

“Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...” - 1 Cor 15:58

NORTHSIDE EXHORTER

A Teaching Bulletin to Inform & Edify God's Family at Northside

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August 12, 2018

“Lamentations: Josiah or Jerusalem?”

During our Sunday morning Bible class, we are surveying the Old Testament. This is an effort to study the Scriptures in chronological order, which requires putting the poems, prayers, psalms, & writings of the prophets in their proper place. Hence, the placement of Lamentations becomes critical to our study.

To date, we have studied **2 Kings & 2 Chronicles** from the Assyrian captivity to the Babylonian captivity. Within this span of time, there were 5 writing prophets sent to Judah (Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Obadiah, & Jeremiah). So what book do we study next? Daniel, Ezekiel, or Lamentations? We know Daniel prophesied from the first siege of Nebuchadnezzar to those in the Babylonian palace & Ezekiel prophesied to the people of Judah in Babylonian captivity, but what about Lamentations? If Lamentations speaks to the mourning after the death of Josiah, then the order is Lamentations, Daniel, then Ezekiel because Josiah would have died before Daniel was captured. But if Lamentations speaks to the mourning after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians, then the order is Daniel, Lamentations, then Ezekiel because Daniel would have been captured before Jerusalem was destroyed. Decisions, Decisions.

In **2 Chronicles 35:25-26**, the Bible reads, *“Jeremiah also uttered a lament for Josiah; & all the singing men & singing women have spoken of Josiah in their laments to this day. They made these a rule in Israel; behold, they are written in the Laments. Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, & his good deeds according to what is written in the Law*

of the Lord, & his acts, first & last, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel & Judah.”

- Fact: Jeremiah wrote his laments for King Josiah.
- Fact: Reference is made of Josiah's acts in **2 Kings (2 Kings 22:1-23:30)**, which is consistently spoken of as the Book of the Kings of Israel & Judah (**1 & 2 Kings**).

If there is scriptural confirmation of the latter, should it also be the same confirmation for the former; thus, making the Laments the book of Lamentations? No, & here's why? Just because a source is referenced in Scripture does not make the source Scripture i.e. it has to be found in the Bible. Examples of this would be **Matthew 2:23, Acts 17:28, Acts 20:35, Jude 9, & Jude 14-15**. We know these things were said &/or written because the Bible says so, but we cannot find the statement or narrative in Scripture. Hence, we must be very careful not to make something fit that does not. Lamentations was written after the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem.

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