



Jeremiah c. 650–570 BC

chapters

- 1 The Prophet's Call
- 2 Nature of Betrayal
- 7 Nature of Destruction
- 12 Nature of Compassion
- 18 Nature of the Potter's House
- 23 Nature of the Righteous Branch
- 29 Nature of *Shalom*
- 31 Nature of Everlasting Love
- 35 Nature of a Father's Example
- 36 Nature of God's Word
- 42 Nature of Trust
- 52 Jerusalem Destroyed ... then  *then* 



Lamentations

2:13 Your wound is as deep as the sea

8-27-23



Jeremiah Lamenting the Destruction of Jerusalem, c. 1630, by Rembrandt

**Lamentations – 5 Poems on the
Suffering AFTER Jerusalem Destroyed**

**Rembrandt's painting shows
Jeremiah with some of the Temple
Treasure he kept from Babylon**

**One legend is that Jeremiah HID
the Ark of the Covenant**

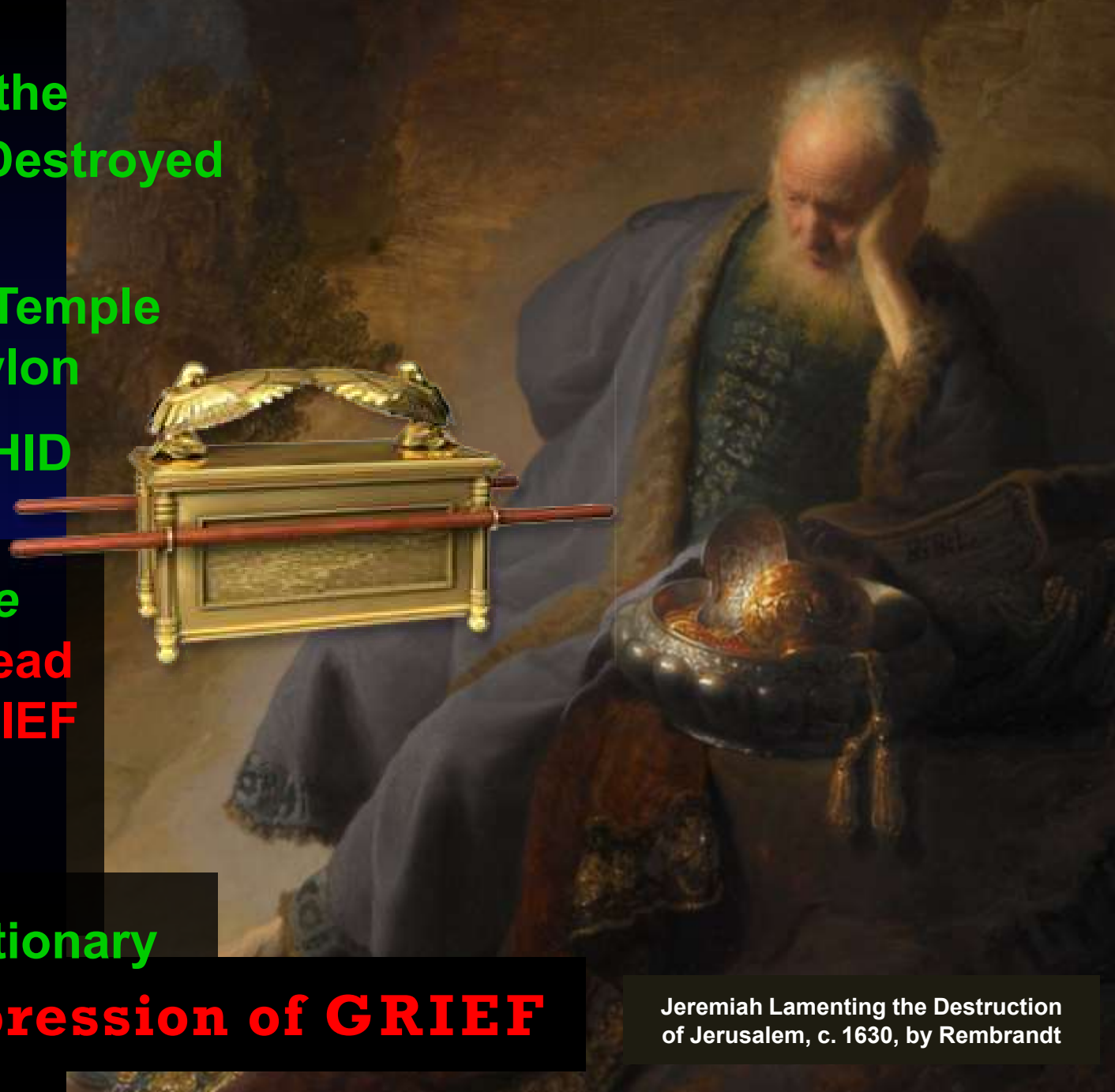
**Lamentations – *Elegy & Dirge*
Elegy = Mournful poem for **Dead**
Dirge = Slow Sad Song of **GRIEF****

Like a Funeral Poem / Song

Like a Tribute to Suffering

Lament = Oxford English Dictionary

Passionate Expression of GRIEF



Jeremiah Lamenting the Destruction of Jerusalem, c. 1630, by Rembrandt

Encyclopedia Judaica (1st 12 vols, 1901-1906;
updated 1970s, to 22 vols today)

A landmark standard on all things JEWISH

On the *Book of Lamentations*:

“Testaments of the subject in music
far outnumber those in literature.”



