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# BOOK OVERVIEW

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## Lamentations

**Author:** Jeremiah

**Date:** 586 B.C.

**Recipient:** Judah and Jerusalem

**Key words:** Zion (15 times); Jerusalem (7 times); desolate (7 times)

**Summary:** An expression of the grief of the prophet Jeremiah in witnessing the destruction of Jerusalem and the captivity of its people.

**Key verses:** Lamentations 1:1

### Notes:

Jeremiah is referred to as the “weeping prophet.” (see Jeremiah 9:1) In the Septuagint the introduction to this book says, “*And it came to pass after Israel was led into the captivity that Jeremiah sat weeping and lamenting this lamentation over Jerusalem.*”

The first four chapters of this book are **acrostic poems**, each verse beginning with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

Orthodox Jews read this book on the ninth day of the month Ab, the traditional date of the destruction of Solomon’s temple. Some Jews also read it each week at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem.

Jeremiah is a type of Christ who also wept over Jerusalem. (Luke 19:41)

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