

THE LAMENTATIONS OF JEREMIAH.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK AS A WHOLE.

(*Extended Alternations and Introversion.*)

A¹	A¹ 1. 1-7. JUDGMENTS. (<i>Aleph</i> (א=A) to <i>Zayin</i> (ז=Z).)
	B¹ D¹ 1. 8-11. ZION. CONFESSION. (<i>Cheth</i> (ח=H) to <i>Kaph</i> (כ=K).)
	E¹ 1. 12, 13. APPEAL TO PASSERS BY. (<i>Lamed</i> (ל=L) to <i>Mem</i> (מ=M).)
	D² 1. 14-18-. ZION. CONFESSION. (<i>Nun</i> (נ=N) to <i>Tzaddi</i> (צ=Z).)
	E² 1. -18, 19. APPEAL TO PASSERS BY. (<i>Koph</i> (כ=K).)
	C¹ 1. 20-22. PRAYER. (<i>Resh</i> (ר=R) to <i>Tau</i> (ת=T).)
A²	A² 2. 1-13. THE JUDGE. (<i>Aleph</i> (א=A) to <i>Mem</i> (מ=M).)
	B² D³ 2. 14. ZION. SIN UNCONFESED. (<i>Nun</i> , נ=N.)
	E³ 2. 15-17. RECRIMINATION OF PASSERS BY. (<i>Samech</i> (ס=S) to <i>Pe</i> (פ=P).)
	C² 2. 18-22. PRAYER. (<i>Tzaddi</i> (צ=Z) to <i>Tau</i> (ת=T).)
A³	A³ 3. 1-21. THE JUDGE. (<i>Aleph</i> (א=A) to <i>Zayin</i> (ז=Z).)
	B³ E⁴ 3. 22-36. REMEMBRANCE OF JEHOVAH'S MERCIES. (<i>Cheth</i> (ח=H) to <i>Lamed</i> (ל=L).)
	D⁴ 3. 37-51. ZION. SIN CONFESSED. (<i>Mem</i> (מ=M) to <i>Pe</i> (פ=P).)
	C³ 3. 52-66. PRAYER. (<i>Tzaddi</i> (צ=Z) to <i>Tau</i> (ת=T).)
A⁴	A⁴ 4. 1-12. JUDGMENTS. (<i>Aleph</i> (א=A) to <i>Lamed</i> (ל=L).)
	B⁴ D⁵ 4. 13-20. ZION. CONFESSION. (<i>Mem</i> (מ=M) to <i>Resh</i> (ר=R).)
	E⁵ 4. 21, 22. RETRIBUTION OF JEHOVAH. (<i>Shin</i> (ש=S) to <i>Tau</i> (ת=T).)
	C⁴ 5. 1-22. PRAYER.

For the place of Lamentations in the Hebrew Canon, see Ap. 1, where it is found to be the central book of the five *Megilloth* (or scrolls).

The book consists of five Elegies on the destruction of Jerusalem; and not, as Josephus supposed, on the death of Josiah (*Ant. Jud.* L. x, c. 5, § 1), basing his opinion on 2 Chron. 35. 25.

This book is appropriately read on the Fast of the ninth day of the fifth month (Ab, our August. See Ap. 51. V). For on that day are still commemorated the five great calamities which befell the nation, viz. —

1. The return of the twelve spies, and the decree of the forty years' wanderings in consequence of the rebellion of the People.
2. The destruction of the first Temple by Nebuchadnezzar.
3. The destruction of the second Temple by the Romans under Titus.
4. The taking of Bethor by the Romans under Hadrian, when 580,000 were slain.
5. The ploughing of Zion like a field, in fulfilment of Jer. 26. 18, &c. and Micah 3. 12.

The five Elegies are arranged in a remarkable manner:—

The *first two* (chapters 1 and 2) consist of twenty-two long verses of three lines each, each verse respectively commencing with the successive letters of the alphabet.

The *third* (chap. 3) consists of sixty-six verses (3 × 22), each triad of verses commencing with the same letter: e.g. the first three lines commence with א (*Aleph*), the next three with ב (*Beth*), and so on through the twenty-two letters of the alphabet.

The *fourth* (chap. 4) is arranged in twenty-two long verses of two lines each, also arranged acrostically.

The *fifth* (chap. 5) Lamentation is resolved into a prayer, and the acrostic arrangement gives way before the outburst of emotion. The only connection with the alphabet is that the number of the verses corresponds with the number of letters (twenty-two).

The Septuagint (followed by the Arabic and Vulgate versions) prefaces its version with these words: "It came to pass that, after Israel was taken captive and Jerusalem was made desolate, Jeremiah sat weeping, and lamented with this lamentation over Jerusalem, and said . . ."

The Arabic *Targum* begins its paraphrase thus: "Jeremiah the prophet, and great priest, said . . ."

THE °LAMENTATIONS OF JEREMIAH.

A¹ A¹
1097)

1 (N) °How doth the city sit °solitary, *that* was full of people! *how* is she become as a widow! she *that* was great among the nations, and princess among the provinces, *how* is she become tributary!

2 (J) She °weepeth sore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks: among all her °lovers she hath none to comfort *her*: all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her °enemies.

3 (J) Judah is gone into captivity because of affliction, and because of great servitude: she dwelleth °among the °heathen, she findeth no rest: all her °persecutors overtook her °between the straits.

4 (7) °The ways of Zion do °mourn, because none come to the °solemn feasts: all her gates are desolate: her priests sigh, her virgins are afflicted, and she is in °bitterness.

5 (7) Her adversaries °are the chief, her enemies prosper; for °the LORD hath afflicted her for the multitude of her °transgressions: her °children are gone into captivity before the enemy.

