

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME THREE
POETS, PROPHETS, AND PROMISES—A SURVEY OF JOB–DANIEL
LAMENTATIONS: A PROPHET'S BROKEN HEART
A SURVEY OF LAMENTATIONS



The Heart of the Matter

Most of us have never been involved in a mop-up scene after a battle or following a calamity. But those who have can testify that it is one of the most painful and pathetic experiences a human can endure. The ravages of war and the consequences of disaster are usually beyond belief or description. Few are those who can capture the tragic scene in words. Jeremiah was one of the few. His brief, biting journal of what he saw and felt following the fall of his beloved nation is contained in this short book. It is one of the most vivid reminders in all the Bible of that verse in Galatians: “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap” (6:7). And so will a city. And so will a nation.



Discovering the Way

1. General Facts about the Book

Jeremiah is regarded by tradition as the author of the book, written shortly after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC. It is a book of tears.

2. Timeless Truths from the Book

Lamentations is divided into five chapters, from which we can draw five truths.

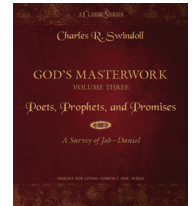


Starting Your Journey

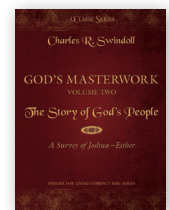
One enduring principle emerges from the ash heap of Lamentations: a high calling flaunted by low living inevitably leads to deep suffering.



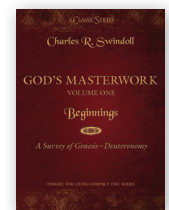
Tools for Digging Deeper



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LAMENTATIONS

	Jerusalem's Desolation	The Lord's Anger	Jeremiah's Grief	The Lord's Anger	Jeremiah's Prayer
	<i>CHAPTER 1</i>	<i>CHAPTER 2</i>	<i>CHAPTER 3</i>	<i>CHAPTER 4</i>	<i>CHAPTER 5</i>
Underlying Emotion	Lonely, groaning	Angry, exhorting	Broken, weeping	Desperate, anguished	Weary, pleading
Short Prayers	1:20–22 “See us!”	2:20–22 “Look at us!”	3:55–66 “Judge them!”	4:20 “Avenge us!”	5:21 “Restore us!”
Theme	Mourning over sin; the severity of God's judgment; hope in His mercy				
Key Verses	1:1, 5	2:14, 17	3:16–24	4:11–12	5:5, 19–22
Christ in Lamentations	Jesus, like Jeremiah, wept over the sins of Jerusalem (Matthew 23:27–38; Luke 13:34–35).				

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