusalem, the funeral song or poem, commemorating the death of the city, its people, and the nation of Judah.

The book of Lamentations was counted as a part of the book of Jeremiah in the Hebrew Bible which had 22 books (Judges-Ruth was one book; and all the “first” and “second” books were one unit. And all the minor prophets were contained on one scroll as well.)

Teacher – it would be good to read the article in a Bible dictionary about this book.

FORM and STRUCTURE

The passages: Psalms 25, 34, 35, 111, 112, 119, 145; Prov. 31:10-31 are acrostic like Lamentations. The model is Psalms 119 where each section has a Hebrew letter heading 8 verses and each verse of that section begin with that Hebrew letter (Look in your Bible to see these headings.)

LESSONS

1. Jerusalem had forsaken the Lord and followed after idols. Following the destruction of Jerusalem, the Jews NEVER again turned to idolatry. It was a lesson they learned. They always had a real hatred for images following this captivity.

We need to learn from our mistakes and never repeat them.

The wise man learns also from the mistakes of others.

2. Wisdom is to learn from our fathers and not make all the many mistakes that others before have made. Solomon urged his son to get wisdom in the book of Proverbs, and this was the point.

3. These funeral songs are memorized even today by many Jews. The book is read once a year in memory of the fall of the city. It is proof that Scripture that really means something to us will help keep us from sin. We don’t commit verses to memory like our grandparents did.