Hebrew Canon – 24 books in 3 Divisions

Torah / Teachings: Gen, Ex, Lev, Num, Deut

Nevi'im / Prophets: Major & Minor Prophets

Ketuvim / Writings: Poetry, Theology, Drama:

Ps, Prov/ Job, SofS, Ruth, Lamentations,
Eccl, Esther, Daniel, Ez-Neh, Chronicles.

Hebrew Canon is called **TaNakh**—first 3 letters

Lamentations is among the 5 SCROLLS read at special times

Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther

Lamentations read 9th of Abib: Day of Lamentation for

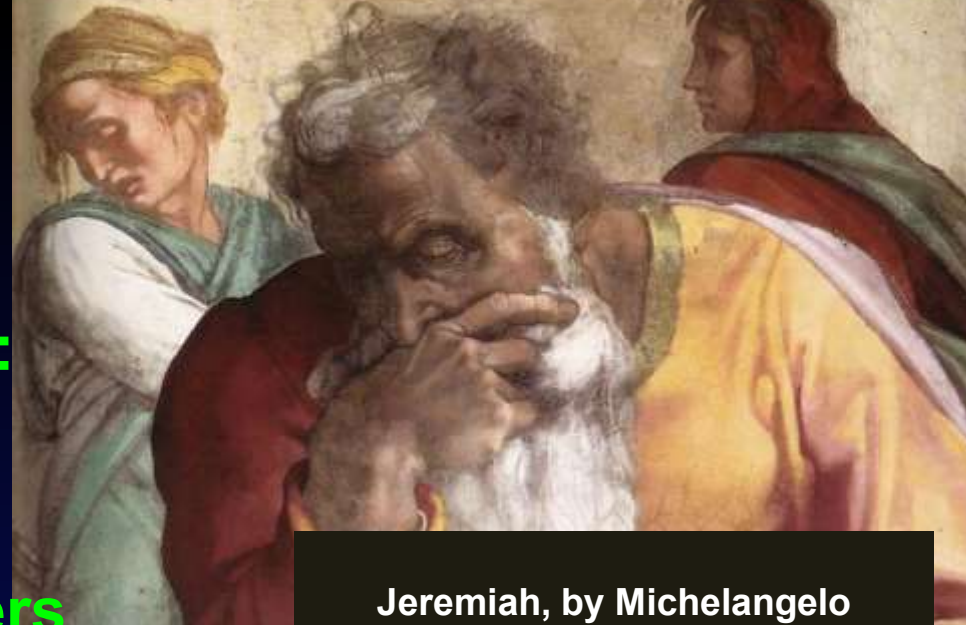
day of Burning of the Solomon's Temple 586 BC & Herod's Temple AD 70

Lamentations in the RCC read on the last 3 days of Holy Week

O.T. scripts Rabbis call it "Ekah" – from "אֵיכָה" "How" begins chs 1,2,3,4

Talmud & Rabbis "K̄inot" is Hebrew for dirges or elegies

Greek LXX & Latin & Church Fathers "Threni"—How we get Lamentations



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome

1 א
2 ב
3 ג
4 ד
5 ה
6 ו
7 ז
8 ח
9 ט
10 י
11 כ
12 ל
13 מ
14 נ
15 ס
16 ע
17 פ
18 צ
19 ק
20 ר
21 ש
22 ת

Lamentations – 5 Poems / Chapters

4 of 5 Acrostic – 22x w Hebrew Alphabet

Destruction of Jerusalem (586 B.C.)

Ch 1. 1-22 Poet then City Speaks

distress of the city personified

Ch 2. 1-22 Fate of City, Citizens, Cry to God

Ch 3. 1-66 Person or Community Speaks

1-18 Deep Affliction – 19 Cries to God

22 sets
of 3 prs
= 66

21-47 God's Mercy Renewed Every Morning ... Only Hope

58-55 Afflictions of the Community

56-66 Prayer for Help & Avenging on Enemies

Ch 4. 1-22 Affliction for Sins of Leaders, Priests, Prophets (Lastly Edom)

Ch 5. 1-22 Prayer ... closing with 19-22, "Renew our days as of old"

Chapter 5 w 22 verses but NOT an acrostic



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome

Lamentations – 5 Poems / Chapters

Destruction of Jerusalem (586 B.C.)

Ch 1. 1-22 **Poet then City Speaks** *personified*

λ 1 **HOW** deserted lies the city,
once so full of people!

How like a widow is she,
once great among the nations!

She who was queen among the provinces
has NOW BECOME A SLAVE.