6 (7) And from the daughter of Zion all her beauty is departed: her princes are become °like harts *that* find no pasture, and they are gone without strength before the pursuer.

7 (7) Jerusalem remembered in the days of her affliction and of her miseries all her °pleasant things that she had in the days of old, when her People fell into the hand of the enemy, and none did help her: the adversaries saw her, and did mock at her °sabbaths.

B¹ D¹

8 (7) Jerusalem hath °grievously °sinned; therefore she °is removed: all that honoured her despise her, because they have seen her nakedness: yea, she sigheth, and turneth backward.

9 (7) Her filthiness is in her skirts; she °remembereth not her °last end; therefore she came down °wonderfully: she had no comfort. O °LORD, °behold my affliction: for the enemy hath magnified *himself*.

10 (7) The adversary hath spread out his hand upon all her °pleasant things: for she hath seen *that* the heathen °entered into her sanctuary, whom Thou didst command *that* they should not enter into Thy °congregation.

11 (7) All her People sigh, they seek bread; they have given their °pleasant things for meat to relieve the °soul: see, O °LORD, and consider; for I am become vile.

E¹

12 (7) *Is it* nothing to you, all ye that pass by? °behold, and see if there °be any °sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is °done unto me, wherewith °the LORD hath afflicted *me* in the day of His fierce anger.

13 (7) From above hath He sent fire into my bones, and it prevaileth against them: He hath spread a net for my feet, He hath turned

TITLE. In the Hebrew text the name of the book is its first word, 'Ēy kah = ALAS! The Talmud (Tract, *Baba Bathra*, fol. 14b) calls it *Kinōth* = dirges or elegies. The Sept. has *Thrēnoi*, with the same meaning. The Vulg. has *Threni*, i.e. *Lamentationes* and *Lamenta*.

1 How = Alas! or, O how! Heb. 'ēy kah = an exclamation of pain and grief, a wailing cry (preserved in Eng. "jackal"). The *Massōrah* (Ap. 30) points out that this exclamation is used by three prophets, concerning Israel: (1) by Moses in her multiplication (Deut. 1. 12. Cp. v. 11); (2) by Isaiah in her dissipation (Isa. 1. 21); (3) by Jeremiah in her desolation (Lam. 1. 1). This word "How" is to be supplied at the beginning of vv. 2 and 3 by Fig. *Ellipsis* (Ap. 6). Cp. also 2. 1; 4. 1; and Isa. 14. 12.

solitary: i.e. empty; referring to the houses and streets.

2 weepeth sore. Note Fig. *Polyptōton* (Ap. 6). The Heb. = a weeping she weepeth. Thus well rendered. See note on Gen. 26. 28; and note the Fig. *Prosopopœia* (Ap. 6).

lovers: i.e. allies, whom she had preferred to Jehovah. See Jer. 2. 17, 27, 36, 37; 4. 30; 22. 22. Ezek. 23; and 29. 6, 7, 16.

enemies. Especially the Edomites and Ammonites. Cp. Jer. 12. 14.

3 among the heathen. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 28. 64, 65). heathen = nations.

persecutors = pursuers.

between the straits. Like a hunted animal driven where there is no escape. Same word as in Pss. 116. 3; 118. 5. Occurs only in these three places. Cp. v. 6.

4 The ways. Not streets in the city, but the roads leading thereto.

mourn. Fig. *Prosopopœia*. Ap. 6.

solemn feasts = appointed feasts. See note on Ps. 74. 8 (same word).

bitterness = bitter for her. Instead of festal joy. Cp. Jer. 7. 34; 16. 9; 25. 10; 31. 13; 33. 11.

5 are the chief = are the head. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 28. 13, 44), the same word. Ap. 92.

the LORD. Heb. Jehovah. Ap. 4. II.

transgressions = rebellions. Heb. *pāsha'*. Ap. 44. ix. children = young children, as in 2. 11, 19, 20; and 4. 4. Not "sons".

6 like harts. See note on v. 3.

7 pleasant things. Heb. = things of desire. Put by Fig. *Metonymy* (of Adjunct), Ap. 6, for the things she used to enjoy.

sabbaths: or, sabbath-keepings; which she had herself profaned. See Jer. 17. 21-23. Ezek. 22. 8, 26; 23. 38.

8 grievously sinned. Note the Fig. *Polyptōton* (Ap. 6). Heb. = sinned a sin. Thus well rendered. See note on "weepeth sore" (v. 2).

sinned. Heb. *chātā'*. Ap. 44. i.

is removed = separated as unclean.

9 remembereth = remembered.

last end = hereafter.

wonderfully. Heb. pl. "wonders" = a great wonder.

behold = see, behold. Same word as in vv. 18, 20. Not the same word as in v. 12.

10 entered into her sanctuary. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 28. 3), a technical expression. Ap. 92.

congregation = convocation, or assembly.

11 soul. Heb. *nephesh*. Ap. 13.

12 behold = look attentively. Not the same word as in vv. 9, 18, 20. be = exists. Heb. *yēsh*. See Gen.

18. 24. Prov. 8. 21; 18. 24, &c. sorrow = pain. done unto me. Cp. v. 22; 3. 15.

me back: He hath made me desolate *and* faint all the day.

D²
(p. 1097)

14 (j) °The yoke of my ⁵transgressions is bound by His hand: they are °wreathed, *and* come up upon my neck: °He hath made my strength to °fall, °the LORD* hath delivered me into *their* hands, *from whom* I am not able to rise up.

15 (D) °The LORD* hath trodden under foot all my °mighty men in the midst of me: He hath °called °an assembly against me to crush my young men: °the LORD* hath trodden the virgin, the daughter of Judah, as in a °winepress.

