

Handout 8-C

The Book of Lamentations

Read the “Introduction” to the Book of Lamentations in the NABRE. (<http://www.usccb.org/bible/scripture.cfm?bk=Lamentations&ch=>)

After reading, fill the information requested in Part 1 below. Then, read some of the passages from Lamentations and record the information requested in Part 2.

Part 1: Background

1. What are some synonyms for the word “lament”? _____

2. What is the literary genre in Lamentations? _____
3. What is being “lamented”? _____

4. Who is the traditional author of the Book of Lamentations? _____
5. Who, in actuality, probably wrote the biblical verses which make up Lamentations? _____

6. What Jewish liturgical tradition commemorates the destruction of both the First and Second Temples? _____

7. When are passages from Lamentations utilized in the Christian liturgical tradition? _____

8. How are the poems acrostics? _____

Part 2: Themes

The Introduction to the Book of Lamentations explains the following themes of the chapters. Skim these chapters and write down at least three examples of the central theme for each.

9. Theme in Chapters 1–2: *Jerusalem is portrayed as an abandoned widow exposed to endless dangers.*
10. Theme in Chapter 3: *Jerusalem is portrayed as a broken man.*

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11. Theme in Chapter 4: *The bleak description of the inhabitants to the devastated city of Jerusalem.*

12. Theme in Chapter 5: *The community's lament to God.*