

Advanced Biblical Hebrew 3
Faith in the Face of Despair: Lamentations
Winter 2012

Lehrhaus Judaica
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Tentative Final Class Session: Sunday, April 1
Class Holiday: Sunday, February 19 (President's Day Weekend)

A. Topic Areas for Lecture/Discussion (first and subsequent sessions, as needed)

1. Historical background: Judean history, ca. 730-515 BCE
2. Digging deeper: Mesopotamian lamentation literature
3. Biblical poetry in general, and special features of Lamentations
4. Personifications and 'voices' in Lamentations
5. Ritual and moral purity: their meaning and interplay in Lamentations
6. Mourning literature: *Qinah*, communal and Jerusalem laments
7. Who wrote it, and when?

B. Texts to be Translated

1. Lamentations 3: Witnessing devastation, reflecting, responding
2. Time permitting: take your pick

C. Main Course Features

1. Each week's class will include a running grammar review as we translate each passage. Special grammatical problems will be treated separately, as needed.
2. For this course, copies of texts to be translated will be provided at least one week in advance. Separate page/s of grammar notes will be included with each Hebrew passage.
3. Students are encouraged to buy grammars and dictionaries of Classical/Biblical Hebrew. Some of the standards will be outlined in class upon request.

D. Useful References for This Topic

Core Semester References:

Berlin, A. *Lamentations*. Old Testament Library. Louisville/London: Westminster/John Knox, 2004.

Hillers, D. *Lamentations*. The Anchor Bible 7A. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1979.

Other References:

Alter, R. *The Art of Biblical Poetry*. New York: Basic Books, 1985.

Anderson, G.A. *A Time to Mourn, A Time to Dance: The Expression of Grief and Joy in Israelite Religion*. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University, 1991.

Cohen, M. E. *The Canonical Lamentations of Mesopotamia*. 2 vols. 1988.

Cross, F. M. *From Epic to Canon: History and Literature in Ancient Israel*. Baltimore:

- Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.
- _____. "Studies in the Structure of Hebrew Verse: The Prosody of Lamentations 1:1-22." in *The World Shall Go Forth: Essays in Honor of David Noel Freedman*, ed. C. L. Meyers and M. O'Connor. Winona Lake Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 1983.
- Dobbs-Allsopp, F.W. *Lamentations*. Interpretation. . Louisville/London: Westminster/John Knox, 2002.
- _____. "Linguistic Evidence for the Date of Lamentations," *Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society* 26 (1998) , 1-36.
- Ferris, P.W., Jr. *The Genre of Communal Lament in the Bible and the Ancient Near East*. Society for Biblical Literature, Dissertation Series, 127. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1992.
- Freedman, D.N., "Acrostic Poems in the Hebrew Bible: Alphabetic and Otherwise," *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 48 (1986), 408-31.
- Hallo, W., and K. L. Younger (eds). *The Context of Scripture*. 3 vols. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1997-2002.
- Hillers, D. *Lamentations*. The Anchor Bible 7A. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1979.
- Miller, J.M. and J.H.Hayes. *A History of Ancient Israel and Judah*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1986.
- Pritchard, J. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969.
- Renkama, J. *Lamentations*. Historical Commentary on the Old Testament. Leuven: Peeters, 1998.
- Willey, P.T. *Remember the Former Things: The Recollection of Previous Texts in Second Isaiah*. Society for Biblical Literature, Dissertation Series, 161. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1997.