16 (y) For these *things* I ²weep; °mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water, because the comforter that should °relieve my ¹¹soul is far from me: my °children are desolate, because the enemy prevailed.

17 (S) Zion spreadeth forth her hands, *and there is* none to comfort her: °the LORD hath commanded concerning °Jacob, *that* his adversaries *should be* round about him: Jerusalem is as a menstruous woman among them.

18 (y) °The LORD °is righteous; for I have rebelled against His commandment:

E² hear, I pray you, all °people, and °behold my ¹²sorrow: my virgins and my young men are gone into captivity.

19 (P) I ¹⁵called for my ²lovers, *but* they deceived me: my priests and mine elders °gave up the ghost in the city, while they sought their meat to relieve their ¹¹souls.

C¹ 20 (r) °Behold, O °LORD; for I *am* in distress: my bowels are troubled; mine heart is turned within me; for I have grievously rebelled: °abroad the sword bereaveth, at home *there is* as death.

21 (S) They have heard that I sigh: *there is* none to comfort me: all mine enemies have heard of my trouble; they are glad that I *thou* hast done *it*: Thou wilt bring °the day *that* Thou hast ¹⁵called, and they shall be like unto me.

22 (r) °Let all their °wickedness come before Thee; and do unto them, °as Thou hast ¹²done unto me for all my °transgressions: for my sighs *are* many, and my heart *is* faint.

A² A² 2 (N) How hath °the LORD* covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in His anger, *and* cast down from heaven unto the earth °the beauty of °Israel, and remembered not °His footstool in the day of His anger!

2 (j) °The LORD* hath °swallowed up all the °habitations of Jacob, and hath not pitied: He hath thrown down in His wrath the strong holds of the daughter of Judah; He hath brought *them* down to the ground: He hath polluted the kingdom and the princes thereof.

3 (j) He hath cut off in His fierce anger all the °horn of Israel: He hath drawn back His °right hand from before the enemy, and He burned against Jacob like a flaming fire, *which* devoureth round about.

4 (r) He hath bent °His bow like an enemy: He stood with His right hand as an adversary, and slew °all *that were* pleasant to the °eye in the °tabernacle of the daughter of °Zion: He poured out His fury like fire.

5 (r) °The LORD* was as an enemy: He hath

14 The yoke, &c. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 28. 48), the same words. Ap. 92. wreathed = intertwined.

He: or, It: i. e. the yoke. fall = stumble. the LORD*. One of the 134 places where the *Sopherim* say they changed Jehovah to Adonai. See Ap. 32.

15 mighty men = valiant ones. Heb. 'abir. Not the same word as in 8. 1, 27, 35, 39.

called = proclaimed. Same word as in vv. 19, 21.

an assembly = a festal gathering. Now that Israel's feasts had ceased, there was another of a different nature and with a different object.

winepress. Heb. gath, where the grapes were trodden. Not the vat (yekeb) into which the juice was received.

16 mine eye, mine eye. Fig. Epizeuxis (Ap. 6), for emphasis. It is not repeated in the Sept.

relieve my soul = bring me back to life. Cp. v. 19. children = sons. Not the same word as in 2. 11, 19, 20 and 4. 4.

17 Jacob. Referring to the natural seed. See notes on Gen. 32. 28; 43. 6; 45. 26, 28. Cp. 2. 1.

18 is. Heb. = ʾis [is]. people = peoples.

19 gave up the ghost = expired, or breathed their last.

20 Behold. Here begins the prayer. See the Structure C1, on p. 1097.

abroad the sword. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 32. 25).

21 the day: i. e. the day of vengeance of Jer. 25. 17-26.

22 Let all, &c. This prayer is in accordance with that Dispensation. Not with this. See Ap. 63. IX.

wickedness. Heb. rā'a'. Ap. 44. viii.

as = according as.

transgressions = rebellions. Heb. pāsha'. Ap. 44. ix. Cp. 3. 42.

2. 1 the LORD*. One of the 134 places where the *Sopherim* say they altered "Jehovah" of the primitive text to "Adonai". See Ap. 32.

the beauty of Israel. Probably referring to the Temple (Isa. 64. 11), or the heroic defenders of Jerusalem (2 Sam. 1. 19).

Israel. Referring to the spiritual seed. See note on 1. 17. His footstool. Probably referring to the ark of the covenant (1 Chron. 28. 2), or the sanctuary (Pss. 99. 5; 132. 7. Isa. 60. 13).

2 swallowed up: i. e. as by an earthquake.

habitations = the open villages of the shepherds, in contrast with the strongholds of the next lines.

3 horn. Put by Fig. Metonymy (of Cause), Ap. 6, for the self-protection afforded by it.

right hand. Fig. Anthropopatheia. Ap. 6.

4 His bow. Fig. Anthropopatheia. Ap. 6.

all that were pleasant to the eye. Heb. = all the desires of the eye; "eye" being put by Fig. Metonymy (of the Adjunct), Ap. 6, for the things desired by it.

eye. Transfer here the colon which is wrongly placed after Zion.

tabernacle = tent. Heb. 'ohel. Ap. 40. 3.

Zion: place this colon after "eye" in preceding line, and connect Zion with the verb which follows.

5 her. Ginsburg thinks it should be "His". mourning and lamentation. Note the Fig. Paronomasia (Ap. 6). Heb. tañniyyāh vañniyyāh.

6 tabernacle = dwelling, or pavilion. Heb. sok. Occurs only here.

as if it were of a garden: or, as [a booth in] a garden [is destroyed]. See note on Isa. 1. 8. Sept. reads "like a vine". Ginsburg thinks "like a thief".

the LORD. Heb. Jehovah. Ap. 4. II.

solemn feasts = appointed seasons.

swallowed up Israel, He hath swallowed up all °her palaces: He hath destroyed His strong holds, and hath increased in the daughter of Judah °mourning and lamentation.

