



### 1 LADY ZION'S GRIEF & SHAME

JERUSALEM PERSONIFIED AS "THE DAUGHTER OF ZION"

THE CITY'S DESTRUCTION = THE DEATH OF A LOVED ONE

### 2 THE FALL OF JERUSALEM & GOD'S WRATH

DIVINE WRATH ≠ VOLATILE ANGER  
= GOD'S JUSTICE

GOD IS SLOW TO ANGER BUT WILL JUDGE HUMAN EVIL.

# LAMENTATIONS

DESIGN OF THE FIVE POEMS:

ACROSTIC - ALPHABET POEM  
 1. S (=A) 4. T (=D)...  
 2. D (=B) 21. W (=S)  
 3. J (=G) 22. J (=T)

ORDERED & LINEAR STRUCTURE vs. DISORDERED PAIN & CONFUSED GRIEF

### 3 THE SUFFERING ONE

LANGUAGE DRAWN FROM:

- JOB'S LAMENT (ch.3)
- LAMENT PSALMS (22, 69)
- SUFFERING SERVANT POEMS (ISAIAH 53)

LORD, I CALL ON YOUR NAME!

"BECAUSE OF THE LORD'S COVENANT FAITHFULNESS, WE DO NOT PERISH. HIS MERCIES NEVER FAIL; THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING. HOW GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS, O GOD. SO I SAY TO MYSELF, 'THE LORD IS MY INHERITANCE, THEREFORE I WILL PUT MY HOPE IN HIM.'"

— 3:22-24

GOD'S JUDGMENT BECOMES THE SEEDBED OF HOPE

### LAMENT POEMS IN THE BIBLE:

(SEE PSALMS 10, 63, 69, 74, 79)

- A FORM OF PROTEST
- A WAY TO PROCESS EMOTION
- A PLACE TO VOICE CONFUSION

LAMENT POEMS RESTORE A SACRED DIGNITY TO HUMAN SUFFERING

### 4 THE SIEGE OF JERUSALEM

THE PAST vs. THE SIEGE

### 5 COMMUNAL PRAYER FOR GOD'S MERCY

LAMENT ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

- ELDERLY
- MOTHERS
- BOYS
- PRINCES
- WIVES

REMEMBER US, O LORD: LOOK ON OUR DISGRACE!

THE BOOK ENDS WITH A PARADOX:

O LORD, YOU REIGN AS KING FOREVER! (5:19)

WHY DO YOU FORGET AND FORSAKE US? (5:20)

UNLESS YOU'VE TOTALLY REJECTED US...? (5:22)