

Laments & Lamentations

A study of lament in scripture and its
application in the Christian's daily walk

Embry Hills church of Christ
Spring 2022

Class Schedule

Date	Lesson	Text	Teacher
Sun, Apr 17	1. Features & Themes of Lament	Psalms 13	Mason
Wed, Apr 20	2. Psalms of Individual Lament	Psalms 6, 38	Mason
Sun, Apr 24	3. Psalms of Collective Lament	Psalms 60, 89	Mason
Wed, Apr 27	4. Early and Late Laments	Job 12-14; Daniel 9	Mason
Sun, May 1	5. Catch-up; Intro to Lamentations	Jeremiah 39-40, 52	Mason
Wed, May 4	6. Lamentations 1	Lamentations 1	Daniel
Sun, May 8	7. Lamentations 2	Lamentations 2	Daniel
Wed, May 11	8. Lamentations 3:1-37	Lamentations 3:1-39	Daniel
Sun, May 15	9. Lamentations 3:38-66	Lamentations 3:40-66	Daniel
Wed, May 18	10. Lamentations 4	Lamentations 4	Daniel
Sun, May 22	11. Lamentations 5	Lamentations 5	Mason
Wed, May 25	12. Lamenting as Christians 1		Mason
Sun, May 29	13. Lamenting as Christians 2 & Review		Mason

Class Goals

1. To understand the book of Lamentations in its literary and theological contexts
2. To increase our faith in God's sovereignty, righteousness, and compassion
3. To learn to express our sorrows (especially spiritual) in godly, productive ways
4. To equip ourselves to "weep with those who weep" by learning the skill of lamentation

Recommended Reading

Card, Michael. [A Sacred Sorrow: Reaching Out to God in the Lost Language of Lament](#). NavPress, 2005.

Synopsis: An examination of lament as a spiritual exercise in the lives of 4 Bible heroes.

Vroegop, Mark. [Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy: Discovering the Grace of Lament](#). Crossway, 2019.

Synopsis: A practical guide to learning the scriptural language and purpose of lamenting.

Lesson 1
Features and Themes of Lament

Objectives

- Name the 2 key phrases that indicate a lament
- List 4-5 themes that characterize biblical laments
- Explain the purpose of biblical lament (why believers write them)

Warm-up Survey

1. How would you define “lament” or “lamenting”?

2. Rate your familiarity with:

a. The Psalms of Lament:	Very Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Unfamiliar
b. The book of Lamentations:	Very Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Unfamiliar
3. How do you hope this study will help your walk with Christ?

Text Questions—Psalm 13

1. Match the typical components of laments to the content of the psalm:

a. Cry for help/address to God	___ I will sing to Jehovah, because... (6)
b. Lament (complaint)	___ My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation (5)
c. Confession of trust	___ How long, O Jehovah? (1)
d. Petition(s)	___ Sorrow in my heart... enemy [is] exalted (2)
e. Assurance of being heard	___ But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness (5)
f. Wish/petition for God’s intervention	___ Consider and answer me, O Lord...(3a)
g. Vow to praise	___ Enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep... (3b)
2. What repeated words or phrases do you find in this psalm?

3. What problem(s) does the psalmist face in this psalm, vv.2, 5?

4. What solution does the psalmist seek to his problems, v.3?

5. What does the psalmist fear will be the consequences if God does not answer and save him, v.4?

6. What is the source of the psalmist’s confidence that God will hear and answer him, v.5?

7. Summarize this psalm in 1-2 sentences.

Thought Questions

1. Based on the rest of the psalm, what do you think it means to “forget” in v.1? What is the psalmist afraid of?

2. Besides “how long” (v.1) what other question might someone who is suffering ask God? (See Psalm 43.) Why might these two questions appear so often in Psalms of Lament?

3. Why does the psalmist turn to God with his complaint about his enemies being exalted over him? Whom does he consider might be behind his suffering? (See Deuteronomy 28:15, 25 and Job 4:7.)

4. If the psalmist is confident that God will save him and deal bountifully with him (v.6), why does he complain so bitterly about God forgetting and hiding from him (v.1)?

Use this table in class to take notes on the components of laments.