6 (r) And He hath violently taken away His °tabernacle, °as if it were of a garden: He hath destroyed His places of the assembly: °the LORD hath caused the °solemn feasts and

sabbaths to be forgotten in Zion, and hath despised in the indignation of His anger the king and the priest.

7 (1) ¹ The LORD* hath cast off His altar, He hath abhorred His sanctuary, He hath given up into the hand of the enemy the walls of her palaces; they have made a noise in the house of ⁶ the LORD, as in the day of a ⁶ solemn feast.

8 (7) ⁶ The LORD hath purposed to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zion: He hath stretched out a line, He hath not withdrawn His hand from ^o destroying: therefore He made the rampart and the wall to lament; they languished together.

9 (5) Her gates are sunk into the ^o ground; He hath destroyed and broken her bars: ^o her king and her princes *are* among the ^o Gentiles: ^o the law *is* no *more*; her prophets also find no vision from ⁶ the LORD.

10 (7) The elders of the daughter of Zion sit upon the ^o ground, *and* keep silence: they have cast up dust upon their heads; they have ^o girded themselves ^o with sackcloth: the virgins of Jerusalem hang down their heads to the ground.

11 (5) Mine eyes do fail with tears, my bowels are ^o troubled, my ^o liver is poured upon the earth, for the destruction of the daughter of my People; because the ^o children and the sucklings swoon in the streets of the city.

12 (5) They say to their mothers, "Where is corn and ^o wine?" when they swooned as the wounded in the streets of the city, when their ^o soul was poured out into their mothers' bosom.

13 (5) What thing shall I take to witness for thee? what thing shall I liken to thee, O daughter of Jerusalem? what shall I equal to thee, that I may comfort thee, O virgin daughter of Zion? for thy breach *is* great like the sea: who can heal thee?

B² D³
(p. 1097) 14 (5) Thy ^o prophets have seen vain and foolish things for thee: and they have not discovered thine ^o iniquity, to ^o turn away thy captivity; but have seen for thee false ^o burdens and ^o causes of banishment.

E³ 15 (5) All that ^o pass by clap *their* hands at thee; they hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, ^o saying, "*Is* this the city that *men* call The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth?"

16 (5) ^o All thine enemies have opened their mouth against thee: they hiss and gnash the teeth: they say, "We have swallowed *her* up: certainly this *is* the day that we looked for; we have found, we have seen *it*."

17 (5) ⁶ The LORD hath done *that* which He had ^o devised; He hath fulfilled His word that He had commanded in the days of old: He hath thrown down, and hath not pitied: and He hath caused *thine* enemy to rejoice over thee, He hath set up the horn of thine adversaries.

C² 18 (5) Their heart ^o cried unto ¹ the LORD*, O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a river day and night: give thyself no rest; let not the apple of thine eye cease.

19 (7) Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart

⁸ destroying=swallowing up.

⁹ ground=earth.

her king, &c. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 28. 36). Ap. 92. Gentiles=nations.

the law is no more: i.e. is no longer known and obeyed. Cp. Neh. 13. 1, and Esdras 14. 20, 21.

¹⁰ girded . . . with sackcloth. The outward symbol of mourning.

¹¹ troubled=moved, or in ferment.

liver. Fig. for the seat of the emotions. Cp. Job 16. 13. children=babes.

¹² wine. Heb. *yayin*. Ap. 27. I.

soul. Heb. *nephes*. Ap. 13.

¹⁴ prophets, &c. Cp. Ezek. 12. 24; 13. 1-16, 23; 21. 29; 22. 28. iniquity. Heb. *'aviv*. Ap. 44. iv.

turn away thy captivity=cause thy captives to return. See note on Deut. 30. 3.

burdens=oracles.

causes of banishment. Here, the Fig. *Metonymy* (of Effect), Ap. 6, is translated. Heb.=expulsions, which is put for the effect of listening to those who brought about the expulsion (Jer. 2. 8; 5. 31; 14. 14; 23. 16).

¹⁵ pass by=pass by the way.

saying. Note the *Ellipsis* of this verb, which is very frequent in Hebrew. See Pss. 109. 5; 144. 12, &c.

Is . . . ? Fig. *Erotēsis*. Ap. 6.

¹⁶ All, &c. In some Codices, with Syr., vv. 16 and 17 are transposed to bring the letters *Ayin* (ר=') and *Pe* (פ=P) into alphabetical order. The Sept. leaves the verses, but transposes the letters. This is done because it is supposed to be a mistake. But it cannot be, because the same order appears in chs. 3 and 4, and in the former case it occurs three times, although the subject-matter allows no such break. It is easier to believe that the outward artificial form is sacrificed to call our attention to the greater importance of the utterance. In v. 16 we learn what the enemy thought and said; but, as the *Ayin* (ר) really precedes the *Pe* (פ), so we are reminded that this was only owing to Jehovah's purpose which had been revealed centuries before. See note on v. 17.

¹⁷ For the transposition of the Hebrew alphabet here, see note on v. 16, above.

devised. Ref. to Pent. (Lev. 26. 16, 17. Deut. 28. 16).

¹⁸ cried=cried (distressfully).

¹⁹ the LORD*. This is the reading in some Codices, with one early printed edition.

life=soul. Heb. *nephes*. Ap. 13.

²⁰ consider. Put a colon after "consider", and an "?" after "this".

Shall . . . ? Fig. *Erotēsis*. Ap. 6. Ref. to Pent. (Lev. 26. 29. Deut. 28. 53). Ap. 92.

span. See Ap. 51. III. 2 (4).

