



# LAMENTATIONS IN THE BIBLE

By Ian Menzies

Not a book we feel encouraged to read. Scholars tell us it contains a series of five poems telling the sad story of God's people in exile after Judah, Jerusalem, and the Temple have been destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC. There are lessons to be learned. But God will not abandon his people for ever. There will be a restoration. Every now and again in this Book, in spite of the lamenting, some wonderful expressions of faith encourage the exiles. Prophetic reassurance. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end.

## *Reflection:*

*Read and reflect on Tis 154. Perhaps suggest it to be included in Sunday's service.*

They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness. The Lord is good to those who wait for him (Lamentations 3:23-25). There will be sadness and suffering because of evil and sin, but God will never abandon his people. They are to wait patiently. Hoping and trusting. What a message these words have for us in the world today. COVID-19 has taken countless lives around the world, young and old, an indiscriminate evil. Life will never be the same. But God will act and restore, if we wait patiently, trusting, working and praying, for healing and wholeness.

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