⌋ 2 Bitterly she weeps at night.... **4** The roads to Zion mourn....

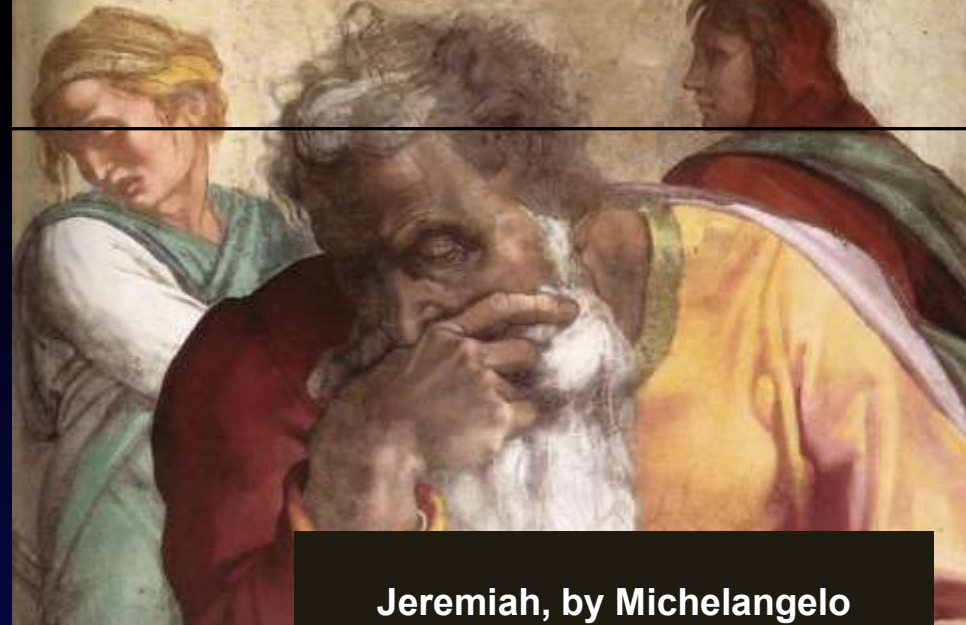
6 All splendor has departed ... Her princes are like deer ... no pasture....

7 days of her affliction ... Jerusalem remembers all the treasures....

9 Her filthiness clung to her skirts....

10 ... pagan nations enter her sanctuary....

A Dirge ... Elegy ... Lamentation



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome

**DIRGE or Elegy or Lamentation as is the
“Candle in the Wind (Goodbye England’s Rose)”**

by Elton John, 1997

Goodbye England’s Rose

May you ever grow in our hearts

You were the grace that placed itself

Where lives were torn apart

You called out to our country

And you whispered to those in pain

Now you belong to heaven

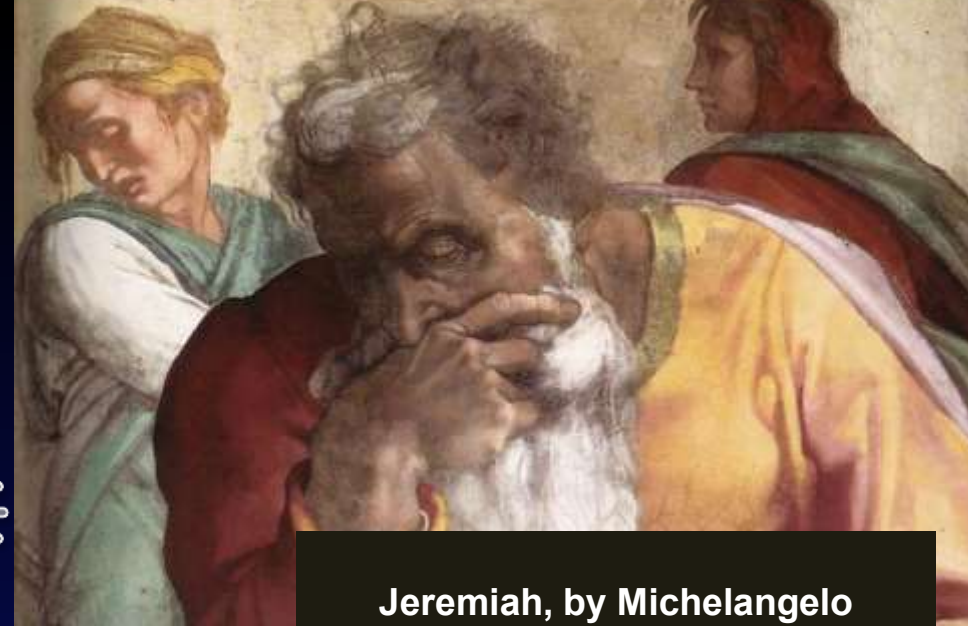
And the stars spell out your name

And it seems to me you lived your life

Like a candle in the wind

Never fading with the sunset

When the rain set in



**Jeremiah, by Michelangelo
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome**



Lamentations – 5 Poems / Chapters

Destruction of Jerusalem (586 B.C.)

