

## LAMENTATIONS

In most American Christian Bibles, called The Lamentations of Jeremiah since the authorship is unknown and Jeremiah was the most prominent biblical figure to witness the destruction of Jerusalem. But he probably didn't write it:

- 1) It is not included in the prophetic canon in the Hebrew Bible.
- 2) The five poems (chapters) do not seem to be by the same hand.
- 3) The first four poems are acrostics, each verse starting with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet, in order, a highly artificial form that indicates someone working it out painfully and slowly in retrospect.
- 4) The author employed the characteristic "elegiac meter" that evokes the sound of sobbing: three-beat first sound, two-beat second sound, another artificial form that would have required much time and scholasticism.