



Lamentations

**Old
Testament**

β 25th book of the Bible (out of 66)

β 0.49% of the verses in the Bible

β Traditionally attributed to Jeremiah.

It's 586BC. Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonian army has been laying siege to your capital city and the centre of your religion for two years. The worst has now happened. Jerusalem has fallen. Solomon's Temple has been destroyed. Everywhere is desolate. Nearly all of the population have either been killed or deported. You are totally gutted. Why did You allow this to happen God? In the Hebrew Bible this Book is called *'ekah*. Translated into English as "How...." it is the first word in chapters 1, 2 and 4.

The author knows that it is Israel's blatant sin that has caused all of this to happen. There is certainly much lament throughout, but it ends with the attitude of repentance. God brings hope, mercy and salvation. "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies

Facts: The first four chapters consist of acrostics in the 22 letter Hebrew language. Even though these laments were composed passionately, they were created with care too.

never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

There are numerous laments in the Old Testament, including many psalms and all of the prophets except Haggai. Is it a language you occasionally speak to God in? Do you ever pour out your frustrations and questions to Him? Seek out some OT laments to help you when you are not sure how to pray.

Aim to read the whole book over the next two weeks.