

# CONTENTS



Preface	ix
Preface to the Second Edition	xi
Principal Abbreviations	xiii
Introduction	1
To Remember and to Hope	3
Liturgical Use of Lamentations	6
The Name of the Book	8
Place in the Canon	8
The Date of Lamentations	9
The Authorship of Lamentations	10
Place of Composition	15
Lamentations as Poetry	15
Introductory	15
Poetic Meter and Related Rhythmic Features	16
The Meter Used in Lamentations	17
Parallelism and Syntax in Lamentations	19
The Metrical Norm: Illusion and Reality	21
Meter and Meaning	22
Strophic Patterns	24
Acrostic Form and Meaning	24
Initial Syntactic Repetition	27
Acrostics and Word Order	28
Anticlimax	28
Note on a Feature of Poetic Diction	30
Lamentations and the City-Lament Tradition	32

## CONTENTS

The Hebrew Text and Versions of Lamentations	39
General	39
Excursus: Study of the Text of Lamentations and 4QLam <sup>a</sup>	41
Collation of 4QLam <sup>a</sup> with MT	47
Selected Bibliography	49
 <b>Lamentations</b>	 <b>59</b>
I. "Is there any pain like my pain?" (1:1-22)	61
Comment	78
II. "The Lord became like an enemy" (2:1-22)	93
Comment	102
III. Everyman (3:1-66)	109
Comment	119
IV. The Limit of Suffering (4:1-22)	135
Comment	145
V. A Prayer (5:1-22)	155
Comment	161
 Index of Authors	 167
Index of Biblical Passages	170