

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 05 June .....Jeremiah 1 .....Accept Your Commission
- 2) 12 June .....Jeremiah 2-6 .....Get Back on Track
- 3) 19 June .....Jeremiah 7-10 .....Live Above Board
- 4) 26 June .....Jeremiah 11-15 .....Rise above the Tide
- 5) 03 July .....Jeremiah 16-18 .....Never Say it is Hopeless
- 6) 10 July .....Jeremiah 19-21 .....Submit to Divine Discipline
- 7) 17 July .....Jeremiah 22-25 .....Keep Your Behavior in Line
- 8) 24 July .....Jeremiah 26-29 .....Settle Down
- 9) 31 July .....Jeremiah 30-33 .....Check Your Direction
- 10) 07 Aug .....Jeremiah 34-39 .....Stay True
- 11) 14 Aug .....Jeremiah 40-45 .....Follow Orders
- 12) 21 Aug .....Jeremiah 46-52 .....Recognize the Lord's Authority
- 13) 28 Aug .....Lamentations 1-5 .....Rely on the Lord's Love**

**INTRODUCTION**

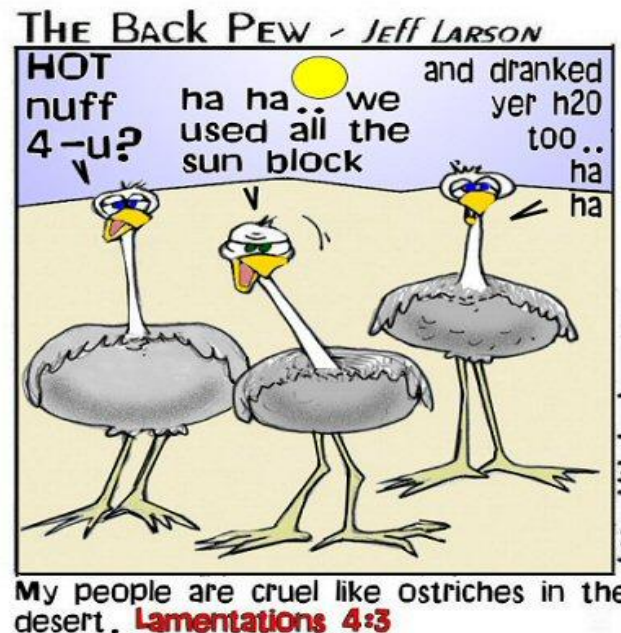
- Jeremiah is traditionally recognized as the author
- Lamentations is a collection of 5 poems in 5 chapters expressing grief over the fall of Jerusalem in 587 B.C. under the hands of the Chaldeans (aka Babylonians), and confessing at the same time that her calamities were the just consequence of her sins
- The poetic form is alphabetical (22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet), all except the 5th chapter, as some of David's psalms are; each verse begins with a letter in the order of the Hebrew alphabet; the first Aleph, the second Beth, etc; but the 3rd chapter is a triple alphabet, the first three beginning with Aleph, the next three with Beth, etc., which was a memory aid
- Lamentations was written in such a poetic fashion as to make it very easy to memorize for long term retention
- Why would God want His people to remember the bad things which happened to them in their past?
- Aren't we suppose to "forget those things which are behind and reach forward to those things which are ahead ..... Phil 3:13
- Recall 'the heart of the wise is in the house of mourning' ...Eccl 7:4
  - ♦ In other words, people often learn more from their failures

Passage	Comments
Lam 3:1-66	<p><b>Great is Thy Faithfulness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-20 detail God's cruelty to the sinner – He caused my flesh and skin to waste away; He broke my bones and teeth; He walled me in; He failed to answer my prayers; He sent me down wrong paths;</li> <li>• vv21-36 detail God's blessing to the repentant – He does not afflict willingly; He does not reject forever; His compassions are available every day; He is good to those who seek Him;</li> <li>• v38. God does send good and evil into the world to accomplish His will</li> <li>• <b>v40. Let us examine our ways, repent and return</b></li> <li>• v66. God will punish and destroy the unrepentant</li> </ul>
Lam 4:1-22	<p><b>Grace Greater than Our Sin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v4. The tongue of the infant cleaves to the roof of its mouth because of thirst – this is reminiscent of what we see of the famine in Somalia</li> <li>• v6. Israel's sins were worse than Sodom</li> <li>• v10. Women boiled their own children for food</li> <li>• v13. The preachers (prophets &amp; priests) are to blame</li> <li>• v22. A glimmer of hope is seen as Israel's punishment nears completion</li> </ul>
Lam 5:1-22	<p><b>Lord, Send a Revival</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v7. The younger generation pays for the sins of its parents. Is this occurring TODAY? HOW?</li> <li>• v20. Why does God Forget &amp; Forsake His people?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ The answer is due to our sins .....Mark 15:34</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v21. Restore us O Lord when your wrath is complete</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- Yes, we should move past our sins once we have dropped them at the Cross by turning away from our past sinful behavior and opting to live for Christ. Repent early to receive less of God's wrath and more of His blessings.

**NEXT WEEK: Romans 1.** Romans is often considered the most difficult book in the New Testament because of its numerous doctrines, its blunt approach, and its legalese. Chapter 1 deals with grace, faith, praying, the gospel, excuses to the gospel, homosexuality, depravity, and death – all within 32 verses.



Passage	Comments
Lam 1:1-22	<p><b>No One Considers the Consequences of their Sins</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv5, 8. The Lord caused Jerusalem's grief – because of her 'GREAT' sins</li> <li>• v9a. Her uncleanness was in her skirts – in other words, she sinned sexually/immorally</li> <li>• <b>Nahum 3:5</b> "Behold, I am against you," says the LORD of hosts; "I will lift your skirts over your face, I will show the nations your nakedness..."</li> <li>• v9b. "...she did not consider her future state"                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Only the wise seem to consider the consequences of their actions. The wicked definitely do not – they are only concerned with getting the lust of their flesh take care of</li> <li>♦ <b>Prov 5:6</b> "[the immoral woman] does not ponder the path of life; Her ways are unstable, and she does not even know it"</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God wiped out whole nations for their immoralities (Noah's contemporaries, Sodom &amp; Gomorrah, the earlier inhabitants of the Promised Land)</li> <li>• ...and God laid waste to Israel due to their sexual sins – they did worse than their neighbors.... Ezek 5:6</li> <li>• <b>Flee immorality.</b> Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. .... 1Cor 6:18</li> </ul>
Lam 2:1-22	<p><b>God Did What He Said He Would Do</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv2, 7. God promised to destroy His temple (His footstool – 1Chron 28:2; Ps 99:5, 132:7)</li> <li>• v14. The preachers failed to 'expose their sins' and restore them to health</li> <li>• v17. God accomplished His word which He commanded from days of old ..... Exodus 15:26</li> </ul>