

Lamentations: Longing for Comfort



Nikolai Ge: The Destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, 1859

OT 3P1260/OT 5P1110

Specialties: Biblical Studies,
Pastoral Studies

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Winter Semester 2026

Monday 4⁰⁰pm–5⁵⁰pm

In person (location TBD)

Live Streaming: Contact professor (Zoom link sent prior to first class)

Course Description

This course explores the book of Lamentations as a catalyst for communal devotion, personal reflection and contemporary ministry. Giving attention to its original form and function within a worshipping and reading community will unlock its riches for life today both individually and corporately. Attention will be given to its historical setting, literary form, canonical shape, and biblical-theological significance.

Course Purposes

- **Knowing:** That the students have a firm intellectual grasp of the content, literary form, theological teaching and liturgical use of the book of Lamentations in its historical, canonical and contemporary contexts.
- **Being:** That the students gain an appreciation for Old Testament disorientation prayer and the expression of theology in the form found in the book of Lamentations. That the students experience a deeper relationship with God through their encounter of God and his ways with humanity in the book of Lamentations.
- **Doing:** That the students acquire competency in interpreting Hebrew poetry and disorientation prayer, maintaining a balance between ancient context and contemporary significance. That the students dialogue with the best of historical and contemporary research on the book of Lamentations. That the students devise strategies for ministry shaped by the theological expressions and prayer forms found in the book of Lamentations.

Course Resources

Required:

Boda, Mark J. *Lamentations*. Baker Commentary on the Old Testament Prophets. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, forthcoming.

O'Connor, Kathleen M. *Lamentations and the Tears of the World*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2002.

Optional:

Allen, Leslie C. *A Liturgy of Grief: A Pastoral Commentary on Lamentations*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.

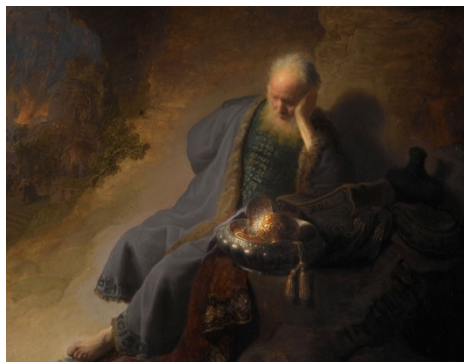
All required and recommended books for this class are available from the Hurlburt Family Bookstore located beside the entrance to the Nathaniel H. Parker Memorial Chapel of McMaster Divinity College. To purchase in advance, you may contact the bookstore manager, Bernice Quek, by phone at 416.620.2934 or 416.668.3434 (mobile); or by email at books@readon.ca. The Hurlburt Family Bookstore also carries other books and merchandise and is open throughout the academic year during posted hours. See also the Digital Theological Library for resources.

Digital Theological Library: We have superb access to most of the best commentaries, monographs and research articles on Lamentations through the Digital Theological Library online and Mills Library in person here at McMaster. You will need these for our work this semester.

Course Internet Resource Sites

Avenue 2 Learn: This semester we will use A2L for communication, providing additional resources, as well as submitting papers for evaluation. It is your responsibility to log into the A2L system regularly to check for announcements, course content, and course activities. You should ensure that you check the email that A2L uses to send out alerts/announcements.

Zoom: The course will be livestreamed via link available from professor (will be sent out before first class via email). This is only for those who have signed up for Zoom access to this course. **Guidelines for Zoom attendance:** Successful classroom experiences depend on student commitment commensurate as how it would be in a face-to-face experience. Just as in a normal physical classroom experience, students are encouraged to take notes, participate in discussion through asking and answering questions, and wear appropriate attire. As much as is possible students should join the Zoom class in a quiet place where you will not be interrupted. Please have your video turned on whenever possible. It is best practice to mute your microphone except for when you are intending to speak to the class. Students are encouraged to use digital virtual backgrounds if desired. Tasteful backgrounds can help with the issues of privacy and prevent distractions for others in the class (e.g., in the case of a family member walking in the background of your video).