²² solemn day=day of assembly.

terrors round about. Cp. Jer. 6. 25; 20. 3, 10; 48. 6; 49. 29.

like water before the face of ^o the ¹ LORD*: lift up thy hands toward Him for the ^o life of thy young ¹¹ children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street.

20 (7) Behold, O ⁶ LORD, and ^o consider to whom Thou hast done this. ^o Shall the women eat their fruit, *and* ¹¹ children of a ^o span long? shall the priest and the prophet be slain in the sanctuary of ¹ the LORD*?

21 (5) The young and the old lie on the ground in the streets: my virgins and my young men are fallen by the sword; Thou hast slain ¹ them in the day of Thine anger; Thou hast killed, *and* not pitied.

22 (7) Thou hast called as in a ^o solemn day my ^o terrors round about, so that in the day of ^o the LORD'S anger none escaped nor remained: those that I have swaddled and brought up hath mine enemy consumed.

A³ A⁴
(p. 1097)

3 (N) ° I am the ° man *that* hath seen ° affliction by the rod of His wrath.

2 (N) He hath led me, and brought me into darkness, but not into light.

3 (N) Surely against me is He turned; He turneth his hand *against me* all the day.

4 (N) My flesh and my skin hath He made old; He hath broken my bones.

5 (N) He hath ° builded against me, and compassed me with ° gall and ° travel.

6 (N) He hath ° set me in dark places, ° as *they that be* dead of old.

7 (N) He hath hedged me about, that I cannot get out: He hath made my ° chain heavy.

8 (N) Also when I cry and shout, He shutteth out my prayer.

9 (N) He hath inclosed my ways with hewn stone, He hath made my paths ° crooked.

10 (N) He was unto me as a bear lying in wait, and ° as a lion in secret places.

11 (N) He hath turned aside my ways, and pulled me in pieces: He hath made me desolate.

12 (N) He hath bent ° His bow, and set me as a mark for the arrow.

13 (N) He hath caused the ° arrows of His quiver to enter into my reins.

14 (N) I was a ° derision to ° all my People; and their ° song all the day.

15 (N) He hath filled me with bitterness, He hath made me drunken with wormwood.

16 (N) He hath also broken my teeth with gravel stones, He hath covered me with ashes.

17 (N) And Thou hast removed my ° soul far off from peace: I forgot prosperity.

18 (N) And I said, "My ° strength and my hope is perished from ° the LORD:"

19 (N) ° Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall.

20 (N) ° My ° soul hath *them* still in remembrance, and is humbled in me.

21 (N) This I recall to my ° mind, therefore have I ° hope.

B³ E⁴ **22** (N) *It is of* ° the LORD'S ° mercies that we are not consumed, ° because His compassions fail not.

23 (N) *They are* ° new ° every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.

24 (N) ° "The LORD is my portion," saith my ° soul; "therefore will I hope in Him."

25 (N) ° The LORD is good unto them that ° wait for Him, to the ° soul *that* seeketh Him.

26 (N) *It is good that a man* should both hope and ° quietly wait for the salvation of ° the LORD.

27 (N) *It is good for a* ° man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

28 (N) He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne *it* upon him.

29 (N) He putteth his mouth in the dust; if so be there may ° be hope.

30 (N) He ° giveth *his* cheek to him that smiteth him: he is filled full with reproach.

31 (N) For ° the LORD* will not cast off for ever:

32 (N) But though He cause grief, yet will He have compassion according to the multitude of His ° mercies.

33 (N) For He doth not afflict ° willingly nor grieve the ° children of ° men.

3. 1 This chapter contains twenty-two verses: each verse having three lines: each line beginning with the same letter: and so, onward to the end of the alphabet.

I am the man. The prophet is representative of the nation, and speaks in the name of the whole. He is also typical and prophetic of Another, Who, in after years, took on Himself and bore the nation's sin. Ap. 85. The chapter must be read in connection with the Passion Psalms (Pss. 22, 69, 88). The Fig. is *Prosopopoeia* (Ap. 6), by which the nation speaks as one man.

man = strong man. Heb. *geber*. Ap. 14. IV. affliction: or, humiliation.

5 builded against = built up against.

gall. Cp. v. 19, and Ps. 69. 21, with Matt. 27. 34.

travel = travail, or labour. This line probably is put for the fortifications and the trench.

6 set me = made me to dwell.

as they, &c. = like the age-long dead.

7 chain = iron, or bronze. Put by Fig. *Metonymy* (of Cause), Ap. 6, for the fetters made of it. Cp. Judg. 16. 21 and 2 Kings 25. 7. 2 Chron. 33. 11; 36. 6. Jer. 39. 7; all of distinguished men.

9 crooked = to turn or wind back.

10 as a lion. See note on Ps. 22. 16.

12 His bow. Fig. *Anthropopatheia*. Ap. 6.

13 arrows = sons. Fig. *Hypocatastasis*. Ap. 6. As "sparks" are called "sons of the flame".

14 derision. Cp. Jer. 20. 8.

all my People. A special various reading called *Sevir* (Ap. 34), with some codices, and Syr., read "all peoples". song = mocking-song. Cp. v. 63 and Ps. 69. 12.

17 soul. Heb. *nephesh*. Ap. 13.

18 strength = strength (for endurance). Heb. *nēzah*. See notes on Isa. 40. 8, 10, 26, 29, 31.

the LORD. Heb. *Jehovah*. Ap. 4. II.

19 Remembering = Remember.

20 My soul. The primitive reading was "Thy soul", which the *Sopherim* have recorded, and state that they altered it to "My soul" (see Ap. 33), considering it an offensive *anthropomorphism*. By so doing they destroyed the logical sequence and deep pathos of the primitive text. The three verses (19, 20, 21) retranslated will show this:—

19 "Remember my humiliation and my misery,
The wormwood and the gall.