Ch 1. 1-22 Poet then City Speaks *personified*

13 “From on high he sent fire,
sent it down *into my bones*....

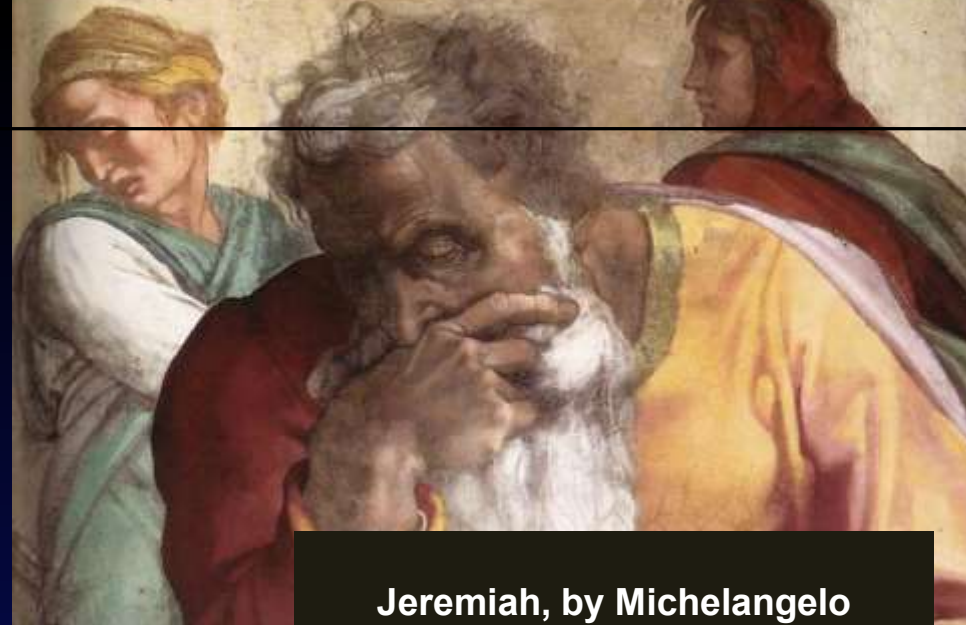
14 “My sins have been bound into a yoke ...
They have been hung on my neck....

16 “This is why I weep.... No one is near ... to restore my spirit....

19 “I called to my allies but they betrayed me....

20 “See, Lord ... I am in torment within, in my heart I am disturbed...
Enemies ... rejoice at what you have done....

22 “Let all their wickedness come before you;
deal with them as you have dealt with me because of all my sins.
My groans are many and my heart is faint.”



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome

Lamentations – 5 Poems / Chapters

Destruction of Jerusalem (586 B.C.)

Ch 2. 1-22 Fate of City, Citizens, Cry to God

λ 1 HOW the Lord has covered Daughter Zion
with the cloud of his anger!

... hurled down the splendor of Israel ...

NOT remembered His footstool ...

∩ 2 Without pity the Lord has swallowed up ...

3 ... burned in Jacob like a flaming fire....

4 Like an enemy he has strung his bow....

7 The Lord has rejected his altar...

8 Lord ... stretched out a measuring line...

He made ramparts and walls lament;

9 Her gates sunk into the ground ... destroyed.... law is no more...



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome

Lamentations – 5 Poems / Chapters

Destruction of Jerusalem (586 B.C.)

Ch 2. 1-22 Fate of City, Citizens, Cry to God

10 Elders of Daughter Zion

sit on the ground in silence....

11 My eyes fail from weeping,

I am in torment within ...

children & infants **FAINT** in the streets of the city.

12 They say to their mothers, “Where is bread and wine?”

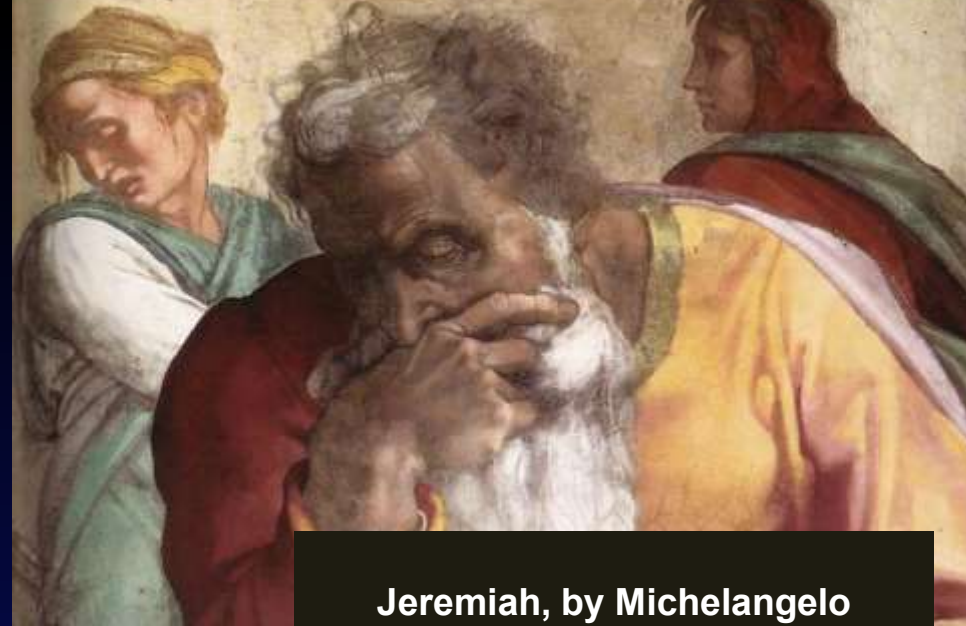
as they faint like the wounded ...

as their lives ebb away in their mothers’ arms.