<u>Component</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Examples</u>
Cry for help/ address to God		
Lament (complaint)		
Confession of trust		
Petition		
Assurance of being heard		
Wish/petition for God’s intervention		
Vow to praise		
Oracle		

Lesson 2
Psalms of Individual Lament

Objectives

1. List 2-3 complaints typical of individual psalms of lament
2. Describe the deliverance the psalmists ask for
3. Explain the source of the psalmists' hope

Text Questions—Psalm 6

1. Match the typical components of individual laments to the content of Psalm 6:
 - a. Cry for help/address to God _____ Jehovah has heard my supplication... (9)
 - b. Lament (complaint) against God _____ There is no mention of You in death (2-3)
 - c. Complaint against enemies _____ But you, O Jehovah—how long? (3)
 - d. Confession of trust _____ Return, O Jehovah, rescue my soul (4a)
 - e. Petition(s) _____ Because of Your lovingkindness (4b)
 - f. Assurance of being heard _____ O Jehovah, do not rebuke me... (1)
 - g. Wish/petition for God's intervention _____ [Sorrow]...because of my foes (6-7)
 - h. Vow to praise _____
2. To what does the psalmist appeal as the reason God should save him, v.4?
3. What problem(s) does the psalmist face in this psalm?
4. What solution does the psalmist seek to his problems, v.4, 10?
5. Summarize this psalm in 1-2 sentences.
6. Identify the "why" and "how long" questions in this psalm.

Text Questions—Psalm 38

1. Match the typical components of individual laments to the content of Psalm 38:
 - a. Cry for help/address to God _____ Your arrows have sunk deep into me... (2-3)
 - b. Lament (complaint) against God _____ For I hope in You, O Jehovah (15a)
 - c. Complaint against self _____ Those who seek my life, etc. (11-12, 19-20)
_____ Rebuke me not in Your wrath... (1)
May they not rejoice over me... (16)
Do not forsake me... (21-22)
 - d. Complaint against enemies _____
 - e. Confession of trust _____ Make haste to help me, O Lord... (22)
 - f. Confession of sin/Claim of innocence _____ You will answer, O Lord my God (15b)
 - g. Petition(s) _____ My iniquities have gone over my head... (4-5)

- h. Assurance of being heard _____ O my God, do not be far from me! (21)
- i. Wish/petition for God's intervention _____ I confess my iniquity... (v.18)
- j. Vow to praise
2. What problems does the psalmist face in this psalm? Who is the source of each of these problems?
 3. What is the psalmist describing in vv.5-8?
 4. What solution(s) does the psalmist seek to his problems?
 5. Psalms 13 and 6 both reference God's *chesed*, or covenant-faithfulness, as a basis for hope in God's salvation. Do you see anything reflecting a similar belief in the text of Psalm 38? What is the basis for hope in Psalm 38?
 6. Summarize this psalm in 1-2 sentences.
 7. Identify the "why" and "how long" questions in this psalm.

Thought Questions

1. In Psalm 6, why does the psalmist plead with God not to "rebuke in in Your anger, nor chasten me in Your wrath"? What might this imply about the source of the psalmist's suffering?
2. In Psalm 6, why do you think the psalmist points out that "there is no mention of you in death; in Sheol who will give you thanks?" How does this strengthen the psalmist's plea for deliverance?
3. Why do you think Psalm 38 does not include the typical lament phrases *how long* and *why*?
4. Why do neither of these psalms contain a vow to praise God for His deliverance? What might this tell us about the psalmists' faith? What might it tell us about the scale of their difficulties?

Lesson 3
Psalms of Collective Lament

Objectives

1. List 2-3 complaints typical of collective psalms of lament
2. Describe the deliverance the psalmists ask for
3. Explain the source of the psalmists' hope

Text Questions—Psalm 60

1. Match the typical components of collective laments to the content of Psalm 60:
 - a. Cry for help/address to God _____ God has spoken in His holiness... (6-8)
 - b. Lament (complaint) _____ Save with Your right hand... (5)
Give us help against the adversary... (11)
 - c. Oracle (God speaks) _____ O God, You have rejected us... (1-3)
 - d. Confession of trust _____ Through God we shall do valiantly...(12)
 - e. Petition(s) _____ Will You not go forth...O God? (10b)
 - f. Assurance of being heard _____ Who will bring me into the besieged... (9)
 - g. Wish/petition for God's intervention _____ You have given a banner to those... (4)
2. What problem does the psalmist face in this psalm? Who is the source of this problem?
3. What solution(s) does the psalmist seek to his problems?
4. This psalm quotes a previous revelation from God (an oracle). When was this revelation given, and who recorded it?
5. Summarize this psalm in 1-2 sentences.
6. Identify the "why" and "how long" questions in this psalm.