Rembrandt: Jeremiah Lamenting the Destruction of Jerusalem, 1630

Course Schedule

January

5	Orientation, Reading
12	History, Lam 1:1-11
19	Lam 1:12-22
26	Lam 2:1-11

February

2	Lam 2:12-22
9	Lam 3:1-33
16	No Class: Reading Week
23	Lam 3:34-66

March

2	Lam 4
9	Lam 5
16	Lamentations in Biblical Theology
23	Lamentations in Jewish Liturgy: Cantor Paula Baruch (Field Trip: Temple Anshe Sholom, Westdale/Zoom)
30	Lamentations in Christian Liturgy: Dr. William Renwick (on campus/Zoom)

April

1	Optional Field Trip: Tenebrae Service (St. Jude's, Oakville, evening)
Theological Research Paper due (3 Apr)	
6	Reading, Reflection

Learning Opportunities

I. Level 3 Learning Opportunities

Preparatory Reading	up to -10%
Class sessions	0%
Field Trips	0%
Exegesis Exercises	50%
Theological Research Paper	50%
Total	100%

A. Preparatory Reading

In order to prepare for each week of class, you need to read the biblical passage and the appropriate section in the commentaries. A reading sheet will be provided on A2L to record your required reading throughout the semester. This is a presupposition of the course so has a **negative grade value** if not completed.

- ✓ Grade Value: up to -10%
- ✓ Format: Hand in sheet
- ✓ Due Date: 6 April

B. Field Trips: One dimension of this course is seeing the way in which a biblical book has been incorporated into the life of a community and there is no better book than Lamentations for both the Jewish and Christian communities. Cantor Paula Baruch from the local Temple Anshe Sholom here in Westdale (<https://anshesholom.ca/our-clergy/>) has graciously invited us to join her for a session at the synagogue (215 Cline Ave North, Hamilton, ON) as she shares about the liturgy of Tisha B'Av (9th of Av) during which Lamentations (Hebrew Eichah) is read to commemorate past Jewish tragedies. Dr. William Renwick, former chair of music at McMaster University and Anglican liturgist (<https://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/~renwick/wr.htm>), will join us for a session to orient us to the use of Lamentations (and Jeremiah) in the Tenebrae service during Holy Week. There will also be an optional field trip during Holy Week (Wednesday 1 April 2026) to St. Jude's Church, Oakville (<https://stjudeschurch.net>) to experience a Tenebrae service firsthand. These field trips and presentations will provide some perspective for writing the Theological Reflection paper (see below).

C. Exegesis Exercises: Throughout the semester you will be learning the basic skills for reading Hebrew poetry as we go through the book of Lamentations. These basic skills will be introduced in a series of videos available as links through A2L and will be practised on the sections being reviewed in class during any given week. There is a minimum of 2 pages for each of these exercises, maximum of 4 pages). These need not involve extensive secondary literature beyond the textbooks for this class. The key is learning the rhythms of reading poetry which will be showcased in our class sessions throughout the semester.

Schedule for Poetic Exercises	
Jan 12	History (link for workshop available in A2L)
Jan 19	Form (link for workshop available in A2L)
Jan 26	Imagery (link for workshop available in A2L)
Feb 2	Structure: Parallelism (link for workshop available in A2L)
Feb 9	Structure: Voicing (link for workshop available in A2L)
Feb 23	Structure: Thrust (link for workshop available in A2L)
Mar 2	Context (link for workshop available in A2L)
Mar 9	Canon, Application (link for workshop available in A2L)

Any secondary sources must reflect recent research (after 1990, and best after 2000), although some older research can be included, and must be elongated treatments of your biblical text, period, or book. Internet resources are usually **not** acceptable (unless they are from ATLA or DTL) and must be approved by the professor. Avoid study Bibles and significant reliance upon old commentaries available on the web or in Bible Word Programs like Matthew Henry (1708-10), Lange's (1865-80), Calvin (1500s), Jamieson Fausset Brown commentary (1871), Gill's exposition of entire Bible (1746-1763), Geneva Study Bible (1560), Cambridge Bible for schools (1882), Pulpit

commentary (1800s), Keil and Delitzsch commentary (1800s), etc.

All material which is submitted should be double spaced with 1" margins utilizing a readable font (12 point). It must have a title page and bibliography which is not included in the length required. It should be written in excellent modern literary English with proper grammar, spelling, punctuation and rhetoric (including an introduction, conclusion and logical flow of argument). Charts can be included as appendixes in the paper. Secondary and Primary sources should be cited and footnoted appropriately. See Avenue 2 Learn for the rubric used to evaluate these exercises.

