

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Lamentations 3:1-33

Background to the hymn: *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Faithfulness is a consistent attribute

Faithfulness is particularly precious during trials

Background to Lamentations – exile is the consequences of spiritual adultery, but is also the place of protection.

Forsaken by God – Lamentations 1:8,9, 17

Under covenant curses (Dt. 28) – Lamentations 1:3-5, 2:20

The consequence due them because of their sin – Lamentations 1:8,14,18,22

Lamentations deals with the darkness of hell itself

Lamentations 3:1-20: Christ crucified and forsaken of God

Jeremiah, a type of Christ, takes on himself the consequence of the sin of his nation (first-person pronouns)

Note the parallels to the suffering servant of Isaiah 53

Corporate (Plural third-person pronouns) – Lamentations 3:40-47

Return to first-person pronouns – Jeremiah 3:48-54

Lamentations 3:21-33: A Restored Hope – the two attributes of God that restore the prophet's hope

Verse 21: The prophet remembers

Verse 22a: "we are not consumed;" our consequences are less than we deserve

Verse 22b *Chesed*: steadfast mercy that is motivated by a sense of deep need on the part of the person to whom it is extended

Mercy triumphs over justice - Exodus 34:6-7, 2 Chr 6:14

Chesed is most powerfully displayed in the Gospel

Verse 23 *Emunah*: sure, steady, secure, confirmed, established

God's faithfulness vs. human infidelity

The fall of man, Noah's flood, Abraham and Ishmael, Israel and the golden calf

The prophets: Hosea, Jeremiah (29:11), Isaiah (43:22-25)

Numbers 23:19, 2 Tim 2:13

Faithlessness is the new normal (Prov 20:6)

Verse 24-33: God's Faithfulness is the outlet of Jeremiah's misery

His faith is ignited

His entire outlook is altered

Application

When all else fails (including yourself) God is faithful – look to Him

What idols is God exposing in life's disappointments?

God is faithful to bring life from your despair

As exiles in this world, suffering is a real part of the age we live in (1 Pet 4:19)

Our own contribution to suffering through our own sin (1 John 1:9)

Reflect the attributes of God's mercy and faithfulness to the people around you, and to God