Text Questions—Psalm 89

1. Match the typical components of collective laments to the content of Psalm 60:
 - a. Cry for help/address to God _____ I will not break off My lovingkindness... (28, 33)
 - b. Lament (complaint) _____ Will you hide Yourself forever? [...] (46b)
 - c. Oracle (God speaks) _____ Remember, O Lord... (47, 50)
 - d. Confession of trust _____ You have cast off and rejected...(38-45)
 - e. Petition(s) _____ I will sing of the lovingkindness... (1)
 - f. Assurance of being heard _____ How long, O Jehovah? (46a)
 - g. Wish/petition for God's intervention _____ Once You spoke in a vision... (19-37)
 - h. Vow to praise _____ Our shield belongs to Jehovah... (5-18)

2. What repeated words or phrases do you find in this psalm?
3. What problem does the psalmist face in this psalm? Who is the source of this problem?
4. What solution(s) does the psalmist seek to Isarel's problems?
5. Summarize this psalm in 1-2 sentences.
6. Identify the "why" and "how long" questions in this psalm.

Thought Questions

1. In Psalm 60, why does the psalmist quote a previous revelation of God? How does he use this revelation to support his argument that God should fight for Israel?
2. What is unusual about the structure of Psalm 89 compared to the other laments we have studied? Why do you think it is structured in this way?
3. Why does Psalm 89 provide so much detail about God's promises and lovingkindness, only to accuse God of abandoning His people?

Lesson 4
Early and Late Laments

Objectives

4. List 2 ways Job's and Daniel's laments are like and unlike the psalms of lament
5. Describe the deliverance the speakers ask for
6. Explain the source of the speakers' hope

Text Questions—Job 16-17

1. Match the typical components of individual laments to the content of Job 16-17:
 - a. Cry for help/address to God
 - b. Lament (complaint) against God
 - c. Complaint against enemies
 - d. Confession of trust
 - e. Petition(s)
 - f. Confession of sin/Claim of innocence
 - g. Assurance of being heard
 - h. Wish/petition for God's intervention
2. What problems does Job describe in this passage? Who is the source of this problem?
3. What solution does Job seek to his problems?
4. What two things is Job confident of, vv.17, 19?
5. Summarize this lament in 1-2 sentences.
6. Identify the "why" and "how long" questions in this lament.

- _____ Lay down...a pledge for me with Yourself (17:3)
- _____ There is no violence in my hands... (16:17)
- _____ O that a man might plead with God... (16:21)
- _____ You have laid waste, etc. (16:7-14)
- _____ My eye weeps to God (16:20b)
- _____ My friends are my scoffers (16:20a)
Surely mockers are with me... (17:2)

Text Questions—Daniel 9

1. Match the typical components of collective laments to the content of Daniel 9:
 - a. Cry for help/address to God
 - b. Lament (complaint)
 - c. Oracle (God speaks)
 - d. Confession of trust
 - e. Petition

- _____ In accordance with all your righteous acts... (18)
- _____ Let your face shine on your desolate sanctuary (16-17)
- _____ Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome... (4)
- _____ To us [belongs] open shame... (7-8)
Jerusalem and Your people have become a reproach (16)
- _____ The word of Jehovah to Jeremiah (2)

- f. Assurance of being heard _____ O Lord, listen and take action! (19a)
 - g. Wish/petition for God's intervention _____ Presenting our supplications...on account of your great compassion (v.19b)
 - h. Vow to praise
2. What problem does Daniel describe in this passage? Who is the source of this problem?
 3. What element of individual laments does Daniel add to his collective lament? Consider v.5, etc.
 4. What solution does Daniel seek to Israel's problem?
 5. Summarize this lament in 1-2 sentences.
 6. Identify the "why" and "how long" questions in this lament.

