

HOPE IN GOD

PSALM
43:5

Sunday Morning, March 3, 2024 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

Message Title: Hope in Lamentation

Message Text: Lamentation 3:19-26

Introduction

We live in a culture where anything that makes you sad or unhappy is considered a bad thing. Our culture reacts when God's truth confronts their sin. When facing the consequences of that sin, our culture blames God and others for their situation. Sadly, sometimes we do as well. This certainly was the case in Jeremiah's day. Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, penned the poetic words of this book as an expression of sorrow in the midst of the Babylonian captivity. Israel had been rebellious against God and so God allowed them to be conquered and taken captive. These consequences for their sin brought sorrow. A sense of despair and hopelessness overwhelmed their souls. That would be expected! Yet, in the middle of this book of laments, Jeremiah expresses beautiful hope in God. Considering this passage will help us find meaning, hope and practical steps forward when facing the chastening of God.

1. The _____ of God's People (19-20)

DEFINITION—CHASTENING: discipline; the imposition of painful consequences or other disadvantages upon someone for their disobedience as part of a process of improving someone's character or actions.

A. They were a _____ People (19)

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

DEFINITION—AFFLICTION: a cause of great suffering and distress; oppressed situation; poverty; captivity.

Lamentations 3:1 I am the man that hath seen affliction by the rod of his wrath.

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sermon notes



Psalm 119:75 I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, And that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY (2 Chronicles 36:14-21)

1st—605 B.C., King Jehoiakim (Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah taken prisoners)

2nd—597 B.C., King Jehoiachin (the temple looted; Ezekiel taken prisoner)

3rd—586 B.C., King Zedekiah (city destroyed)

REASONS FOR THEIR CAPTIVITY

The lack of knowledge of God's Word. (*Jeremiah 8:7*)

The wickedness of the prophets and priests. (*Lamentation 4:13*)

The killing of the just. (*Lamentation 4:13*)

The worship Baal and other idols. (*Jeremiah 11:10-17, 2 Chronicles 36:14*)

The neglect of the Sabbath day. (*2 Chronicles 36:21*)

WORMWOOD AND GALL — A bitter plant metaphorically reflecting sorrow and emotional bitterness —FSB

QUOTE: Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.

B. They were a _____ People (20)

Lamentations 3:20 My soul hath them still in remembrance, and is humbled in me.

DEFINITION—HUMBLED: to melt away; brought down

NOTE — Lamentations is a book of five poems of lament penned by the prophet Jeremiah.

Lamentations 3:17-18 And thou hast removed my soul far off from peace: I forgot prosperity. 18 And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the Lord:

Psalm 137:1 By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, When we remembered Zion.

GODLY SORROW ≠ WORLDLY SORROW (*see 2 Corinthians 7:9-11*)

2. A _____ of God's Character (21-24)

Lamentations 3:21 This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.

A. He Contemplated God's _____ (22-23)

Lamentations 3:22-23 It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.

LORD — YAWEH (_____ times in the Bible)

DEFINITION—MERCIES: loyal love; an unfailing kind of love, kindness, or goodness; often used of God's love that is related to faithfulness to his covenant.

DEFINITION—CONSUMED: to have an end, in a temporal, spatial, or quantitative sense; either spatial or metaphorical.

DEFINITION—COMPASSIONS: a deep awareness of and sympathy for another's suffering.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Psalms 86:15 But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

NOTE — The demands of *God's mercy and truth* were satisfied at Calvary in the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ and sealed in His bodily resurrection.

B. He Contemplated God's _____ (24)

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

DEFINITION—PORTION: a person's lot in life; including everything that happens to a person.

Psalms 73:26 My flesh and my heart faileth: But God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

THEREFORE WILL I = a deliberate choice based on God's character

DEFINITION—HOPE: to wait (in place); to stay in one place and anticipate or expect something.

Psalm 130:7 Let Israel hope in the Lord: For with the Lord there is mercy, And with him is plenteous redemption.

3. A _____ in God's Goodness (25-26)

A. Toward those Who _____ in Him (25a)

Lamentations 3:25a The Lord is good unto them that wait for him...

DEFINITION—WAIT: to hope (in someone); to have trust or confidence in someone; especially as regards the future.

WHERE IS YOUR HOPE TODAY?

B. Toward those Who _____ Him (25b-26)

Lamentations 3:25b-26 The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. 26 It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.

NOTE — What ever cause me to seek the Lord is ultimately good for me.

NOTE — God allow His people to be taken out of their homeland to live in captivity for 70 years so that they would seek Him again.

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. 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. 12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. 13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. 14 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.

See Jeremiah 24-29

Conclusion

Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.



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