- ✓ Grade Value: 50%
- ✓ Format: minimum 2, maximum 4 page paper in PDF
- ✓ Due Date: Eve of class covering the poetic method @ 11:59pm

D. Theological Research Paper: This 15 page paper requires students to integrate and synthesize the elements learned in study sessions, field trips, and personal research on Lamentations and its use within Christian and Jewish tradition. Students will identify a key theological issue that arises from the book of Lamentations, draw on the resources found in Lamentations in dialogue with its function in the Christian canon (OT and NT) as well as Jewish and Christian tradition to provide a reflection on how this should shape our theology and ministry practise today within the church. Examples of theological issues include (Theological Reflections at various points in my commentary are included in brackets to provide some initial thoughts):

- the role of various types of prayer found in Lamentations for Christian spirituality (Lam 3: Strategies for Pain; Lam 5: Frustration and Faith)
- the understanding of suffering and its causes and solutions for Christian theology (Lam 3: Strategies for Pain)
- the role of prayer within individuals/communities experiencing/processing trauma (Lam 3: Memory and Testimony; Lam 5: Prayerful Community)
- the mediatorial role of ministers for those experiencing suffering (Lam 1: Lack of Comfort; Lam 2: Prophetic Mediation)
- the relevance of the anger of God for contemporary theological reflection (Lam 2: Anger/Lack of Compassion of God)
- the relevance of vengeance/imprecation for contemporary Christian spirituality and ministry (Lam 1: Vengeance; Lam 3: Strategies for Pain; Lam 4: Hope in Justice)
- the impact of failed leadership for suffering within contemporary Christian communities (Lam 4: Culpable Leadership)
- the role of the community in processing pain and suffering (Lam 5: Prayerful Community)

The paper should include deep engagement with the book of Lamentations before engaging with the broader biblical theology, liturgical uses, and practical theological implications. The theological issue needs to be approved by the professor no later than January 26 class time.

For the format of this paper see the Format section below. Your research should draw on a minimum of 10 secondary sources beyond the textbooks for the class. These secondary sources must include *both books and articles* (for articles use the ATLA database through Mills Library and the Digital Theological Library), must reflect recent research (after 1990, and best after 2000), although some older research can be included. This requirement does not include ancient sources used (Josephus, Qumran) or Bibles, Versions, Study Bibles, Bible Dictionaries (or other reference works). Internet resources are usually not acceptable (unless they are from ATLA or DTL) and must be approved by the professor. Avoid study Bibles and significant reliance upon old commentaries available on the web or in Bible Word Programs like Matthew Henry (1708-10), Lange's (1865-80), Calvin (1500s), Jamieson Fausset Brown commentary (1871), Gill's exposition of entire Bible (1746-1763), Geneva Study Bible (1560), Cambridge Bible for schools (1882), Pulpit commentary (1800s), Keil and Delitzsch commentary (1800s), etc. See Avenue 2 Learn for the rubric used to evaluate this paper.

- ✓ Grade Value: 50%
- ✓ Format: 15 page research paper
- ✓ Due Date: 3 April @11:59pm (theological issue approved by 26 January)

II. Advanced Elective Credit Learning Opportunities (OT 5P1130)

Students taking this course for Advanced Elective credit will be provided with a syllabus supplement outlining additional requirements they must meet to receive credit towards their degree. Advanced Elective students can expect their course requirements to include doctoral levels of reading and research-supported writing as well as a presentation of their research in a format appropriate to the class. For any questions about what to expect for Advanced Elective requirements in this particular course, contact the course instructor.

Note: The Syllabus Supplement will be made available no sooner than ten days after enrollment in the course. Advanced Elective students are encouraged to register for this course as early as possible to ensure they know their course requirements well in advance of the course start date.

Format and Evaluation

So I can properly evaluate your work the following style guide is to be used for papers in this class.

- **Medium for Submission:** All material in this class is to be submitted in .pdf format to Avenue 2 Learn.
- **Style:** All stylistic considerations (including but not limited to questions of formatting, footnotes, and bibliographic references) must conform to the McMaster Divinity College Style Guidelines for Essays and Theses <https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/current-students/#mdc-style-guide>. Failure to observe appropriate form will result in grade reductions. Title page, footnoting where appropriate and bibliography are not included in the length required. Material should be written in excellent modern literary English with proper grammar, spelling, punctuation and rhetoric (including an introduction, conclusion

and logical flow of argument). If it helps an outline may accompany the “paper” but this is not included in the length of the “paper.” Secondary and Primary sources should be used, cited and footnoted appropriately.