Thought Questions

1. In contrast with the psalmists and Daniel, why does Job not state his confidence that God will hear and act on his lament? Consider Job 9:16 and Deuteronomy 4:7. Is Job demonstrating a lack of faith?
2. To what does Daniel appeal when he asks God to act on his request, v.18? How is this different from other appeals for God to act in the psalms of lament (see Psalms 6:4, 60:6, 89:49)?
3. What is the difference in tone and feeling between Job's lament and Daniel's prayer? Why do you think they sound so different?

Lesson 5
Introduction to Lamentations

Objectives

7. Name the traditional author and date of Lamentations
8. Describe the acrostic structure of Lamentations
9. List 3 themes of Lamentations

Text Questions—Jeremiah 39-40, 52

1. How long was Jerusalem under siege (52:4-6)?
2. What were conditions like in Jerusalem just before the city fell (52:9)?
3. List the people who were killed in 52:8-11 and 52:24-27.
4. What was done to the city of Jerusalem (39:8, 52:13)?
5. Why is Jeremiah spared from death and captivity during the destruction of Jerusalem (39:11-12)?
6. Where does Jeremiah go after the destruction of Jerusalem (40:6)? Find this place on a map of Israel in the Old Testament. How far is it from Jerusalem?
7. Who stayed in the land after the deportation and destruction of Jerusalem (39:10, 40:7, 52:16)? What task were they given?
8. Glance through the book of Lamentations.
 - a. How many chapters does the book have? How many verses are in each chapter?
 - b. How many different speakers do you see in the book? Who are they?

Outline of Lamentations¹

1. The Misery and Desolation of Jerusalem (1:1-22)
 - a. Description of the city's destruction, vv.1-11
 - b. Jerusalem pleads for compassion, vv.12-17
 - c. Jerusalem confesses her sin, vv.18-20
 - d. Jerusalem requests punishment for her enemies, vv.21-22
2. God's Judgment on the City (2:1-22)
 - a. God's wrath expressed in Jerusalem's destruction, vv.1-9
 - b. The suffering of the people, vv.10-12
 - c. Jerusalem's moral bankruptcy, vv.13-14
 - d. Ridicule from enemies, vv.15-17
 - e. An anguished appeal for God's pity, vv.18-22
3. Hope of Relief through Lovingkindness (3:1-66)
 - a. One man's description of the suffering, vv.1-20
 - b. The basis for future hope: God's past mercies, vv.21-38
 - c. Appeal for God's mercy, vv.39-51
 - d. Appeal for deliverance and vengeance, vv.52-66
4. The Horrors of the Siege, 4:1-22
 - a. Contrast: the horror of the siege and the glory of former days, vv.1-11
 - b. The sins of the prophets and priests, vv.12-16
 - c. A vain search for help, vv.17-20
 - d. Edom's coming punishment, vv.21-22
5. A Prayer for Mercy and Deliverance
 - a. The post-destruction affliction of the people, vv.1-13
 - b. The loss of joy and hope, vv.14-18
 - c. Appeal for God to restore His favor, vv.19-22

Chapter 1
Featured Speaker: Jerusalem
Key verse: 1:18

Chapter 2
Featured Speaker: Jerusalem
Key verse: 2:17

Chapter 3
Featured Speaker: A Survivor
Key verse: 3:24

Chapter 4
Featured Speaker: none
Key verse: 4:11

Chapter 5
Featured Speaker: The Remnant
Key verse: 5:21

¹ Adapted from Huey, F. B. *Jeremiah, Lamentations*. Vol. 16, Broadman Press, 1993.

Lesson 6
Lamentations 1

Objectives

1. Summarize Lamentations 1 in one phrase
2. Identify lines that are typical of laments in this section of Lamentations
3. List the two subjects the city of Jerusalem addresses when she speaks

Text Questions—Lamentations 1

1. Match the typical components of individual laments to the content of Lamentations 1:
 - a. Cry for help/address to God _____ ...as You have dealt with me... (22) D
 - b. Lament (complaint) against God _____ The adversary has stretched out his hand (3-11)
All my enemies...are glad... (21) C
 - c. Complaint against enemies _____ See, O Lord [Pay attention!] (9, 11, 20)
Deal with them [enemies]... (21-22) E
 - d. Confession of trust _____ Jerusalem sinned greatly (8); I have rebelled...
(7); I have been very rebellious (20) F
 - e. Petition(s) _____ Pain...which the Lord inflicted... (12-15) B
 - f. Confession of sin _____ Oh that you would bring the day which you have
proclaimed (21) H
 - g. Assurance of being heard _____ See, O **Lord** (9, etc.) A
 - h. Wish/petition for God's intervention
2. Identify the "why" and "how long" questions in this chapter.
3. What is the city (Jerusalem) personified as in this chapter [v1]?
4. Why does she weep [v16]?
5. Why is she suffering [v18, 20]?
6. What does she ask from God [v21-22]?