20 Yea, verily, Thou wilt remember,
And Thy soul will mourn over me.

21 This I bring back to my heart,
Therefore I shall have hope."

21 mind = heart.

hope = expectation.

22 mercies = lovingkindnesses.

because = verily.

23 new = fresh. every morning. Put by Fig. *Synecdoche* (of the Part), Ap. 6, for always and continually.

25 wait for Him. Ref. to Pent. (Gen. 49. 18, same word).

26 quietly wait = wait, and be silent.

29 be. See note on 1. 12.

30 giveth his cheek. Cp. Isa. 50. 6.

31 the LORD*. One of the 134 places where the *Sopherim* say they altered "Jehovah" of the primitive text to "Adonai". See Ap. 32. Here some codices, with two early printed editions, also read "Jehovah".

33 willingly = from His heart.

children = sons.

men. Heb. *'ish* (sing.). Ap. 14. II.

35 turn aside, &c. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 16. 19; 24. 17; 27. 19, same word). Ap. 92.

the MOST HIGH. Heb. *'Elyōn*. Ap. 4. VI.

36 man. Heb. *'ādām*. Ap. 14. I.

34 (N) To crush under His feet all the prisoners of the earth,

35 (N) To ° turn aside the right of a ° man before the face of ° the MOST HIGH,

36 (N) To subvert a ° man in his cause, ° the LORD* approveth not.

D⁴
(p. 1097)

37 (D) Who is he *that* saith, and it cometh to pass, *when* ³¹the LORD* commandeth it not?

38 (D) Out of the mouth of ³⁵the MOST HIGH proceedeth not °evil and good?

39 (D) Wherefore doth a living ³⁶man complain, a °man for the punishment of his °sins?

40 (J) Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to ¹⁸the LORD.

41 (J) Let us lift up our heart with *our* hands unto °GOD in °the heavens.

42 (J) We have °transgressed and have rebelled: Thou hast not pardoned.

43 (D) Thou hast covered with anger, and °persecuted us: Thou hast slain, Thou hast not pitied.

44 (D) Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud, that *our* prayer should not pass through.

45 (D) Thou hast made us *as* the offscouring and refuse in the midst of the °people.

46 (D) °All our enemies have °opened their mouths against us.

47 (D) °Fear and a snare is come upon us, desolation and destruction.

48 (D) °Mine °eye runneth down with rivers of water for the destruction of the daughter of my people.

49 (Y) Mine eye trickleth down, and ceaseth not, without any intermission,

50 (Y) Till ¹⁸the LORD look down, and behold from heaven.

51 (Y) Mine eye affecteth °mine heart because of all the daughters of my city.

C³ 52 (X) Mine enemies chased me sore, like a bird, without cause.

53 (Y) They have cut off my life in the °dungeon, and cast a stone upon me.

54 (X) Waters flowed °over mine head; *then* I said, °“ I am cut off.”

55 (P) I called upon °Thy name, O ¹⁸LORD, out of the low ⁵³dungeon.

56 (P) Thou hast heard my voice: hide not Thine ear °at my breathing, °at my cry.

57 (P) Thou drewest near in the day *that* I called upon Thee: Thou saidst, “ Fear not.”

58 (N) O ³¹LORD*, Thou hast pleaded the causes of ²⁰my soul; Thou hast °redeemed my life.

59 (N) O ¹⁸LORD, Thou hast seen my wrong: judge Thou my cause.

60 (N) Thou hast seen all their vengeance *and* all their imaginations against me.

61 (W) Thou hast heard their reproach, O ¹⁸LORD, *and* all their imaginations against me;

62 (W) The °lips of those that rose up against me, and their °device against me all the day.

63 (W) Behold their sitting down, and their rising up; I *am* °their musick.

64 (N) °Render unto them a recompence, O ¹⁸LORD, according to the work of their hands.

65 (N) °Give them °sorrow of heart, Thy curse unto them.

66 (N) ⁴³Persecute and destroy them in anger from under the heavens of ¹⁸the LORD.

A⁴ A⁴

4 (N) How is the °gold °become dim! *how* is the °most fine gold °changed! the stones of the sanctuary are °poured out in the top of every street.

2 (N) The precious sons of Zion, comparable to °fine gold, how are they esteemed °as

38 evil. Heb. *vā'a'*. Ap. 44. viii.

39 sins. Heb. *chātā'*. Ap. 44. i.

41 GOD. Heb. El. Ap. 4. IV.

the heavens. Supply the *Ellipsis* thus: “the heavens [saying], We have”, &c.

42 transgressed=revolted. Heb. *pāsha'*. Ap. 44. ix. Cp. 1. 22.

43 persecuted=pursued. Cp. Ps. 35. 6.

45 people=peoples.

46 All our enemies, &c. Here again, as in 2. 16 and 17, the letters *Pe* (P=P) and *Ayin* (Y) are transposed; not from any “mistake” or “forgetfulness”, but to call our attention to the truth which might otherwise have been overlooked: viz. the sorrow, on account of the destructive work of the enemies (vv. 46-48), which would have been averted by true sorrow for the sins which caused it (vv. 49-51).

opened their mouths. Cp. Ps. 22. 13.

45 people=peoples.

47 Fear and a snare. Note the Fig. *Paronomasia* (Ap. 6). Heb. *pāchad vāpachath*. Cp. Isa. 24. 17. Jer. 48. 43. In English, “Scare and snare”.

48 Mine eye runneth down. Cp. Luke 19. 41. Ap. 85. eye=tears: “eye” being put by Fig. *Metonymy* (of Adjunct), Ap. 6, for the tears which flow from it.

51 mine heart=my soul. Heb. *nephesh*. Ap. 13.

53 dungeon=pit. Cp. Jer. 38. 6; and Ps. 88. 6.

