

## 25-Lamentations-5

0:38: Well, greetings, brethren, and welcome to another line upon line Bible study, another Wednesday night Bible study.

0:44: we will get back, God willing, into the book of Joshua.

0:48: We definitely want to finish what we started, but we also want to finish what we started in terms of the Book of Lamentations.

0:54: I had hoped that I would complete that study during the days of unleavened bread.

0:59: Here we are now in the count from unleavened bread to Pentecost.

1:04: And I do want to conclude this book, and I kind of have mixed feelings about concluding lamentations.

1:11: I just, in the back of my mind, I thought, this is a book that's not studied, often, if, if at all.

1:18: And just in the back of my mind, I knew there was something in here that we need to be uncovering, and I just feel like it's really precious.

1:25: This is a very, very precious book in the canon of the, the Word of God.

1:30: I'm glad we've studied it.

1:31: I'm, I'm sorry that we're actually concluding it, that there's just so much richness here.

1:36: I want to, God willing, cover the final chapter, which is Lamentations chapter 5 or the 5th lament.

1:45: It's 5 poems, 5 laments.

1:47: Let me open with a word of prayer, ensure that I am coming through loudly and clearly.

1:53: And then we will get into the final poem, the final lament in this book of five laments.

2:03: Our loving Heavenly Father, we pause, as is our custom, to acknowledge you.

2:09: And to ask you, Father, for your grace, for your divine favor, that you'll bless our study, that you'll bless our understanding, and that you'll strengthen our conviction and deepen our faith.

2:22: Praise you, Lord.

2:23: We thank you for all the brethren that are tuned in live.

2:26: We thank you for all those who will watch the archive.

2:29: And we just thank you, God, for your support, your supernatural support as we walk this way.

2:37: We praise you, Lord, we thank you as we in this count are clearly showing that we as the first roots are connected to the Passover purpose of Jesus Christ our Lord and our Savior, and we pray, Father, you'll strengthen us to be purposeful and to meet your requirements and your expectations.

2:57: We praise You, Lord.

2:58: We thank you.

3:00: we ask for your.

3:02: Just unmerited grace in the mighty name of Jesus Christ.

3:07: Amen.

3:09: All right.

3:09: Let us get into Lamentations chapter 5.

3:14: I want to just remind you of the structure of the Book of Lamentations.

3:21: As I've mentioned at the outset, it's, it's 5 laments.

3:24: Actually, at the outset, just wanna just, thank you, brethren for engaging in the count with pastors Murray and Gary as they are counting out, our approach to Pentecost as we head now into day 12, day number 12 in the count of 50.

3:45: And, I just wanna thank you that I just love to see the, the high level of engagement and quality, quality engagement.

3:51: And just if you're not on Slack, you're missing, you're missing out.

3:55: please reach out to anybody that's on Slack.

3:58: We can get you on there, and, it won't be long before you're participating as well.

4:03: It's nice to see some new faces and some new, and hear some new voices on that platform.

4:08: And certainly, we're very grateful to Pastors Murray and Gary.

4:13: Pastor Gary is in the UK and Pastor Murray is on the East Coast and technology collapses distance.

4:21: Let me make sure that I am coming through loudly and clearly.

4:25: you shouldn't go too far before I confirm that.

4:27: Yes, Pastor Murray, audio and video are clear.

4:31: Also, I just want to thank and acknowledge the brethren who log in here.

4:36: Pastor Murray, great to see you again.

4:38: Thanks for the count.

4:39: Dave and Deb, wonderful to see you.

4:42: Kay Feder, I think that's Keith, but, I'd like to just go by the, by the handles.

4:47: Kay Feder, nice to see you.

4:50: RMW Petty, wonderful welcome.

4:53: Pep Square, welcome to you.

4:54: Bruce Ellis, welcome to you.

4:55: I, I missed all of you.

4:56: It's nice to see these names again.

4:58: That's really nice.

5:00: Cha Ja, it's wonderful to see you.

5:02: Christy Romin, welcome.

5:04: Let's see who else I see here.

5:07: CGI Burlington, welcome.

5:09: Carlotta Ellison is here.

5:11: Welcome.

5:12: And your book's on the way, Sister Carlotta, if you haven't received it already.

5:16: Judy and Chuck are here.

5:17: Welcome.

5:19: Rick Forest here.

5:20: Welcome, Rick.