Thought Questions

1. Among all of the ways Jerusalem suffers in this description, list the two that are most grievous to you. Why did you choose what you did?
2. What is the only question asked in this chapter? Why would [she] want to know this?
3. What key confession is made [v18]? Why is this statement important? Why would she follow this question with a request for judgment on other nations [v21-22]?

Lesson 7
Lamentations 2

Objectives

1. Summarize Lamentations 2 in one phrase
2. Identify lines that are typical of laments in this section of Lamentations
3. List 4 signs of God's rejection of Jerusalem and Judah described in Lamentations 2

Text Questions—Lamentations 2

1. Match the typical components of individual laments to the content of Lamentations 2:
 - a. Cry for help/address to God
 - b. Lament (complaint) against God
 - c. Complaint against enemies
 - d. Confession of trust
 - e. Petition(s)
 - f. Confession of sin
 - g. Assurance of being heard
 - h. Wish/petition for God's intervention
2. Identify the "why" and "how long" questions in this chapter.
3. Who is the main subject of v1-9?
4. Who is the main subject of v10-13?
5. What charges are brought against their prophets [v14]?
6. Who is the main subject of v15-17?

_____ The Lord has covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in His anger... (1-9, 17) B

_____ (Implied) They have not exposed your iniquity (14) F

_____ See, O Lord, and look! (20) E

_____ See, O **Lord** (20) A

_____ See, O Lord, and look! [Pay attention!] (20) H

Thought Questions

1. Verses 1-9 describe the extent of God's wrath. Which description do you find the most disturbing? Why?
2. At the end of verse 13 the question is asked, "...who can heal you?" What truth is revealed in this question?
3. The anguish of Jerusalem is described in verses 18-22. Have you ever experienced anguish like this? How would you prepare yourself if you knew pain like this was coming?

Lesson 8
Lamentations 3:1-39

Objectives

1. Summarize Lamentations 3 in one phrase
2. Identify lines that are typical of laments in this section of Lamentations
3. Identify the advice that the poet gives to the captives, and parallel passages in Jeremiah

Text Questions—Lamentations 3:1-38

1. Match the typical components of individual laments to the content of Lamentations 3:1-38:
 - a. Cry for help/address to God
 - b. Lament (complaint) against God
 - c. Complaint against enemies _____ Remember my affliction (19) E
 - d. Confession of trust _____ He has driven me... (2-18) B
 - e. Petition(s) _____ [Implied acknowledgement] (27-32) F
 - f. Confession of sin _____ This I recall to my mind, therefore... (21-38) D
 - g. Assurance of being heard
 - h. Wish/petition for God's intervention
2. Identify the "why" and "how long" questions in these verses.
3. What point of view is used in verses 1-20?
4. Match the following verses with similar lament language from other books:

v7	Psalm 22:2
v14	Psalm 69:12
v8	Job 19:8
5. Despite everything, what does the writer still have [v21]?

Thought Questions

1. At the writer's lowest point, a transition is made from despair to hope [v21]. What do you think caused this transition?
2. Verses 25-27 speak of three "good" things for man. Why are these things good?
3. Verses 21-39 end with three rhetorical questions [37-39] about God's authority to judge. What purpose do these questions serve for the reader?