13 Your wound is as **DEEP AS THE SEA**....

15 All who pass your way clap their hands at you ... they **SCOFF** ...

“Is this the city that was called the perfection of beauty,
the joy of the whole earth?”



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome

Lamentations – 5 Poems / Chapters

Destruction of Jerusalem (586 B.C.)

Ch 2. 1-22 Fate of City, Citizens, Cry to God

16 All your enemies open their mouths ...
they scoff and gnash their teeth....

18 let your tears flow like a river day & night ...
no relief ... eyes no rest.

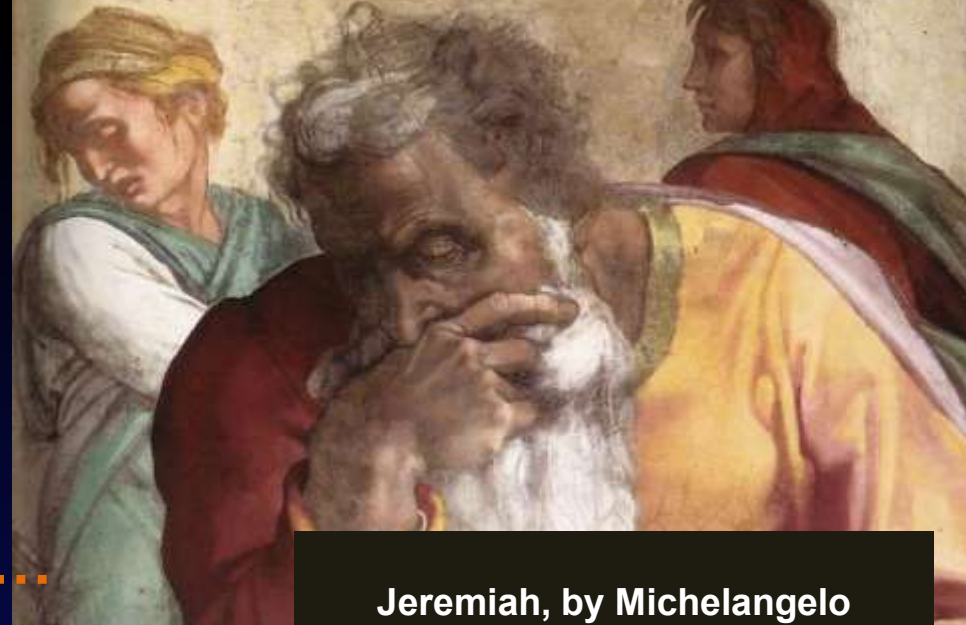
19 Arise, cry out in the night.... lives of your children,
who faint from hunger at every street corner.

20 ... “Look, Lord ... Should women eat their offspring?...

21 “Young & old lie together in the dust of the streets....

22 ... In the day of the Lord’s anger, **NO ONE** escaped or survived....

A Dirge ... Elegy ... *Lamentation*



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome

DIRGE or **Elegy** or **Lamentation** as is the
“**Tears in Heaven**” by **Eric Clapton & Will Jennings**
PAIN Clapton felt after the **death** of his 4-yr-old son

Would you hold my hand?

If I saw you in heaven

Would you help me stand?

If I saw you in heaven

I'll find my way

Through night and day ...

Time can bring you down

Time can bend your knees

Time can break your heart

Have you begging please

Begging *p / e a s e*



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome



Lamentations – 5 Poems / Chapters

Destruction of Jerusalem (586 B.C.)

Ch 3. 1-66 Person or Community Speaks

Ⲱ 1 I am the man who has seen affliction
by the rod of the Lord's wrath.

Ⲱ 2 He has ... made me walk in darkness ...

Ⲱ 3 he has turned his hand against me....

Ⲱ 7 He has walled me in....

Ⲱ 8 When I call ... he shuts out my prayer.

Ⲱ 9 He has barred my way ... made my paths crooked.

Ⲱ 10 Like a **BEAR** ... **LION** in hiding,

Ⲱ 11 he dragged me from the path & **MANGLED ME**....

Ⲱ 12 He drew his bow & made me the target for his arrows.



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome

Lamentations – 5 Poems / Chapters

Destruction of Jerusalem (586 B.C.)

