

## Lamentations 4—Disappearing Symmetry and One Voice

- (א) 4:1—
- (ב) 4:2—Zion
- (ג) 4:3—in the wilderness
- (ד) 4:4—
- (ה) 4:5—
- (ו) 4:6—no/not
- (ז) 4:7—
- (ח) 4:8—not . . . in the streets
- (ט) 4:9—
- (י) 4:10—
- (יא) 4:11—poured out
- (יב) 4:12—
- (יג) 4:13—shed (i.e., poured out)
- (יד) 4:14—in the streets
- (טו) 4:15—not
- (טז) 4:16—
- (יז) 4:17—not
- (יח) 4:18—
- (יט) 4:19—in the wilderness
- (כ) 4:20—
- (כא) 4:21—
- (כב) 4:22—Zion

How to account for the diminishing symmetry in chapter 4.

Structural observations

v. 1—poured out

= ? → vv. ?

v. 11—poured out

= ? → vv. ?

How many verses between v. 1 and v. 10?

How many verses between v. 11 and v. 20?

Leaving ?

What do you see there?

What else do you see bracketing v. 11 with v. 20?

?Possible \_\_\_\_\_

vv. 1-10 use what pronouns?

vv. 11-20 use what pronouns?

vv. 21 and 22 use what pronouns?

Who is the subject of “my” (vv. 3, 6, 10), i.e., whose personal voice are we hearing in this chapter?

**Clue:** 1<sup>st</sup> word in the Hebrew text of chapters

1:1—'ékah (אִיכָה) =

2:1—'ékah (אִיכָה) =

4:1—'ékah (אִיכָה) =

vv. 1-10, she speaks \_\_\_\_\_

vv. 11-20, she speaks \_\_\_\_\_

vv. 21-22, she speaks \_\_\_\_\_

Is she echoing another voice in this drama?

NB: sons of Zion (v. 2)  
Zion (v. 11)  
daughter of Zion (v. 22)

### **Recasting the Narrative**

1. Vividness (vv. 1, 5, 7, 8)
2. Madness (v. 10 with v. 3)
3. Invulnerability (v. 12)
4. Betrayal (v. 17; cf. Jer 37:5-10)
5. Role of Neighbor Adversary (vv. 21, 22)
6. Cowardice of Ruling Leader (vv. 19, 20)