

Hope in a Hopeless Time

Session 2: October 20, 2019 (Jeremiah and Lamentations)

1. Jeremiah 2-6

a. Criticism

- i. Genre: Oracles and Poetry: prose intermingled with poetry
- ii. Author: the Prophet Jeremiah (plus subsequent editors)
- iii. Date: between the fall of Israel to the Assyrians and before the fall of Judah (during the reigns of Josiah and the final kings of Judah) → heavily revised by the Deuteronomists → Septuagint differs from the Masoretic Hebrew text
- iv. Fun Fact: Jeremiah is the longest book of the Bible.

b. Main Structure (<http://biblestudytools.com/jeremiah>)

- i. Call of the Prophet (Ch. 1)
- ii. Warnings and Exhortations to Judah (Chs. 2-35)
 1. Early Discourses [2-6]
 2. Foretelling the Babylonian Exile [25-29]
 3. Promises of Restoration [30-33]
- iii. Jeremiah's Sufferings and Persecutions (Chs. 36-38)
- iv. The Fall of Jerusalem and Its Aftermath (Chs. 39-45)
- v. Judgments against Other Nations (Chs. 46-51)
 1. Against Egypt [46]
 2. Against Babylon Itself [50-51]
- vi. Historical Appendix (Ch. 52)

2. Lamentations 2-3

a. Criticism

- i. Hebrew Title: *'ekah* (How?)
- ii. Genre: Poetry
 1. Acrostic (tripled in the Third Lamentation)
 2. Ode
- iii. Author: traditionally held to be Jeremiah
- iv. Date: after the fall of Judah to the Babylonians (post 587 BCE)

b. Major Themes (<https://www.classicbiblestudyguide.com/English/Lamentations.pdf>)

- i. Suffering as the Result of Sin
- ii. Suffering Coming from God in Response to Unrighteousness
- iii. Suffering Can Direct Them Back to God
- iv. Suffering, Tears, and Prayers Belong Together
- v. Prayer Should Always Look for a Ray of Hope
- vi. Submit to Suffering Patiently