5:22: And Merlane is also here.

5:24: Welcome, Merlane, and thanks, Pastor Murray for putting the diagram, reminding the brethren of the structure of this wonderful, amazing book.

5:35: And I just want to go back to that structure.

5:36: So, the 1st 4 laments are acrostics.

5:42: And the, there are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet.

5:46: Lament 12, and 4 are 22 verses.

5:51: For each letter in the alphabet, there's, there's, an expression of grief covering sort of the A to Z of grief, a comprehensive, address or, or, analysis and expression of the grief.

6:07: Chapter 5 is also 22 verses, but it's not an acrostic.

6:11: Chapter 3 is an acrostic, but it's 66 verses.

6:16: And I was thinking about that in preparing to conclude here in chapter 5.

6:22: And what dawned on me is that the emphasis Or the most important lament.

6:30: In the, the Book of Lamentations is the one in the middle.

6:35: First of all, it's the longest.

6:36: So for every letter in the Hebrew alphabet, there are 3 verses to each letter.

6:42: So, it's a fuller expression than the other chapters.

6:47: It's in the middle, and I think that's really important in the Hebrew poetic, you know, literary constructs.

6:54: They would talk or, or write in chiasms.

6:58: And a chiasm is like putting brackets around the most important point.

7:02: So, if you're writing a poem, you know, when we write a poem, it might be A, B, A, B, A, B.

7:10: So we just make sure that, you know, or A A B B C C D D, and that's how we structure our poems.

7:18: The way the Hebrews would often speak is in chiasms, where they would have A B C B A.

7:29: And I think that's, that would be the structure here that we see.

7:31: It's sort of like an A, B, C, BA where you, you're leading up to the most important point, and then you're coming down from it.

7:40: And there's sort of this parallelism.

7:43: So we see leading up to the most important point, there's this personal grief, then there's this collective grief, then there's chapter 3, then we come back out of this sort of personal and collective grief.

7:59: So there's grief experienced by the individual, and then there's grief experienced by the whole covenant community, and those are in chapters 134, and 5.

8:08: Chapter 3 is the exclamation mark.

8:11: And I was thinking about my book here that I just published, and many of you have been gracious to ask for this, and it is very different in structure because I was educated with a Greek mindset and, and Greek logic.

8:30: So, for my book, It has 21 chapters.

8:34: So I was thinking about this.

8:36: So, I, I'm, I'm basically making an argument.

8:40: I'm making the case that God is faithful, and it's leading up to the final chapter.

8:47: Chapter 21 is the final chapter.

8:52: And then there's a conclusion, but chapter 21, this is my point.

8:57: There remains a rest.

8:59: And so this is the whole point that I'm arguing is that there's one gospel beginning at Moses.

9:06: And so when you read all of this, the argument I'm making is the gospel we preach today is the same gospel Moses preached.

9:15: And and the same gospel Joshua understood and and tried to execute but failed.

9:21: And so there remains a rest.

9:22: So, so that's the Greek mindset.

9:24: It's like all of these arguments beginning, I open the argument in chapter one.

9:28: I conclude it in chapter 21.

9:31: If I was in, in a Greek mindset, then my most important point would be in the middle of the book.

9:39: So, 21 chapters, if we take chapter 11, then there's 10 chapters on each side.

9:45: So if that was, if it was a chiastic structure, my most important point would be in chapter 11.

9:51: And in the middle of chapter 11, the, the, the, the center paragraph is about Deuteronomy 30:6, and it's about the second Exodus.

10:02: And it's like God Himself will circumcise their hearts.

10:06: He will do what they could not do for themselves.

10:09: He will remove the foreskin of pride and rebellion and stubbornness that has blocked their capacity to love Him with all their heart and soul.

10:18: This is not a human achievement.

10:20: This is divine surgery.

10:22: God will perform the work upon the heart of His people that no amount of religious observance, no system of sacrifices, no human intercessor, and no national reform could accomplish.

10:33: That's the center paragraph of the book.

10:35: If we were Hebrews, if I was Hebrews speaking to Hebrews, you would know that that's the point I'm making.

10:42: But I'm, I'm influenced by Greek thinking, and probably you are too.

10:47: And so I, I open my point, the case I'm going to make that God is faithful, and I conclude my point at the end of the chapter.

10:54: All of that to say, let's appreciate chapter 3.