

The Divine Tapestry

PART 84

Lamentations 3

“Jeremiah Goes Country Western”

Presented by

Pastor Justin Greene

September 18, 2011

“The Book of Lamentations appears after the Book of Jeremiah in our English Bibles. In the Hebrew Bible it is found in the third division (called *Ketubim*, “Writings”). There it is grouped with four other books (Ruth, Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes, and Esther), which together are called the *Megilloth* (“Scrolls”). It contains a mournful cry of sorrow over Jerusalem’s destruction together with an anguished confession of the sin that caused the calamity. The book is read in synagogues each year on a fast day, the Ninth of Ab (the fifth Hebrew month), to commemorate the anniversary of the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple in 587 B.C.” *The New American Commentary on Jeremiah and Lamentations*, F. B. Huey, Jr., p. 441

Its message is still relevant today.

STRAINS OF PAIN

- Lamentations:
 - Starts with, **“HOW!?”**
 - Ends in **tears.**
 - Focuses on the **grace** of God in the face of **judgment** and suffering.

THREE REALIZATIONS

1. God will not reject His children **forever** ... but sometimes **rejection** is **required** (Heb 12:5, 6, 11).
 - To reject God's **rules** is to reject His **peace.**
2. These are some **character traits** that can only be **revealed** through trial.
 - God's **grace** always outweighs His gift of the **grief.**
3. God's heart **breaks** over **judgment!**
 - Willingly = from the **heart** (v. 33).

WRAP