

Theme

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

Lamentations 3:16-24

I. Life is tough (vv. 16-20)

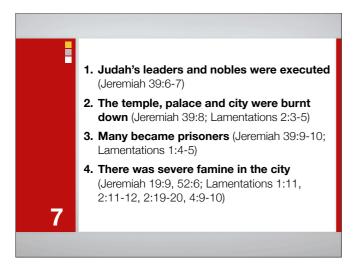
A. Sometimes we do not experience peace and happiness (vv. 16-17)

[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 forgat prosperity.

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

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.



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.

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?

Lamentations 3:16-24

I. Life is tough (vv. 16-20)

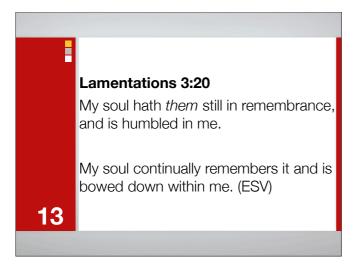
A. Sometimes we do not experience peace and happiness (vv. 16-17)

B. Sometimes we get tired and spiritually discouraged (vv. 18-20)

Lamentations 3:18
And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the LORD:

Lamentations 3:19
Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall.

"the wormwood and the gall" = bitterness



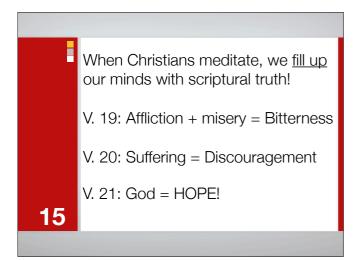
Lamentations 3:16-24

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)



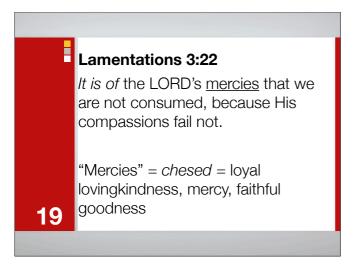
Lamentations 3:16-24

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 (Chesed) that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

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.

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.

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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.

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!

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:

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.

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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.

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:

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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.

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.

**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.

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1 Peter 2:9-10

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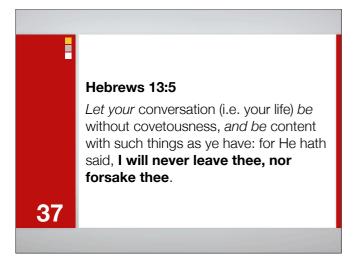
Jeremiah 31:31-34 is quoted in **Hebrews 8:8-12**!

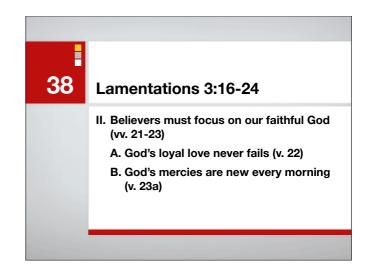
**Jesus Christ** is the mediator of the New Covenant!

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

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Lamentations 3:23a
They are new every morning:

Today's mercies for today's burdens!

Lamentations 3:31-33

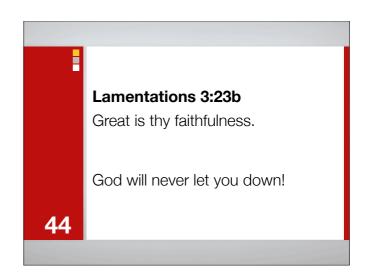
For the Lord will not cast off for ever:
But though He cause grief, yet will
He have compassion according to
the multitude (ESV: "abundance") of
His mercies (*chesed*). For He doth
not afflict willingly nor grieve the
children of men.

Lamentations 3:23a
They are new every morning:

Today's mercies for today's burdens!

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





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!

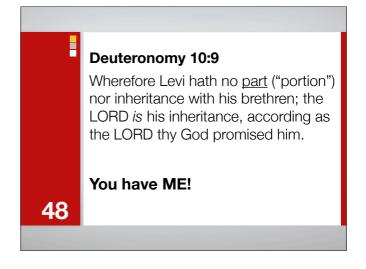
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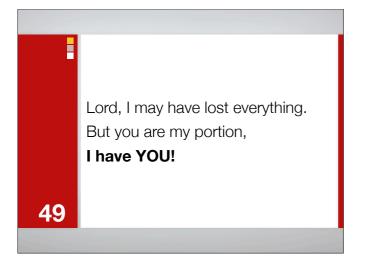
I. Life is tough (vv. 16-20)

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

III. We hope in Him! (v. 24)

Lamentations 3:24
The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in Him.





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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B. Sometimes we get tired and spiritually discouraged (vv. 18-20)

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)

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