Lesson 9
Lamentations 3:40-66

Objectives

1. Identify lines that are typical of laments in this section of Lamentations
2. Name the two appeals to God that end this chapter

Text Questions—Lamentations 3:39-66

1. Match the typical components of individual laments to the content of Lamentations 3:39-66:
 - a. Cry for help/address to God _____ Judge my case (59b) H
 - b. Lament (complaint) against God _____ You have heard my voice... (56-61) G
 - c. Complaint against enemies _____ I called on Your name, O Lord... (55) A
 - d. Confession of trust _____ We have transgressed and rebelled (39-42) F
 - e. Petition(s) _____ Enemies have opened their mouths (46, 53, 62) C
 - f. Confession of sin _____ You have covered yourself... (43-45) B
 - g. Assurance of being heard _____ You will recompense them... (64-66) E
 - h. Wish/petition for God's intervention _____ You drew near when I called... (57-59a) D
2. Identify the "why" and "how long" questions in this chapter.
3. What call to action is made [v40]?
4. What does the writer want to draw God's attention to [v50]?
5. What does the writer (perhaps counterintuitively) ask for in verse 59?

Thought Questions

1. Based on the stanza from verses 55-57, what initiates God's help?
2. Chapter 3 (as a whole) illustrates judgment as a source of hope? How can that be?

Lesson 10
Lamentations 4

Objectives

1. Identify lines that are typical of laments in this section of Lamentations
2. Name the two appeals to God that end this chapter

Text Questions—Lamentations 4

1. Match the typical components of collective laments to the content of Lamentations 4:
 - a. Cry for help/address to God
 - b. Lament (complaint)
 - c. Oracle (God speaks)
 - d. Confession of trust
 - e. Petition(s)
 - f. Assurance of being heard
 - g. Confession of sin
 - h. Wish/petition for God's intervention
 - i. Vow to praise
2. Identify the "why" and "how long" questions in this chapter.
3. Verses 1-11 compare former (better) times against the current siege of Jerusalem. Is the main focus of the contrast spiritual or physical?
4. Were the Israelites prepared for the coming siege [v12]?
5. Which group is called out specifically in verse 13?
6. Which enemy nation is called out specifically in verses 21-22?

_____ How dark the gold has become... (1-11)
_____ Yet our eyes failed... (17-20) B
_____ For the iniquity... (6) G
_____ Because of the sins... (13)

Thought Questions

1. Christians today have a similar role to the priests and prophets of Israel (taking God's word to people). How should that affect the way we handle God's word?
2. What did Jerusalem "watch" for in verse 17? Did they get what they hoped for? What are some modern-day things that we "watch" for?
3. says that God will uncover (ESV), expose (NASB), or discover (KJV) your sins. How does this statement affect the act of lamentation?

Lesson 11
Lamentations 5

Objectives

1. Summarize Lamentations 5 in one phrase
2. Identify lines that are typical of laments in this section of Lamentations
3. Explain why Lamentations ends on a distinctly pessimistic note

Text Questions—Lamentations 5

- a. Match the typical components of collective laments to the content of Lamentations 5:
 - a. Cry for help/address to God
 - b. Lament (complaint) _____ Restore us...; renew our days... (v.21) E
 - c. Confession of sin _____ Our inheritance has been turned over... (vv.2-16) B
 - d. Confession of trust _____ Why do you forget us forever? [...] (v.20) G
 - e. Petition(s) _____ Woe to us, for we have sinned (v.16b) C
 - f. Assurance of being heard _____ You, O Lord, rule forever... (v.19) D
 - g. Wish/petition for God's intervention _____ Remember, O Lord... (v.1) A
 - h. Vow to praise
- b. Identify the "why" and "how long" questions in this chapter.
- c. Instead of an assurance of being heard, what doubt plagues the speaker in Lamentations 5:22?
- d. What image is used to describe Israel's destruction in v.3? To what do you think this is a reference? Consider Exodus 4:22-23 and Exodus 22:24.
- e. What are some of the indignities that the survivors of the destruction suffer, vv.2-10? What other period in Israel's history does this remind you of?
- f. Who was affected by the siege and destruction of Jerusalem and the aftermath, vv.11-14? Why do you think the author chooses to name these groups?

- g. Summarize this chapter in 1 or 2 sentences.

Thought Questions

1. What might feel especially humiliating to an Israelite about having to beg Egypt and Assyria for bread?
2. Are the current Judahites being punished for their fathers' sins, v.7? What else might the verse be saying?
3. Why would the writer choose to end the poem with such a pessimistic (and terrible) thought: that God might have utterly rejected them?
4. Why do you think that the book of Lamentations does not contain a single vow to praise God? Consider Psalm 137:1-6.
5. Would you describe the tone and content of Lamentations as optimistic or pessimistic? Explain your answer.