

Insights From Lamentations

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Insights From Lamentations

by Jonathan Cooper

First Edition on 4/30/2024

Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper
4/29/2024

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Lamentations

- Jeremiah said that the sorrow of the Jews after the fall of Jerusalem was exceedingly great. He implied that it was greater than any other sorrow (Lamentations 1:12).
- The reason all these terrible things happened to the Jews was because of the Lord. He was the one who did these things to them, and He did them because of His fierce anger against them. Why was God angry with them? It was because of their grievous sin (Lamentations 1:12).
- There are times when God afflicts nations because of their sin (Lamentations 1:12).
- Jeremiah wept over the destruction of Jerusalem and the suffering of the Jews (Lamentations 1:16). He did this in spite of the fact he was in *prison* when Jerusalem fell. Even though he was viciously persecuted for being a faithful prophet of the Lord, and even though the Jews rejected his message and refuse to repent, Jeremiah still wept when God's judgment came.
- The Lord has control over the nations. He can protect a nation from evil, and He can also raise up evil against it (Lamentations 1:17).
- Jeremiah said that all of the judgments from the Lord were righteous (Lamentations 1:18). Jeremiah didn't accuse God of error or claim that He had done anything wrong. In other words, it's just and righteous for God to destroy cities and nations that rebel against Him (which God has done time and time again).
- During the fall of Jerusalem, the priests and elders starved to death while looking for food to eat (Lamentations 1:19).

- In the day of God's anger He showed no pity (Lamentations 2:2).
- God was the one who came against the temple in Jerusalem and destroyed it (Lamentations 2:6). That was His doing.
- Before the fall of Jerusalem, the city was called the perfection of beauty and the joy of the whole earth (Lamentations 2:15). After its destruction the city was an object of ridicule.
- The Jews are called the apple of God's eye. They are precious to the Lord (Lamentations 2:18). Although God punished them for their sins, He didn't stop loving them.
- It's appropriate to weep when God's judgment comes (Lamentations 2:18).
- When Jerusalem fell, the Jews began killing their children and eating them (Lamentations 2:20).
- God had compassion on the Jews and didn't utterly destroy them. The reason they survived as a people was because His compassion didn't fail (Lamentations 3:22).
- The mercies of God are new every morning (Lamentations 3:23).
- God is good to those who wait for Him, and to the souls who seek Him (Lamentations 3:25).
- When we suffer and are afflicted we must wait on God. We must learn patience so we can endure times of suffering (Lamentations 3:25-27).
- The Lord won't always be angry with the Jews. One day He will have compassion on them (Lamentations 3:31-32).

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- God doesn't willingly afflict people or bring grief into their life (Lamentations 3:33).
- God doesn't approve of those who do evil to others or deprive them of what they're due (Lamentations 3:36).
- Whatever happens is of the Lord. Nothing comes to pass that He doesn't command (Lamentations 3:37). No one can make something come to pass that's against His will.
- God is the one who brings into our lives both good things (blessings) and evil things (suffering and pain) (Lamentations 3:38).
- People have no right to complain about the punishment that God sends upon them for their sin (Lamentations 3:39).
- Jeremiah told the Jews to respond to their suffering by lifting up their heart and hands to God. He told them to repent of their sins, change their ways, and seek God (Lamentations 3:40-41).
- It's not wrong for Christians to pray that God would punish those who unjustly persecute them (Lamentations 3:64-66).
- When God judged Jerusalem, the temple was torn apart and its stones were scattered throughout Jerusalem (Lamentations 4:1).
- When God judged Jerusalem, mothers became cruel. They stopped caring about their own infants and stopped feeding them (Lamentations 4:3). Instead of taking care of their children they cooked and ate them (Lamentations 4:10).

- When God judged Jerusalem, the rich didn't escape. Their wealth was unable to save them in the day of His wrath (Lamentations 4:5).
- Jeremiah said that the destruction of Jerusalem was worse than the destruction of Sodom. This is because the destruction of Sodom was very quick, while the destruction of Jerusalem was slow and the pain lasted a long time (Lamentations 4:6).
- God punishes cities and nations which shed the blood of the just (Lamentations 4:13).
- The wicked prophets and priests of Jerusalem shed so much innocent blood that their garments were stained with it (Lamentations 4:14).
- Even though God was the one who punished the Jews for their sins and brought so much pain upon them, Jeremiah still cried out to God and asked Him to remember their suffering (Lamentations 5:1).
- The Bible makes many references to those who are "fatherless", and even puts them in the same category as orphans (Lamentations 5:3). The Bible teaches that children need a father and are worse off if they lack one.
- Sometimes God's punishment falls upon a nation after the generation that triggered the judgment had died (Lamentations 5:7). This means God's judgment may not come right away. It might wait for a generation.
- After the destruction of Jerusalem the Jews had to risk their lives to find food (Lamentations 5:9).
- God will never disappear or cease to exist. He will reign forever (Lamentations 5:19).