- **Gender Inclusive Language:** McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all its publications. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected, but you will need to use gender-inclusive language for humans, and you will need to quote from a gender-inclusive version such as, for example, the following: NRSVue (2022), TEV/GNB/GNT (1976), CEV (1995), NLT (1996), NIV (2011), and the CEB (2011).
- **Citations:** You must cite the source of your material very carefully, not only when quoting from a section, but also when drawing from it as a resource. Quotations should be kept to a minimum as I favour summary and integration of secondary literature (footnoted).
- **Statement on Academic Honesty:** Academic dishonesty is not qualitatively different from other types of dishonesty. It consists of misrepresenting the ownership of written work by deception or by other fraudulent means. In an academic setting this may include any number of forms such as: copying or using unauthorized aids in tests, examinations; plagiarism, i.e., submitting work that is not one’s own (regardless of the means of its production, including AI) but passing it off as if it is; submitting work for credit in a course for which credit is being or has already been given, unless the previously submitted work was presented as such to the instructor of the second course and has been deemed acceptable for credit by the instructor of that course; aiding and abetting another student’s dishonesty; giving false information for the purposes of gaining admission or credit; giving false information for the purposes of obtaining deferred examinations or extension of deadlines; forging or falsifying McMaster University or McMaster Divinity College documents. **All papers will be run through turnitin.com to ensure there is no plagiarism or inappropriate use of internet resources.**
- **Artificial Intelligence:** You are expected to do your own thinking and to write your own papers, etc., and not to have AI do this work for you. There may be value in using an AI tool to help you locate and collate resources or to help you “tidy up” your English grammar, usage, and mechanics, especially if English is not your native language. However, using AI to create content for you and then submitting that content as if you created it is considered plagiarism (i.e., submitting work that is not one’s own as if it is one’s own) and is a violation of the academic honesty policy. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g., failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one’s academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty ~ <https://mcmasterdivinity.ca/rules-regulations/>. **Papers submitted in this class may be checked by the AI checking site: <https://gptzero.me>.**
- **AODA:** In accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), the content of this course is intended to be accessible to all students who are enrolled in the course, including those with disabilities. If a student requires accommodation to participate fully in this course, that student is to contact SAS at McMaster University, who will then work directly with the McMaster Divinity College Registrar to negotiate reasonably appropriate accommodation for the student. The MDC Registrar will communicate with

faculty regarding necessary accommodations. Please note that an accommodation is not retroactive and must be requested in advance to allow sufficient time for implementation.

- **Absence Due to Illness:** If you must miss class due to an illness, you must contact me (via email) as soon as possible to let me know. Likewise, if I should become ill, I will communicate with you via A2L about how we will make up class sessions. Although much of the course content will be made available via A2L, it would still be a good idea to have a friend take notes for you, if possible.
- **Inclement Weather:** If on a class meeting day MDC closes due to inclement weather, I reserve the right to move the lessons and, where possible, class activities for the week to A2L (asynchronous format). This will help to ensure that we stay on target in the course.
- **Evaluation Rubric:** So I can properly evaluate your work and help you grow in your interpretative and writing skills the following evaluation guide should be kept in mind as you write:

- ✓ **Presentation:** Is the spelling correct? Does the grammar/syntax reflect proper English? Is the paper laid out properly?
- ✓ **Argumentation:** Is there a good introduction and conclusion? Does the argument flow with ample support? Is the question answered?
- ✓ **Content:** Are all the points considered? Is there proper documentation of sources used?

Accountability

A core value in my classes is the nurturing of a “learning community”. Such a community fosters growth within the individuals who enter into its life. Growth occurs through the positive affirmation and teaching of principles, through personal engagement and study, but also through accountability within this community.

Note on Timeliness of Submissions: Accountability means handing in assignments on time. I do not give extensions on assignments except in the most dire of circumstances which include serious sickness and family crises. Late material will be docked at the rate of 2% for each day (including weekends) it is late. All assignments in this class must be handed in by the final day of classes in this semester or the student will receive a failing grade.

Note on Timeliness of Attendance: From time to time you may find that you are late for class. Late arrivals, hereafter called “tardies,” are unacceptable and will lead to a negative disposition in the professor and your classmates. Such “tardies,” however, can be redeemed at the rate of Timbits for the entire class at the session following the tardy as well as a coffee for the professor.

