

First Words: On July 19th in the year 586 B.C. Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians and the city and temple were subsequently burned to the ground on August 15th. Jeremiah, the author of Lamentations was an eyewitness to all of this.

Lamentations 2:6 & 9 - *He has laid waste his booth like a garden, laid in ruins his meeting place; the LORD has made Zion forget festival and Sabbath, and in his fierce indignation has spurned king and priest...Her gates have sunk into the ground; he has ruined and broken her bars; her king and princes are among the nations; the law is no more, and her prophets find no vision from the LORD.*

The _____: Our Hope is _____

Lamentations 3:15-18 - *He has filled me with bitterness; he has sated me with wormwood. ¹⁶ He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes; ¹⁷ my soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; ¹⁸ so I say, "My endurance has perished; so has my hope from the LORD."*

1. The responsibility of the LORD – God is blamed

- Filled me with bitterness
- Sated me with wormwood
- Made teeth grind on gravel
- Made me cower in ashes

2. The response of the believer

- No peace – It is absent, nowhere near
- No happiness – It is forgotten, a distant memory

3. The result of the situation

- My enduring is destroyed (Hebrew “abad” – annihilated, wiped out)
- And my hope (Hebrew “tohelet” – expectation of the future) from Yahweh (the LORD)

The _____: Our Hope is _____

Lamentations 3:19-22 - *Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall! ²⁰ My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me. ²¹ But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: ²² The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

1. The remembrance that brings _____

- Jeremiah asks God or his readers to remember what he has been through. The afflictions, the wanderings, the wormwood and gall
- Literally – Remembering I remember
- And it brings me down

2. The remembrance that brings _____

- This I call to mind and thus I have hope
- There is a promise that produces hope

Steadfast Love

Hebrew “Hesed” - A love or affection that is steadfast based on a prior relationship. The LORD’s royal, loyal love.

Exodus 34:6 - *The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness....*

Its character

- The LORD’s steadfast love never is ending
- His compassions - the state or condition of giving favor, never finishes

Its comparison - New every morning – Literally “New at the first breaking forth of light”

Its confession - Great is Your faithfulness – Trustworthiness

Lamentations 3:31-32 - *For the Lord will not cast off forever,
³² but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the
abundance of his steadfast love....*

The _____ : Our Hope is _____

Lamentations 3:24-27- *“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait for
him, to the soul who seeks him.²⁶ It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.²⁷ It is good for a man that he bear the yoke
in his youth.*

1. The LORD is my _____

- The LORD is my portion – Literally, the LORD is my Reward (Heb. “heleq”)
- Jeremiah is not looking for something or someone else – The LORD is enough
- Therefore I will hope in Him – note the choice

2. The LORD is my _____

a. Good is the LORD

- To the one waiting
- To the soul seeking after

b. Good it is to wait eagerly for the deliverance, victory, salvation of Yahweh, the LORD, in silence

c. Good it is to bear the yoke in his youth

Lamentations 1:14 - *“My transgressions were bound into a yoke; by his hand they were fastened together; they were set upon my neck; he caused my strength to fail; the Lord gave me into the hands of those whom I cannot withstand.*

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE

LAMENTATIONS 3: 22-23

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