

Contents



<i>List of Supplements</i>	<i>page xi</i>
<i>Preface</i>	xiii
<i>Suggested Readings</i>	xv
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xix
INTRODUCTION	1
What Is Lamentations?	1
Is There a Structure in This Text?	7
The Voices of Lamentations	9
The Narrator as Pastoral Mentor	12
Jeremiah as the Implied Author of Lamentations	15
Collective Trauma Theory and the Poetics of Lamentations	17
A Polemic against Zion Theology	19
The Unity of Lamentations	20
1 PLOTTING A PATH FOR ZION'S SPIRITUAL REHABILITATION	25
Introduction	28
The Pastoral Mentor's Theological Platform (vv. 1–9b)	32
The Nine Stages of Bat-Zion's Spiritual Rehabilitation (vv. 9c–22)	36
Bat-Zion's Naïve Appeal to the LORD (9c)	36
Bat-Zion Calls Again to the LORD, Despite His Silence (11c)	38
Bat-Zion Acknowledges, Yet Criticizes the LORD's Role in Her Affliction (12–13)	38
Bat-Zion Acknowledges Her Guilt, But Deems the Punishment Disproportionate (14–15b)	41
Bat-Zion Yearns for Closeness with the LORD (16)	41
Bat-Zion Validates the LORD's Judgment (18)	43
Bat-Zion Concedes the Futility of Turning to Other Nations (19)	45
Bat-Zion Expresses Her Spiritual Distress (20)	45
Bat-Zion Calls to Avenge Her Suffering (21–22)	46
Conclusion	47
	ix

x	<i>Contents</i>
2	DISPELLING DELUSIONS I: THE LORD AND HIS LOVE FOR ZION 50
	Introduction 53
	The Pastoral Mentor Reveals the LORD's Wrathful Nature (vv. 1–12) 58
	The Pastoral Mentor's Introduction (1) 59
	The LORD's Destruction of His People Judah (2–5) 60
	The LORD's Destruction of His City and Temple (6–10) 62
	The Pastoral Mentor Breaks Down in Empathy (vv. 11–12) 67
	The Pastoral Mentor Appeals to Bat-Zion (vv. 13–19) 69
	The Conventional Reading: A Call to Pray to the LORD (13–17) 69
	A New Proposal: A Call to Reject the False Prophets (13–17) 72
	The Pastoral Mentor Urges Bat-Zion to Express Vexation to the LORD (18–19) 78
	Bat-Zion's Charge Sheet against the LORD (vv. 20–22) 82
	Conclusion 85
3	REDIRECTING ZION'S ANGER: THE <i>GEBER</i> AS MODEL 87
	Introduction 90
	The Pastoral Mentor's Personal Vexation with the LORD (vv. 1–20) 95
	The Pastoral Mentor Reconsiders His Predicament (vv. 21–39) 101
	The Community Dismisses the Call of the Pastoral Mentor (vv. 40–47) 106
	The Pastoral Mentor Recalibrates and Composes a Lament for Bat-Zion (vv. 48–66) 112
	Conclusion 120
4	DISPELLING DELUSIONS II: ZION AND HER SOCIAL STRUCTURES 122
	Introduction 124
	A Critique of the Zion Theology Social Order (vv. 1–16) 128
	The Community Reconsiders Its Political Theology (vv. 17–20) 138
	The Promise of Salvation in the Wake of Confession (vv. 21–22) 142
	Conclusion: The King's Prayer of Psalm 144 as Backdrop to Lamentations 4 148
5	PURGING PRAYER OF ZION THEOLOGY 153
	Introduction 154
	In the Absence of Fathers (vv. 2–7) 160
	The Experience of Humiliation (vv. 8–16) 165
	Loss of Connection, Appeal for Connection (vv. 17–22) 167
	Conclusion 174
	<i>Index of Scriptural Passages</i> 176