Rule of the Timbits (הלכה התמביתם, *hālākā hātimbitîm*): Because “tardies” raise the ire of the covenant community (bound by this covenantal syllabus document delivered here at the foot of the “Mountain”), those who are late for class must have a means by which to atone for such “accidental sins” (בִּשְׁגָגָה, *bishgāgā*; if they are defiant sins, בִּידְרָמָה, *bēyād rāmā*), then the

offender will be “cut off” from the community, see Num 15:27-31).¹ which means anyone late for class will need to bring Timbits for the entire class (מִנְחָה, *minḥâ*) no later than the next class meeting plus a Tim Hortons coffee (נֶסֶק, *nesek*) for the professor (cream, no sugar). This מִנְחָה (*minḥâ*) and נֶסֶק (*nesek*) will function simultaneously as both a sin offering (חֲטָאֵת, *ḥaṭṭā't*, Leviticus 4) atoning for the accidental sin of the offender and a peace offering (שְׁלָמִים, *shēlāmîm*, Leviticus 3) enhancing the fellowship of the covenant community. See the high professor for further details and any torah-rulings (see Haggaï 2:10-14) regarding specific situations. Especially important is to take seriously the cry of Joel of old in 1:13:

<p>חֲגִרוּ וְסָפְדוּ הַכֹּהֲנִים הַלֵּילֹל מִשְׁרְתֵי מִזְבֵּחַ בָּאוּ לֵינוּ בְּשָׁקִים מִשְׁרְתֵי אֱלֹהֵי כִּי נִמְנַע מִבֵּית אֱלֹהֵיכֶם מִנְחָה וְנֶסֶק:</p>	<p>Gird yourselves with sackcloth And lament, O priests; Wail, O ministers of the altar! Come, spend the night in sackcloth O ministers of my God, For <u>the grain offering and the drink offering</u> Are withheld from the house of your God.</p>
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And note his promise of a reward to those who repent in 2:14:

<p>מִי יוֹדַע יֵשׁוּב וְנָחֵם וְהַשְׂאִיר אַחֲרָיו בְּרָכָה מִנְחָה וְנֶסֶק לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם</p>	<p>Who knows whether He will turn and relent And leave a blessing behind Him, <u>Even a grain offering and a drink offering</u> For the LORD your God?</p>
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Accountability is not only for you, but also for those of us guiding this learning community. Class material will be presented with creativity and excellence. Assignments will be marked with appropriate comments within a reasonable period after they are submitted. I am not only available but welcome and enjoy connections with each of you outside of class time. Please contact me via email to make an appointment whenever you would like whether in person or online.



Scroll of Eikhah (איכה) Lamentations, 19th Century

¹ Of course, see the “definitive” work on this: Mark J. Boda, *A Severe Mercy: Sin and Its Remedy in the Old Testament* (Siphut: Literature and Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures 1. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2009), 53-54. For specific torah ruling also see the fuller הלכה התמבנים in our Dropbox.

Bibliography

See through Mills library the Oxford Bibliographies on Lamentations:

<https://www-oxfordbibliographies-com.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/display/document/obo-9780195393361/obo-9780195393361-0220.xml?rskey=b0pPcK&result=1&q=Lamentations#firstMatch>

- Miller, C. W. "The Book of Lamentations in Recent Research." *Currents in Biblical Research* 1 (2002): 9–29.
- Thomas, Heath A. "A Survey of Research on Lamentations (2002-2012)." *CBR* 12.1 (2013): art. 1, pp. 8–38.
- Walker, M. Justin. "Lamentations in Recent Research (2013-2025)." *CBR* 23.2 (2025): 125–72.
- Boda, Mark J. "Lamentations, Book Of." Pages 477–89 in *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Prophets*. Edited by Mark J. Boda and J. Gordon McConville. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012.

History of the Babylonian Period

- Boardman, John, et al., eds. *The Cambridge Ancient History: Volume III, Part 2, The Assyrian and Babylonian Empires and Other States of the Near East, from the Eighth to the Sixth Centuries B.C.* Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1991.
- Carter, Charles E. *The Emergence of Yehud in the Persian Period*. JSOTSup 294. Sheffield, UK: Sheffield Academic, 1999.
- Faust, Avi. *Judah in the Neo-Babylonian Period: The Archaeology of Desolation*. Society of Biblical Literature Archaeology and Biblical Studies. Atlanta, GA: Society of Biblical Literature, 2012.
- Grabbe, Lester L. *A History of the Jews and Judaism in the Second Temple Period, Volume 1: Yehud: A History of the Persian Province of Judah*. London, UK: T. & T. Clark, 2004.
- Lipschits, Oded. *Age of Empires: The History and Administration of Judah in the 8th–2nd Centuries BCE in Light of the Storage-Jar Stamp Impressions* (Mosaics: Studies on Ancient Israel 2). Tel Aviv and University Park, PA: Eisenbrauns, 2021.
- Lipschits, Oded. *The Fall and Rise of Jerusalem: Judah under Babylonian Rule*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2005.
- Middlemas, Jill A. *The Templeless Age: An Introduction to the History, Literature, and Theology of the "Exile."* Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2007.