Ch 3. 1-66 Person or Community Speaks

13 He pierced my heart with arrows....

14 I became the laughingstock ... all day long.

15 He has filled me with bitter herbs....

22 Because of the Lord's great love

we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

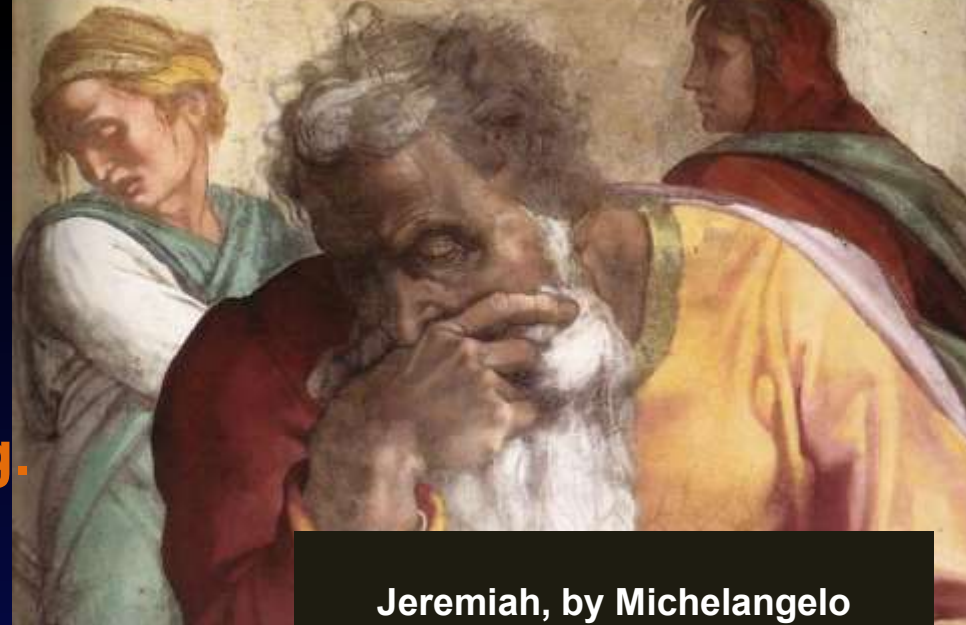
23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

24 I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;
therefore, I will wait for him."

37 Who can speak and have it happen if the Lord has not decreed it?

38 Is it not from the mouth of the Most High ... bad & good come?

39 Why should the living complain when punished for their sins?



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome

Lamentations – 5 Poems / Chapters

Destruction of Jerusalem (586 B.C.)

Ch 3. 1-66 Person or Community Speaks

43 “You have covered yourself with anger....

44 You have covered yourself with a cloud
so that no prayer can get through.

45 You have made us scum & refuse....

46 “enemies have opened their mouths wide....

47 We have suffered terror & pitfalls, ruin & destruction.”

48 Streams of tears flow from my eyes because my people are destroyed.

49 My eyes will flow unceasingly, without relief,

50 until the Lord looks down from heaven and sees.

51 What I see brings grief to my soul

because of all the women of my city.



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome

Lamentations – 5 Poems / Chapters

Destruction of Jerusalem (586 B.C.)

Ch 3. 1-66 Person or Community Speaks

⌋ 52 ... enemies ... hunted me like a bird.

⌋ 53 They tried to **END** my life in a pit....

⌋ 54 the waters closed over my head

⌋ 57 I called on your name, Lord, from the depths of the **PIT**.

⌋ 57 You heard my plea: “Do not close your ears to my **CRY** for relief.”

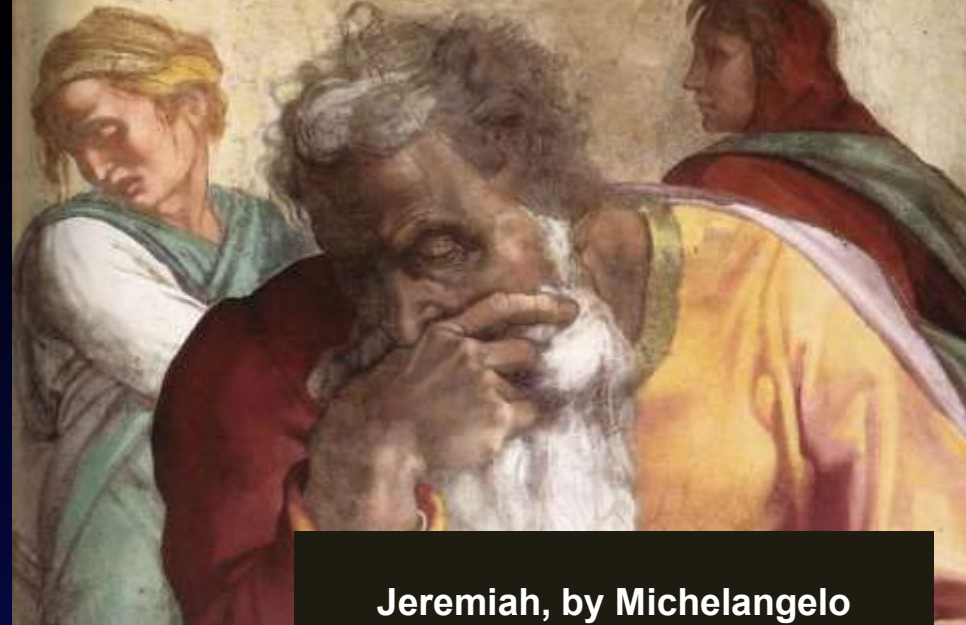
⌋ 57 You came near when I called you, and you said, “**DO NOT FEAR.**”

⌋ 64 Pay them back ... Lord, for what their hands have done.

