Lamentations: A Bible School of the Air Broadcast (1958)

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Program Four: "I Will Sing the Wondrous Story"

Bible School of the Air — Lamentations. Broadcast February 10, 1958.

KEE: Last week we studied about Jeremiah, the weeping Prophet. This week we take up his book of Lamentations. It has been called a poem of pity, a hymn of heartbreak, a psalm of sadness, a symphony of sorrow, a tale of tears and account of agony. Commenting on this book one writer said, "There is nothing like the Lamentations of Jeremiah in the whole world. There has been plenty of sorrow in every land, but such another preacher and author, with such a heart of sorrow, has never again been born." Lamentations is one of those interesting books in the Bible constructed as an acrostic....using the 22 consonants of the Hebrew alphabet. Each chapter is constructed that way except the last one. Why the change? We aren't sure. Possibly it has a reason we have not yet discovered....the Bible is a rich book and we have only begun to find all there is there for us.

The key word in the book is ZION and it's used 15 times to refer to Jerusalem. By the way the city of Jerusalem is mentioned 74 times. And the key verse is the first one in the book...chapter 1 verse 1. "How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people! how is she become as a widow! she that was great among the nations, and princess among the provinces, how is she become tributary!" The book goes on to explain how all of this has taken place. It all goes back to a little three letter word...S-I-N. (sin). Jeremiah had spoken of this judgment

prophetically and now it had come true. We don't find Jeremiah with a proud, "I told you so" attitude...instead he mourned and wept. In chapter 1 verse 16 we read, "For these things I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water." We live in a day when there is little weeping, little weeping over sin. Sin is thought of as weakness, as a minor detail. If men think lightly of the disease they'll also think lightly of the cure. Jeremiah sought to look at sin the way God looks at it. In verse 18 he confesses "The LORD is righteous, for I have rebelled against his commandment."

Have you ever come to that place where you saw the Lord's righteousness and your own sinfulness? Possibly you have come to that place right now. Why don't you then confess your sins to Him and trust Him as your Saviour. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

In chapter 3 Jeremiah speaks of his dungeon experience. "I called upon thy name, O LORD, out of the low dungeon." In this same chapter we read these words...I wonder if they were not a result of that dungeon experience. "It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion." It's good when we come to that place where we are broken...where we realize as one has put it that it's not our faith but His faithfulness, not our trust, but His trustworthiness. When we say as Jeremiah, "The LORD is my portion," then we have enough. Yes, He is the God who is enough. Is the Lord your portion or are you still trying to find your portion in

other things? You'll never be satisfied until you turn to the Lord and make Him your all.

Near the end of the book we read these words, "Thou, O LORD, remainest for ever." So Jeremiah through all his unpopularity and tears always had the Lord. He could say, Great is Thy Faithfulness.

Jeremiah did the work the Lord had for him...yes, it meant the dungeon....people didn't understand him but Jeremiah did the work. God is looking for men, for women like that today. He wants to send them forth with the message of salvation...some will meet with ..., others will be scorned. But let's be like Jeremiah and see beyond...see beyond to the Faithful One....listen to the Saviour's voice as He says "So send I you."

Music: "So Send I You" (Pearce)