Commentaries:

- Allen, Leslie C. *A Liturgy of Grief: A Pastoral Commentary on Lamentations*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.
- Assis, Eliyahu. *Lamentations: From Despair to Prayer*. HBM 101. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 2022.
- Bergant, Dianne. *Lamentations*. AOTC. Nashville: Abingdon, 2003.
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- Hillers, Delbert R. *Lamentations: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*. 2nd ed. AB 7A. New York: Doubleday, 1992.

- House, Paul R. "Lamentations." Pages 267–473 in *Song of Songs, Lamentations*, by Duane A. Garrett and Paul R. House. WBC 23B. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2004.
- Middlemas, Jill. *Lamentations: An Introduction and Study Guide*. T&T Clark Study Guides to the Old Testament. London: T&T Clark, 2021.
- O'Connor, Kathleen M. "The Book of Lamentations: Introduction, Commentary, and Reflections." Pages 1011–72 in vol. 6 of *The New Interpreter's Bible*. Edited by Leander E. Keck. Nashville: Abingdon, 2001.
- O'Connor, Kathleen M. *Lamentations and the Tears of the World*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2002.
- Parry, Robin A. *Lamentations*. THOTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010.
- Provan, Iain W. *Lamentations*. NCB. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.
- Renkema, Johan. *Lamentations*. Translated by Brian Doyle. HCOT. Leuven: Peeters, 1998.
- Rudolph, Wilhelm. *Das Buch Ruth, das Hohe Lied, die Klagelieder*. KAT 17.1–3. Gütersloh: Gütersloher Verlagshaus, 1962.
- Salter, Robert B. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on Lamentations*. ICC. London: T&T Clark, 2010.
- Wiesmann, Hermann. *Die Klagelieder: Übersetzt und erklärt*. Frankfurt am Main: Philosophisch-theologische Hochschule Sankt Georgen, 1954.

The following is a list of the best of commentary series. Many of these are available through the Digital Theological Library. Those marked with * contain a translation from the original languages of the Old Testament and will provide justification for their translation.

- Word Biblical Commentary (Word/Nelson)*
- New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Eerdmans)*
- Cornerstone (Tyndale House)
- Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (IVPress)
- New American Commentary (Broadman and Holman)
- NIV Application Commentary (Zondervan)
- Apollos Old Testament Commentary (Apollos/IVPress)
- New International Biblical Commentary (Hendrickson)
- IVP Bible Background Commentary (IVPress)
- International theological commentary (Eerdmans)
- Old Testament Library (Westminster/John Knox)*
- Hermeneia (Fortress)*
- Continent Commentaries (Fortress)*
- Anchor Bible Commentaries (Doubleday)*
- Interpretation (Westminster/John Knox)
- Historical Commentary on the Old Testament (Peeters)*
- International Critical Commentary (T & T Clark)*
- Readings (Sheffield Academic/Phoenix)
- Smith & Helwys Bible Commentary (Smyth & Helwys)
- JPS Torah Commentary (Jewish Publication society): Only Torah
- Expositors Bible Commentary (Zondervan)
- Berit Olam (Liturgical)
- Forms of Old Testament Literature (Eerdmans)
- New Century Bible Commentary (Sheffield)
- New Interpreters Bible (Abingdon)

Key Monographs/Edited Volumes on Lamentations

- Albrektson, Bertil. *Studies in the Text and Theology of the Book of Lamentations*. STL 21. Lund: Gleerup, 1963.
- Bier, Miriam J. *Perhaps There Is Hope: Reading Lamentations as a Polyphony of Pain, Penitence, and Protest*. LHBOTS 603. New York: T&T Clark, 2015.
- Bier, Miriam J. *The Fulfillment of Doom? The Dialogic Interaction Between the Book of Lamentations and the Pre-Exilic/Early Exilic Prophetic Literature*. LHBOTS 437. London: T&T Clark, 2006.
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- Dobbs-Allsopp, F. W. *Weep, O Daughter of Zion: A Study of the City-Lament in the Hebrew Bible*. BibOr 44. Rome: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 1993.
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