⌋ 65 Put a veil over their hearts, and may your curse be on them!

⌋ 66 Pursue ... destroy them from under the heavens of the Lord.

A Dirge ... Elegy ... Lamentation



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome

**DIRGE or Elegy or Lamentation as is the
"Ode to Billy Joe" by Bobbie Gentry, 1967**

And brother said he recollected when he,
and Tom, and Billie Joe put a frog down
my back at the Carroll County picture show

And wasn't I talkin' to him after
church last Sunday night?
I'll have another piece-a apple pie;
you know, it don't seem right

I saw him at the sawmill yesterday
on Choctaw Ridge

And now ya tell me Billie Joe's
jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome



Lamentations – 5 Poems / Chapters

Destruction of Jerusalem (586 B.C.)

Ch 4. 1-22 Affliction for Sins of Leaders,
Priests, Prophets (Lastly Edom)

λ 1 **HOW** the **gold** has lost its luster....

⌋ 2 How the precious children of Zion,
once worth their weight in **gold**....

3 Even **jackals** offer their breasts to nurse their young....

4 Because of thirst the **infant's tongue sticks to the roof of its mouth;**
the children beg for bread, but no one gives it to them.

5 Those who once ate **delicacies** are destitute in the streets.
Those brought up in **royal purple** now lie on ash heaps.



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome

Lamentations – 5 Poems / Chapters

Destruction of Jerusalem (586 B.C.)

Ch 4. 1-22 Affliction for Sins of Leaders, Priests, Prophets (Lastly Edom)

6 The punishment of my people
is greater than that of Sodom....

7 Their princes were brighter than **SNOW**....

8 But now they are blacker than soot....

9 Those killed by sword are **BETTER OFF** than those who die of famine....

10 With their own hands compassionate women have
cooked their own children, who became their food....

18 People stalked us at every step,
so we could not walk in our streets....



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome

Lamentations – 5 Poems / Chapters

Destruction of Jerusalem (586 B.C.)

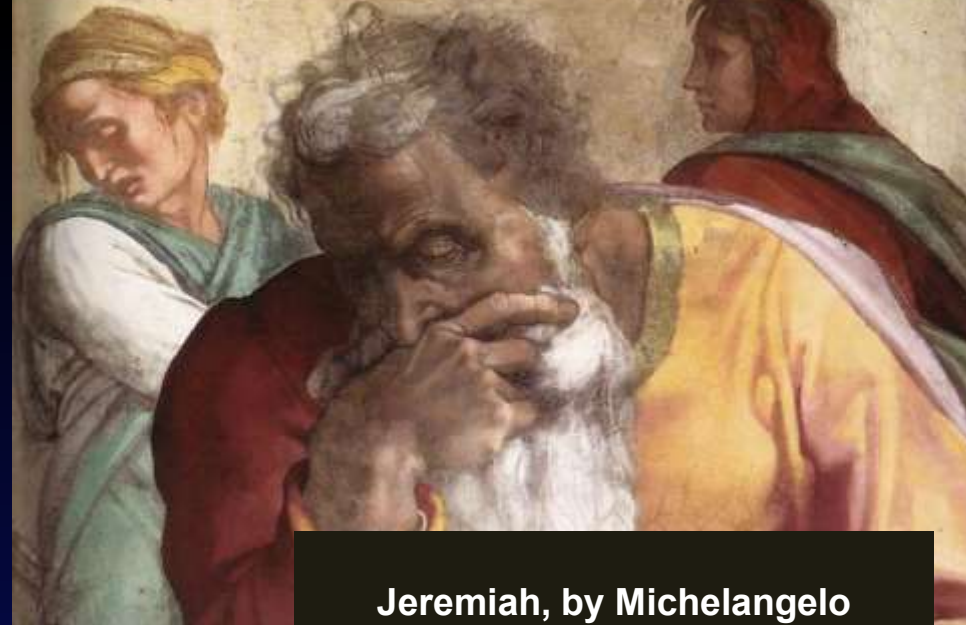
Ch 4. 1-22 Affliction for Sins of Leaders, Priests, Prophets (Lastly Edom)

19 Our pursuers were swifter
than eagles in the sky;
they chased us over the mountains....

20 The Lord's anointed, **OUR VERY LIFE BREATH,**
was caught in their traps....

22 Your punishment will end, Daughter Zion;
he will not prolong your exile.

But he will punish your sin, Daughter Edom,
and expose your wickedness.



