

**“3 WAVES OF PROPHETS”**

this whole series connects both the Historical Urgency and also the Poetic Intelligence of the 17 OT prophets in such a way that it helps unlock: (1) God’s actual “Personality” of deep-character, top-priorities, and intimate-feelings (2) the proper balancing of one’s spirituality & society-ethics, and (3) “shapes-of-the-future” that God keeps building His People towards

[study #16] **JEREMIAH+LAMENTATIONS: The Strength of Being Close to God**

— covering **Jeremiah & Lamentations** —

**ACTION #1.** Jeremiah had a whole lot of “heart,” and people got to see what **“someone super-close to God”** is like. In **Jeremiah 20:7-9** read of Jeremiah’s deep feelings about wanting to avoid trouble, but also being open to it if it means being true to God and His Word. After reading, discuss: In these verses what is Jeremiah’s honest-to-God experience of *always hearing from God* (what are the pro’s & con’s) and do you think he event wants it?

**ACTION #2.** A super-important prophecy of Jeremiah’s was his foretelling of **“THE NEW COVENANT”** which God would one day make with **everyday people’s individual “HEARTS”** (versus a covenant just with important priests or a covenant with Israel as a whole). Read about this coming covenant in **Jeremiah 31:31-34**, then discuss:

- from these verses what characteristics of “the new covenant” are you able to pick out?
- what is the difference between “the locations” of the old and new covenants (what *are* the locations)?
- in **v.34**, do you think there will actually be “no teaching” in the new covenant, or what might this mean?

**ACTION #3.** One strange thing God called Jeremiah to do was (A) actually FEEL Judah’s own sorrow of getting conquered, and then (B) to teach them **SONGS-TO-GOD** so that survivors could properly “lament” or *grieve*, and move on. Read this following example of “lament” (**Lamentations 3:10-40**) and then discuss:

- in your own words describe the *lamenters’* emotional journey in these verses
- which of all these verses stand out the most to you and why?
- what “good” do you think it does to *not just passively let bad things happen*, but to actively lament the details of it before God instead? ... have you ever done lamenting or heard of someone that has?

**ACTION #4.** Jeremiah’s book of **Lamentations** is organized in a special way called an “acrostic” where verses begin with **the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet**. (Hebrew song-writers did this a lot). You *can’t* see the Hebrew acrostic pattern in English, but this chart shows how it would. See if your group can describe all the alphabet patterns... and what **PURPOSES** do you think using all the letters A-Z in a song might there be?

The Strange Alphabet Structure of <b>Lamentations’</b> 5 Lament-Songs				
Lament-Song #1	Lament-Song #2	Lament-Song #3	Lament-Song #4	Lament-Song #5
v.1 <b>A</b> xxx xxxx xx	v.1 <b>A</b> xxx xxxx xx	v.1 <b>A</b> xxx xxxx xx	v.1 <b>A</b> xxx xxxx xx	v.1 <b> </b> xxx xxxx xx
v.2 <b>B</b> xxx xxxx xx	v.2 <b>B</b> xxx xxxx xx	v.2 <b>A</b> xxx xxxx xx	v.2 <b>B</b> xxx xxxx xx	v.2 <b> </b> xxx xxxx xx
v.3 <b>C</b> xxx xxxx xx	v.3 <b>C</b> xxx xxxx xx	v.3 <b>A</b> xxx xxxx xx	v.3 <b>C</b> xxx xxxx xx	v.3 <b> </b> xxx xxxx xx
.....	.....	v.4 <b>B</b> xxx xxxx xx	.....	.....
.....	.....	v.5 <b>B</b> xxx xxxx xx	.....	.....
v.22 <b>Z</b> xxx xxxx xx	v.22 <b>Z</b> xxx xxxx xx	v.6 <b>B</b> xxx xxxx xx	v.22 <b>Z</b> xxx xxxx xx	v.22 <b> </b> xxx xxxx xx
		... [to v.66]		
* in Hebrew. there are 22 “letters” of the alphabet * notice lament-song #3 triples-up using the alphabet! * notice lament-song #5 has the 22 verses for the letters but the letters themselves are missing!				

**EXTRA... FOR THOSE MOTIVATED, DEVOTED, & WITH SOME SELF-COMMAND:**

**GOLD CHALLENGE** ...read ahead (& maybe journal about) for next study: **Habakkuk**

**PENGUIN CHALLENGE** ...throughout this series read the kings-&-exile books (this wk’s portion: **1 Chronicles 22-29**)