

# GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

## Lamentations 3:22-24

“The Book of Lamentations is made up of five poems, each an expression of grief over the fall of Jerusalem. Like a eulogy at a funeral, these laments are intended to mourn a loss – in this case, the loss of a nation. The latter half of chapter 3 implies that the purpose behind the book’s graphic depiction of sorrow and suffering was to produce hope in the God whose compassion is “new every morning” (vs. 23) and whose faithfulness is great even to a people who have been condemned for their own faithlessness. The author, while not identified in the book itself, may have been the prophet Jeremiah, who was said to have “uttered a lament for Josiah” (2 Chronicles 35:25). Lamentations was probably written shortly after Jerusalem’s fall in 586 B.C.”

Introduction: ESV

### **Lamentations 3:22-24**

<sup>22</sup> The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;

his mercies never come to an end;

<sup>23</sup> they are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness.

<sup>24</sup> “The LORD is my portion, says my soul,

“therefore I will hope in him.”

**ESV**

To lament is to mourn; Lamentations is written in the form of a funeral dirge. The writer is most surely Jeremiah.

In spite of the conditions under which Jeremiah lived, he offers encouragement to the believer. How bad were Jeremiah’s conditions?

The Jews loved Jerusalem more than anything else.  
The temple was there and this is where God is worshipped.  
Yet, Jerusalem is under siege by the Babylonians.  
In two years it will fall (586 B.C.).

Jeremiah laments over the awful living condition of the people, but more so over the sin that brought them to their plight.

### **Lamentations 3:39-40**

<sup>39</sup> Why should a living man complain,  
a man, about the punishment of his sins?  
<sup>40</sup> Let us test and examine our ways,  
and return to the LORD!

About 19 years before this time, Daniel and the finest men in Judah had been taken away into captivity in Babylon. The prophets had continually warned the people of their spiritual adultery in forgetting God. Isaiah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, and Jeremiah for over 40 years!

Zedekiah had been made king of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar. Zedekiah made plans to join with Egypt to overthrow Babylonia.

That would be like the U.S. getting Cuba to help us fight Russia. Jeremiah warns Zedekiah not to join forces with the heathen.

Jerusalem has been under siege now for 18 months. You can not imagine worse conditions.

### **Lamentations 4:5**

<sup>5</sup> Those who once feasted on delicacies  
perish in the streets;  
those who were brought up in purple  
embrace ash heaps.

### **Lamentations 4:10**

<sup>10</sup> The hands of compassionate women  
have boiled their own children;  
they became their food  
during the destruction of the daughter of my people.

## **2 Kings 25:1-7**

And in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came with all his army against Jerusalem and laid siege to it. And they built siegeworks all around it. <sup>2</sup> So the city was besieged till the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. <sup>3</sup> On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. <sup>4</sup> Then a breach was made in the city, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, by the king's garden, though the Chaldeans were around the city. And they went in the direction of the Arabah. <sup>5</sup> But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho, and all his army was scattered from him. <sup>6</sup> Then they captured the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they passed sentence on him. <sup>7</sup> They slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah and bound him in chains and took him to Babylon.

Zedekiah is captured, his sons are killed, this is the last thing he ever sees, his eyes are gouged out, a brass chain is pushed through his nose and lips, and he is dragged away.

Jeremiah saw it happen.

## **Jeremiah 38:28**

And Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard until the day that Jerusalem was taken.

## **Jeremiah 39:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> The king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah at Riblah before his eyes, and the king of Babylon slaughtered all the nobles of Judah. <sup>7</sup> He put out the eyes of Zedekiah and bound him in chains to take him to Babylon.

Why did God allow this?

## **2 Chronicles 36:11-17**

<sup>11</sup> Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. <sup>12</sup> He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD his God. He did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of the LORD. <sup>13</sup> He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God. He stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the LORD, the God of Israel. <sup>14</sup> All the officers of the priests and the people likewise were exceedingly unfaithful, following all the abominations of the nations. And they polluted the house of the LORD that he had made holy in Jerusalem.

<sup>15</sup> The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. <sup>16</sup> But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD rose against his people, until there was no remedy.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore he brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or aged. He gave them all into his hand.

Are there any lessons in this lament for America?

The prophet Amos said 100 years before,  
“Woe unto them who are at ease in Zion.”

