

Hope in Our Faithful God!

Lamentations 3:16-24

1



2

DISCIPLESHIP MATTERS

Great is thy faithfulness!

3

Theme

Life is tough: Believers must focus on our faithful God and hope in Him!

4

Lamentations 3:16-24

- I. Life is tough (vv. 16-20)
 - A. Sometimes we do not experience peace and happiness (vv. 16-17)

Lamentations 3:16-17

[God] hath also broken my teeth with gravel stones, He hath covered me with ashes. And Thou hast removed my soul far off from peace: I forgot prosperity.

My soul is bereft of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is. (ESV)

5

The **northern Kingdom of Israel** was conquered by Assyria in 721 B.C.

The **southern Kingdom of Judah** was conquered by Babylon in 586 B.C.

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1. **Judah's leaders and nobles were executed** (Jeremiah 39:6-7)
2. **The temple, palace and city were burnt down** (Jeremiah 39:8; Lamentations 2:3-5)
3. **Many became prisoners** (Jeremiah 39:9-10; Lamentations 1:4-5)
4. **There was severe famine in the city** (Jeremiah 19:9, 52:6; Lamentations 1:11, 2:11-12, 2:19-20, 4:9-10)

8

Lamentations 4:9-10 (ESV)

Happier were the victims of the sword than the victims of hunger, who wasted away, pierced by lack of the fruits of the field. **The hands of compassionate women have boiled their own children**; they became their food during the destruction of the daughter of my people.

9

Lamentations 2:20a (ESV)

Look, O LORD, and see! With whom have you dealt thus? Should women eat the fruit of their womb, the children of their tender care?

10

Lamentations 3:16-24

- I. **Life is tough (vv. 16-20)**
 - A. **Sometimes we do not experience peace and happiness (vv. 16-17)**
 - B. **Sometimes we get tired and spiritually discouraged (vv. 18-20)**

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Lamentations 3:18

And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the LORD:

12

Lamentations 3:19

Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall.

“the wormwood and the gall” = bitterness

Lamentations 3:20

My soul hath *them* still in remembrance,
and is humbled in me.

My soul continually remembers it and is
bowed down within me. (ESV)

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Lamentations 3:16-24

- I. Life is tough (vv. 16-20)
 - A. Sometimes we do not experience peace and happiness (vv. 16-17)
 - B. Sometimes we get tired and spiritually discouraged (vv. 18-20)
- II. Believers must focus on our faithful God (vv. 21-23)

When Christians meditate, we fill up
our minds with scriptural truth!

V. 19: Affliction + misery = Bitterness

V. 20: Suffering = Discouragement

V. 21: God = HOPE!

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Lamentations 3:16-24

- II. Believers must focus on our faithful God (vv. 21-23)
 - A. God's loyal love never fails (v. 22)

Lamentations 3:22

*It is of the LORD's mercies that we
are not consumed, because His
compassions fail not.*

17

18

Lamentations 3:16-24

- II. Believers must focus on our faithful God (vv. 21-23)
 - A. God's loyal love never fails (v. 22)
 - 1. God's loyal love to Israel

Lamentations 3:22

It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

"Mercies" = *chesed* = loyal lovingkindness, mercy, faithful goodness

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Theme of Ruth

Divine loyal love (*chesed*) in the midst of bleakness: Hope in God's loyal love!

Lamentations 3:22

It is of the LORD's mercies (Chesed) that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

21

Jeremiah 29:10-14

For thus saith the LORD, that after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

22

Jeremiah 29:10-14 (cont'd)

Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

23

Jeremiah 29:10-14 (cont'd)

And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.

24

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

This is a corporate promise to the nation of Israel, not a personal promise to Christians in the church age!

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Lamentations 3:16-24

A. God's loyal love never fails (v. 22)

1. God's loyal love to Israel

a. He promised to restore them from Babylonian captivity (Jeremiah 29:10-14)

b. He promised them a New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-37)

Jeremiah 31:31-37

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

27

Jeremiah 31:31-37 (cont'd)

But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; after those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

28

Jeremiah 31:31-37 (cont'd)

And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

29

Jeremiah 31:31-37 (cont'd)

Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, *and* the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts *is* his name:

30

Jeremiah 31:31-37 (cont'd)

If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, *then* the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. Thus saith the LORD; if heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done. saith the LORD.

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Lamentations 3:16-24

II. Believers must focus on our faithful God (vv. 21-23)

A. God's loyal love never fails (v. 22)

1. God's loyal love to Israel
2. God's loyal love to Christians

1 Peter 2:9-10

But ye *are* a **chosen** generation, a royal priesthood, an **holy nation**, a **peculiar people**, that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

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Deuteronomy 7:6

For thou art an **holy people** unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath **chosen** thee to be a **special people unto himself**, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

34

1 Peter 2:9-10

But ye *are* a **chosen** generation, a royal priesthood, an **holy nation**, a **peculiar people**, that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

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Jeremiah 31:31-34 is quoted in **Hebrews 8:8-12!**

Jesus Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant!

We can participate in the **New Covenant** through Jesus Christ!

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Hebrews 13:5

*Let your conversation (i.e. your life) be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.***

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Lamentations 3:16-24

II. Believers must focus on our faithful God (vv. 21-23)

A. God's loyal love never fails (v. 22)

B. God's mercies are new every morning (v. 23a)

Lamentations 3:23a

They are new every morning:

Today's mercies for today's burdens!

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Lamentations 3:31-33

For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though He cause grief, yet will He have compassion according to the multitude (ESV: "abundance") of His mercies (*chesed*). For He doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.

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Lamentations 3:23a

They are new every morning:

Today's mercies for today's burdens!

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Part of today's mercies is the ability to trust God that there will be enough mercies when tomorrow comes!

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Lamentations 3:16-24

- II. Believers must focus on our faithful God (vv. 21-23)
 - A. God's loyal love never fails (v. 22)
 - B. God's mercies are new every morning (v. 23a)
 - C. God is faithful (v. 23b)

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Lamentations 3:23b

Great is thy faithfulness.

God will never let you down!

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Under what circumstances did Jeremiah say "Great is thy faithfulness"?

By God's grace, we should be saying "Great is thy faithfulness" even in the middle of our trials!

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Lamentations 3:16-24

- I. Life is tough (vv. 16-20)
- II. Believers must focus on our faithful God (vv. 21-23)
- III. We hope in Him! (v. 24)

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Lamentations 3:24

The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in Him.

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Deuteronomy 10:9

Wherefore Levi hath no part ("portion") nor inheritance with his brethren; the LORD *is* his inheritance, according as the LORD thy God promised him.

You have ME!

Lord, I may have lost everything.
But you are my portion,
I have YOU!

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Psalms 73:25-26

Whom have I in heaven *but thee?*
And *there is* none upon earth *that* I
desire beside thee. My flesh and my
heart faileth: *but God is* the strength
of my heart, and my portion for
ever.

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- II. Believers must focus on our faithful God (vv. 21-23)
 - A. God's loyal love never fails (v. 22)
 - B. God's mercies are new every morning (v. 23a)
 - C. God is faithful (v. 23b)
- III. We hope in Him! (v. 24)

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Hope in Our Faithful God!
Lamentations 3:16-24

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