

THE BOOK OF LAMENTATIONS

The Book of How (ch1:1, 2:1, 4:1)

CH 1	CH 2	CH 3	CH 4	CH 5
Notes 1. English: 22 verses, each verse 3 lines. 2. Hebrew: 22 stanzas, each stanza 3 lines. 3. Hebrew: Forms an acrostic. 4. Hebrew: strict adherence to alphabetic form. (e.g. O before P) 5. Hebrew: 2 half lines, mostly a 3/2 metre.	Notes 1. English: 22 verses, each verse 3 lines. 2. Hebrew: 22 stanzas, each stanza 3 lines. 3. Hebrew: forms an acrostic. 4. Hebrew: v16 & 17 letters transposed. (e.g. P before O) 5. Hebrew: 2 half lines, mostly a 3/2 metre.	Notes 1. English: 66 verses, each verse 1 line. 2. Hebrew: 22 stanzas, each stanza 3 lines. 3. Hebrew: forms an acrostic. 4. Hebrew: v46-48 & 49-51 letters transposed. (e.g. P before O) 5. Hebrew: 2 half lines, mostly a 3/2 metre.	Notes 1. English: 22 verses, each verse 2 lines. 2. Hebrew: 22 stanzas, each stanza 2 lines. 3. Hebrew: forms an acrostic. 4. Hebrew: v16 & 17 letters transposed. (e.g. P before O) 5. Hebrew: 2 half lines, mostly 3/2 metre.	Notes 1. English: 22 verses 2. Hebrew: 22 stanzas, each stanza 1 line. 3. Hebrew: NOT acrostic. 4. Hebrew: NOT acrostic 5. Hebrew: 2 half lines, 3/3 metre.

CLIMAX

The Covenant Love (Upward view)

The City (Outside view)

A 1 How deserted lies the city, once so full of people!
How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations!
She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave.

B 2 Bitterly she weeps at night, tears are upon her cheeks.
Among all her lovers there is none to comfort her.
All her friends have betrayed her; they have become her enemies.

C 3 After affliction and harsh labour, Judah has gone into exile.
She dwells among the nations; she finds no resting place.
All who pursue her have overtaken her in the midst of her distress.

O 16 "This is why I weep and my eyes overflow with tears.
No one is near to comfort me, no one to restore my spirit.
My children are destitute because the enemy has prevailed."

P 17 Zion stretches out her hands, but there is no one to comfort her.
The LORD has decreed for Jacob that his neighbours become his foes;
Jerusalem has become an unclean thing among them.

The Wrath of God (Inside view)

A 1 How the Lord has covered the Daughter of Zion with the cloud of his anger!
He has hurled down the splendour of Israel from heaven to earth;
he has not remembered his footstool in the day of his anger.

B 2 Without pity the Lord has swallowed up all the dwellings of Jacob;
in his wrath he has torn down the strongholds of the Daughter of Judah.
He has brought her kingdom and its princes down to the ground in dishonour.

C 3 In fierce anger he has cut off every horn of Israel.
He has withdrawn his right hand at the approach of the enemy.
He has burned in Jacob like a flaming fire that consumes everything around it.

P 16 All your enemies open their mouths wide against you;
they scoff and gnash their teeth and say, "We have swallowed her up.
This is the day we have waited for; we have lived to see it."

O 17 The LORD has done what he planned;
he has fulfilled his word, which he decreed long ago.
He has overthrown you without pity,
he has let the enemy gloat over you,
he has exalted the horn of your foes.

The sins of all classes (overall view)

A 1 How the gold has lost its lustre,
the fine gold become dull!
The sacred gems are scattered at the head of every street.

B 2 How the precious sons of Zion, once worth their weight in gold, are now considered as pots of clay,
the work of a potter's hands!

C 3 Even jackals offer their breasts to nurse their young,
but my people have become heartless like ostriches in the desert.

P 16 The LORD himself has scattered them;
he no longer watches over them.
The priests are shown no honour,
the elders no favour.

O 17 Moreover, our eyes failed, looking in vain for help;
from our towers we watched for a nation that could not save us.

The Prayer (future view)

1 Remember, O LORD, what has happened to us;
look, and see our disgrace.
2 Our inheritance has been turned over to aliens,
our homes to foreigners.
3 We have become orphans and fatherless,
our mothers like widows.

16 The crown has fallen from our head.
Woe to us, for we have sinned!
17 Because of this our hearts are faint,
because of these things our eyes grow dim

A 1 I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of his wrath.

A 2 He has driven me away and made me walk in darkness rather than light;

A 3 indeed, he has turned his hand against me again and again, all day long.

B 4 He has made my skin and my flesh grow old and has broken my bones.

B 5 He has besieged me and surrounded me with bitterness and hardship.

B 6 He has made me dwell in darkness like those long dead.

C 7 He has walled me in so I cannot escape;
he has weighed me down with chains.

C 8 Even when I call out or cry for help,
he shuts out my prayer.

C 9 He has barred my way with blocks of stone;
he has made my paths crooked.

P 46 "All our enemies have opened their mouths wide against us.

P 47 We have suffered terror and pitfalls,
ruin and destruction."

P 48 Streams of tears flow from my eyes because my people are destroyed.

O 49 My eyes will flow unceasingly,
without relief,

O 50 until the LORD looks down from heaven and sees.

O 51 What I see brings grief to my soul because of all the women of my city.