

Jeremiah as the Probable Author

Well-Known Author?

Though we can not know for sure today who he may have been, the longest chapter in the Bible was probably written by someone who was well known at the time, for otherwise it would not have been accepted. Moreover, through a process of elimination, it is possible to come to a tentative conclusion on who the author may have been by going through the main evidence and considering a subset of the most-mentioned characters in the Bible including: David (#2), Solomon (#5), Samuel (#16), Hezekiah (#17), Jeremiah (#19), Elisha (#24), Ezekiel (#28), Daniel (#35), Mordecai (#46), Isaiah (#51) and Ezra (#105).

Key Evidence

- 1.) Verses 43 through 46 indicate that the author was probably a prophet rather than a king. So it is unlikely that David or Solomon was the author.
- 2.) Verses 23, 25, 51, 61, 69, 85, 87, 110, 115, 134, 141, 150, and 157 show that the author was persecuted greatly and had many enemies among the Jewish elite.
- 3.) Verses 19, 24, 54, 57, 79, 94, and 98-100 seem to show that the psalmist had few friends or companions. He always seemed to be mostly alone.
- 4.) Verses 28, 53, 82, 97, 113, 136, 139, 143, 145, and 163 seem to show that the author of the Psalm was an emotional person.
- 5.) Verses 25, 41, 49, 58, 65, 76, 107, 116, 154, and 170 seem to indicate that the Lord had given the psalmist a specific promise of divine protection. (Jeremiah 1:17-19?)
- 6.) Since the Psalm is an acrostic, it may well have been written by someone who wrote other acrostics, such as Psalm 25 (David), Psalms 111-112 (an unknown author), or Lamentations (Jeremiah).
- 7.) The absence of any references to the tabernacle or temple worship may indicate that the Psalm was written for people who were in captivity rather than living in Israel.

Tentative Conclusion

The points above seem to point to Jeremiah as the most likely author and to the captives in Babylon as his probable audience. There are many other indications that this is the case as well, some of which are mentioned in the detailed studies that follow.

In his commentary on Psalms, Warren Weiersbe also supports the theory that Jeremiah was the author.