54 over mine head. Cp. Ps. 69. 2.

I am cut off. Cp. Ps. 88. 5.

55 Thy name=Thee, or Thy attributes. See note on Ps. 20. 1.

56 at my breathing. See note on Mal. 3. 16.

at my cry. Some codices, with Vulg., read “and at my cry” (or outcry).

58 redeemed. Heb. *gā'al*. See note on Ex. 6. 6.

62 lips. Cp. Ps. 22. 7. Ap. 85.

device=meditation. Heb. *Higyon*. See Ap. 66. I.

63 their musick=their mocking song, as in v. 14.

64 Render, &c. Cp. Ps. 69. 22.

65 Give them sorrow of heart=Thou wilt suffer them a veiling (or obstinacy) of heart. See Isa. 6. 9, 10. sorrow=covering, or veiling.

4. 1 This chapter, like chs. 1 and 2, is an acrostic: the twenty-two verses commencing successively with the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

gold . . . most fine gold . . . fine gold. Fig. *Anabasis* (Ap. 6), which is lost in A.V. rendering, which should be “gold . . . fine gold . . . pure gold”.

become dim . . . changed . . . poured out. Note the Fig. *Catabasis* (Ap. 6).

2 fine gold=pure gold. See note above.

as earthen pitchers. The comparison is both in the material and in the workmanship. Cp. Jer. 18. 1-6; 19. 1-10.

3 sea monsters. R.V.=jackals (Jer. 9. 11).

ostriches. Cp. Job 39. 13-17.

5 embrace. Cp. Job 24. 8.

6 For=And. punishment of the iniquity. This is the full translation of the Fig. *Metonymy* (of Effect), Ap. 6: the “iniquity” being put for its consequent punishment. iniquity. Heb. *avāh*. Ap. 44. iv.

earthen pitchers, the work of the hands of the potter!

3 (J) Even the °sea monsters draw out the breast, they give suck to their young ones: the daughter of My people is become cruel, like the °ostriches in the wilderness.

4 (N) The tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst: the young children ask bread, *and* no man breaketh it unto them.

5 (N) They that did feed delicately are desolate in the streets: they that were brought up in scarlet °embrace dunghills.

6 (N) °For the °punishment of the °iniquity of

the daughter of my People is greater than the °punishment of the sin of Sodom, that was °overthrown as in a moment, and no hands °stayed on her.

7 (i) Her Nazarites were purer than snow, they were whiter than milk, they were more ruddy in body than rubies, their poli'ning was of sapphire:

8 (n) Their visage is blacker than a coal; they are not °known in the streets: their skin °cleaveth to their bones; it is withered, it is become like a stick.

9 (b) *They that be slain with the sword* °are better than *they that be slain with hunger*: for these pine away, stricken through for want of the fruits of the field.

10 (') The hands of the °pitiful women °have sodden their own °children: they were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my People.

11 (D) °The LORD hath accomplished His fury; He hath poured out His fierce anger, and hath °kindled a fire in Zion, and it hath devoured the foundations thereof.

12 (S) The kings of the earth, and all the inhabitants of the world, would not have believed that the adversary and the enemy should have entered into the gates of Jerusalem.

13 (2) For the °sins of her prophets, and the °iniquities of her priests, that have shed the blood of the °just in the midst of her,

14 (J) They have wandered as blind men in the streets, they have °polluted themselves °with blood, so that men could not touch their garments.

15 (D) They cried unto them, °“Depart ye; it is unclean; depart, depart, touch not:” when they fled away and wandered, they said among the °heathen, “They shall no more sojourn there.”

16 (S) The °anger of °the LORD hath divided them; He will no more regard them: they respected not the °persons of the priests, they favoured not the elders.

17 (V) As for us, our eyes as yet failed for our vain help: in our watching we have watched for a nation *that* could not save us.

18 (Y) They hunt our steps, that we cannot go in our streets: our end is near, our days are fulfilled; for our end is come.

19 (P) Our °persecutors are °swifter than the eagles of the heaven: they pursued us upon the mountains, they laid wait for us in the wilderness.

20 (7) The °breath of our nostrils, °the anointed of °the LORD, was taken in their °pits, of whom we said, “Under his shadow we shall live among the °heathen.”

21 (P) Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, that dwellest in °the land of Uz; the cup also shall pass through unto thee: thou shalt be drunken, and shalt make thyself °naked.

22 (7) The °punishment of thine °iniquity is °accomplished, O daughter of Zion; He will no more carry thee away into captivity: He will °visit thine °iniquity, O daughter of Edom; He will discover thy °sins.

5 Remember, O °LORD, what is come upon us: consider, and behold our reproach.

punishment of the sin. This is the full translation of the Fig. *Metonymy* (of Effect), Ap. 6, the Heb. *chāṭā'* (sin) being put for the consequent punishment.

overthrown, &c. Ref. to Pent. (Gen. 19. 25). Ap. 92. stayed = travailed on her: i.e. brought it about; for the overthrow was direct from God.

8 known = recognised.

cleaveth. Heb. occurs only here.

9 are = have proved.

10 pitiful = tender-hearted.

have sodden, &c. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 28. 56, 57).

Ap. 92. Cp. 2 Kings 6. 29. children = babes.

11 The LORD. Heb. Jehovah. Ap. 4. II.

kindled a fire. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 32. 22). Ap. 92.

13 just = righteous ones. Cp. Matt. 23. 31, 37.

14 polluted . . . with blood. Ref. to Pent. (Num. 19. 11, 16). Ap. 92.

15 Depart ye, &c. Ref. to Pent. (Lev. 18. 45). Ap. 92. heathen = nations.

16 anger = face. Put by Fig. *Metonymy* (of Effect), Ap. 6, as manifesting the anger felt.

persons = face. Put by Fig. *Synecdoche* (of the Part), Ap. 6, for the whole person.