IT IS OF THE LORD'S MERCIES (loving kindness)  
THAT WE ARE NOT CONSUMED (completely finished),  
BECAUSE HIS COMPASSIONS FAIL NOT.  
THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING:  
GREAT (abundant) IS THY FAITHFULNESS (stability).  
THE LORD IS MY PORTION (share), SAITH MY SOUL;  
THEREFORE WILL I HOPE (wait with expectation)  
IN HIM (He is the object of my hope, not my circumstances).

1. Apart from the MERCY of God, we would all be in hell.
2. His COMPASSIONS never fail, they are greater than our sin.
3. Great is THY FAITHFULNESS; God is faithful, we are not.
4. From my soul, my HOPE is in God, not in my circumstances.

### **1. The MERCY of God:**

a) What is mercy?

The compassionate treatment of an offender, mercy assumes a need, with no negotiations.

b) Mercy is in the hands of a Sovereign.

Do not ever say, ‘God ought to....’

c) We sinners are the offenders. We need mercy not justice.

d) Is there any reason that God should not condemn us?

Apart from faith in the righteousness of Jesus Christ?

By grace through faith alone!

e) Be careful how you answer.

**Jeremiah 17:9**

The heart is deceitful above all things,  
and desperately sick;  
who can understand it?

f) What keeps any of us out of hell right now?

**IT IS OF THE LORD'S MERCIES THAT WE ARE NOT CONSUMED.**

**2. The COMPASSION of God:**

a) When did the Lord's compassion first appear?

**Genesis 3:15**

I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel."

**Genesis 3:21**

And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

b) The history of man is a commentary on the compassion and longsuffering of God

c) How many occasions can you recall, before you trusted in Jesus Christ, that you narrowly escaped a plunge into hell?

If you are not a Christian, how many more times do you have?

d) Why do people "get away" with sin?

**Ecc1 8:10-13**

<sup>10</sup> Then I saw the wicked buried. They used to go in and out of the holy place and were praised in the city where they had done such things. This also is vanity. <sup>11</sup> Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil. <sup>12</sup> Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before him. <sup>13</sup> But it will not be well with the wicked, neither will he prolong his days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God.

e) God's compassion is greater than our sin. "THEY FAIL NOT."

f) But I sin every day!  
"THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING."

**3. The FAITHFULNESS of God:**

a) He is as good as His Word.

**1 Peter 1:25**

but the word of the Lord remains forever."  
And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

b) God made an oath.

**Hebrews 6:16-20**

<sup>17</sup> So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise<sup>j</sup> the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, <sup>18</sup> so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. <sup>19</sup> We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup> where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

c) God makes a way.

### **1 Corinthians 10:13-15**

<sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. <sup>15</sup> I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say.

d) God makes faithful promises.

### **1 Timothy 1:15**

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

e) God is able.

### **2 Tim 1:12**

which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.\*

f) God cannot lie.

### **2 Timothy 2:13**

if we are faithless, he remains faithful—  
for he cannot deny himself.

### **2 Timothy 2:19**

But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

"GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS"

4. Because God is MERCIFUL, COMPASSIONATE, and FAITHFUL; Therefore will I HOPE IN HIM.

a) Where do we find God's mercy, compassion, and faithfulness?

You may say my sin stands before me like a mountain; I am guilty of every form of rebellion. My sin demands punishment.

Then come to the MERCY SEAT: even Jesus Christ. You can't come boasting of your faith; even your decision to come to Christ because then you are no longer asking for mercy, rather you are advising God that He ought to save you.

Jesus Christ can save you or pass you by. He is able, but He saves sinners who have nothing to offer.

b) But if I commit to Christ, I don't think I can hold out to quit my favorite sin.

Then you are not yet trusting Christ; you still think you must have the ability in yourself.

c) The kindest, sweetest, dearest lady you ever knew, if she is saved, is not saved because she is a kind, sweet, and dear lady. She is saved by the same grace that the former drug addict who sold her body to buy dope was saved. If we are saved, it is by trusting the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Nothing but the blood of Jesus we sing.

d) If you are not a Christian, what is your hope?

That God doesn't know about your sin? That dear soul is stupid!

That God doesn't care about your sin? If God doesn't punish your sin, He will have to quit being God.

About the only hope a lost person has, since God knows about and cares about your sin, is that you personally will be accepted by God based on your "goodness." You say you are not as bad as those mothers who boiled their babies and ate them.

Maybe not, but you are despising the blood of the Son of God by saying you don't need Him as your Substitute.

SINNER, COME TO CHRIST.

THE LORD IS MERCIFUL;  
THE LORD IS COMPASSIONATE;  
THE LORD IS FAITHFUL;

THEREFORE WILL I HOPE IN HIM.

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