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome

DIRGE or Elegy or Lamentation as is the Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald

by Gordon Lightfoot

**When suppertime came,
the old cook came on deck sayin'
"Fellas, it's too rough to feed ya"**

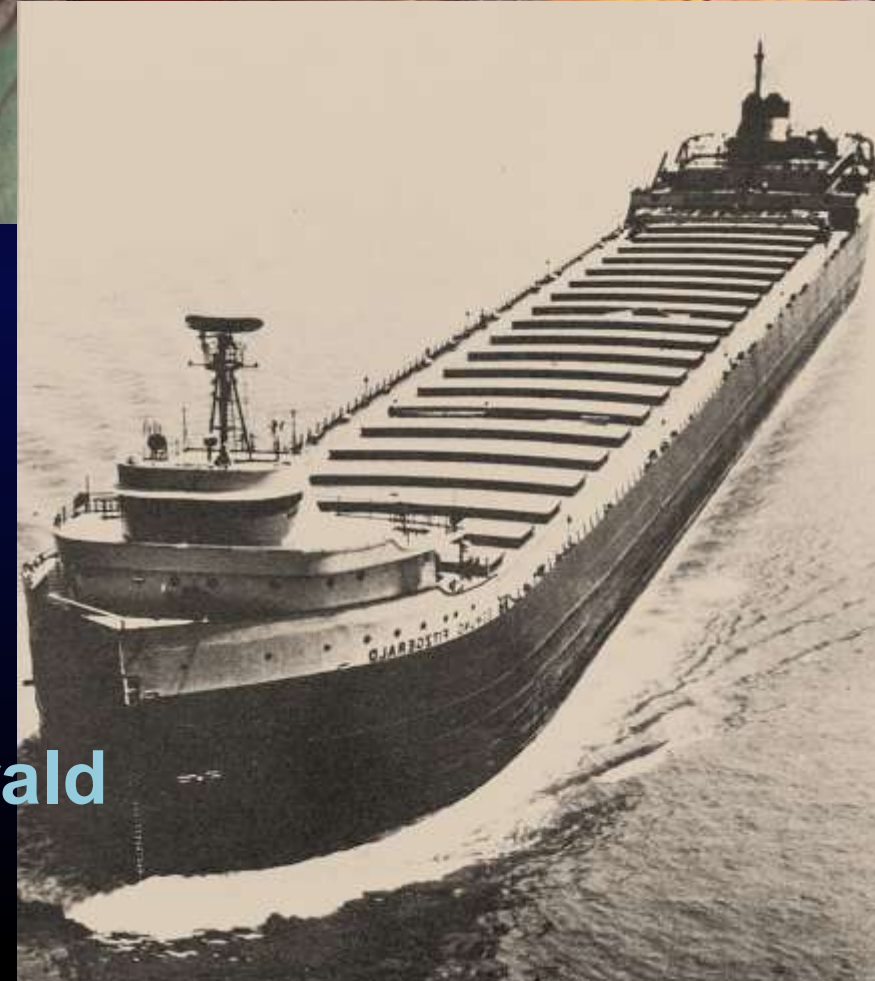


**At seven PM, a main hatchway caved in,
he said, "Fellas, it's been good to know ya"**

**The captain wired in, "he had water comin' in"
And the good ship and crew was in peril**

**And later that night
when his lights went outta sight**

Came the wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald



Lamentations – 5 Poems / Chapters

Destruction of Jerusalem (586 B.C.)

Ch 5. 1-22 **Prayer** ... *not acrostic,*
yet 22 verses ... # of letters in Hebrew Alphabet

1 Remember, Lord, what has happened to us;
LOOK, and see our disgrace.

3 We have become fatherless,
our mothers are widows....

10 Our skin is **HOT** as an oven, feverish from hunger.

11 Women have been **VIOLATED** in Zion, virgins in the towns of Judah....

14 The elders are gone from the city gate;
the young men have stopped their music.



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome

Lamentations – 5 Poems / Chapters

Destruction of Jerusalem (586 B.C.)

Ch 5. 1-22 **Prayer** ... *not acrostic,*
yet 22 verses ... # of letters in Hebrew Alphabet

15 Joy is gone from our hearts....

17 Because of this our hearts are faint,
... our eyes grow **DIM**

19 You, Lord, reign forever;
your throne endures from generation to generation.

21 Restore us to yourself, Lord, that we may return;
renew our days as of old

22 unless you have rejected us &
are angry with us beyond measure.



Jeremiah, by Michelangelo
Ceiling of Sistine Chapel, Rome

even in *Lamentations*, there is **HOPE**

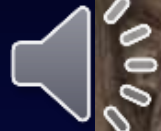
a song by Thomas Chisholm (1866–1960)

Great is Thy faithfulness,
O God my Father

There is no shadow of
turning with Thee

Thou changest not,
Thy compassions, they fail not

As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be



We will *LAMENT* ... this side of heaven ...

not *in* HEAVEN