19 persecutors = pursuers.

swifter than the eagles. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 28. 49).

20 breath. Heb. *ruach*. Ap. 9.

the anointed: i.e. Zedekiah was still Jehovah's “anointed”, even as Saul was (1 Sam. 26. 9, 11, 16, 23. 2 Sam. 1. 14, 16).

pits = toils. Occurs only here and Ps. 107. 20. Heb. *shichith*. Cp. Jer. 2. 6; 18. 20, 22.

21 Rejoice, &c. Said in solemn irony.

the land of Uz. See notes on p. 666, and Ap. 62.

naked. Between vv. 21 and 22 lies the whole of this present Dispensation. See Ap. 63. IX and 72.

22 accomplished = completed.

visit = punish, as in v. 6. See note there.

5. 1 The acrostic gives way before the outburst of emotion in prayer. The only connection with it is the number of the verses (twenty-two, corresponding with the letters of the Hebrew alphabet).

LORD. Heb. Jehovah. Ap. 4. II.

2 inheritance: i.e. Canaan.

5 Our necks are under persecution = Our pursuers are upon our necks. persecution = pursuers.

and. Some codices, with two early printed editions and Syr., read this “and” in the text.

have no rest = no respite was granted us.

6 given the hand. Put by Fig. *Metonymy* (of the Adjunct), Ap. 6, for voluntary submission.

7 sinned. Heb. *chāṭā'*. Ap. 44. i.

borne. As a burden. The same word as in Isa. 53. 4, 11. iniquities. Heb. *āvāh*. Ap. 44. iv.

9 We gat our bread = We brought home our bread. lives = souls. Heb. *nephesh*. Ap. 13. Some codices, with one early printed edition, read “souls”.

sword of the wilderness. “The sword” is put, by Fig. *Metonymy* (of Cause), Ap. 6, for the raids and fightings of the inhabitants of the wilderness.

2 Our °inheritance is turned to strangers, our houses to aliens.

3 We are orphans and fatherless, our mothers are as widows.

4 We have drunken our water for money; our wood is sold unto us.

5 °Our necks are under °persecution: we labour, °and °have no rest.

6 We have °given the hand to the Egyptians, and to the Assyrians, to be satisfied with bread.

7 Our fathers have °sinned, and are not; and we have °borne their °iniquities.

8 Servants have ruled over us: *there is none that doth deliver us out of their hand.*

9 °We gat our bread with *the peril of our* °lives because of the °sword of the wilderness.

B⁴ D⁵
(p. 1097)

E³

C⁴

10 Our °skin was black like an oven because of the terrible famine.

11 They ravished the °women in Zion, and the maids in the cities of Judah.

12 Princes are hanged up by their hand: the °faces of elders were not honoured.

13 They took the young men °to grind, and the °children °fell °under the wood.

14 The elders have ceased from the gate, the young men from their musick.

15 The joy of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning.

16 The crown is fallen *from* our head: woe unto us, that we have 'sinned!

17 For °this our heart is faint; for °these *things* our eyes are dim.

18 Because of the mountain of Zion, which is desolate, the °foxes walk upon it.

19 Thou, O °LORD, °remainest for ever; Thy throne from generation to generation.

20 Wherefore °dost Thou forget us for ever, and forsake us so long time?

21 °Turn Thou us °unto Thee, O °LORD, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old.

11 women = wives.

12 faces. Put by Fig. *Synecdoche* (of the Part), Ap 6, for the whole person.

13 to grind: i. e. to do women's work.

children = young children, youths.

fell = staggered.

under the wood: i. e. under [the weight or load] of the wood (they were compelled as bond-slaves to carry).

17 this: i. e. this sin.

these things: i. e. loss of king, country, possessions, and liberties.

18 foxes = jackals.

19 remainest = sittest: i. e. as king.

20 dost = wilt.

21 Turn Thou us. National repentance was the one abiding condition of national blessing, and this must be Jehovah's own work.

unto Thee = unto Thyself.

22 art = hast been.

In the public reading of the Hebrew text. 21 is repeated after v. 22, so that the book may end with comfort. The same is the case with Ecclesiastes, Isaiah, and Malachi. The synagogue use appoints this book to be read on the Fast of Ab, which commemorates the destruction of Jerusalem.

22 But Thou hast utterly rejected us; Thou °art very wroth against us.

THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET

EZEKIEL.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK AS A WHOLE.

(Introversion and Extended Alternation.)

A | 1. 1—12. 28. THE DESOLATION.

B | 13. 1—23. PROPHETS AND PROPHETESSES.

C **D** | 14. 1—11. ELDERS.

E | 14. 12—15. 8. THE LAND AND CITY. (JUDGMENTS.)

F | 16. 1—63. JERUSALEM. (DESERTED INFANT.)

G | 17. 1—24. BABYLONIAN WAR. (PARABLE.)

H | 18. 1—32. THE PEOPLE. PROVERB. (SOUR GRAPES.)

J | 19. 1—14. THE PRINCES OF ISRAEL.

C **D** | 20. 1—44. ELDERS.

E | 20. 45—22. 31. THE LAND AND CITY. (JUDGMENTS.)

F | 23. 1—49. JERUSALEM. (TWO SISTERS.)

G | 24. 1—32. 32. BABYLONIAN WAR. (PARABLE.)

H | 33. 1—22. THE PEOPLE. SIGN. (WATCHMAN.)

J | 33. 23—33. THE INHABITANT OF THE WASTES.

B | 34. 1—31. SHEPHERDS AND FLOCK.

A | 35. 1—48. 35. THE RESTORATION.