

02 – Lamentations 3:1-66 – Hope springs from truth rehearsed

What truths about God are you soaking yourself in?

... the purpose of the book

- unrepentant rejection of God
- showing us how to understand and process the deep impact of grief that can hit us at any time

A man traumatised by God's righteous judgement

Psalm 23 ... God's rod like a shepherds rod ... comforting

Lam 3 - God's rod bringing God's wrath to bear... on him.

... we can cry out to God in anguish, in pain, in confusion, out of sense that God has forsaken us.

A man who remembers hope

Lam 3:21

... actively recalls the truths about God that he has previously soaked himself in.

... what are the truths about God that bring this hope?

Lam 3:22-33 (page 1251)

22 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

24 I say to myself, 'The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.'

25 The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him;

26 it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

27 It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young.

28 Let him sit alone in silence, for the Lord has laid it on him.

29 Let him bury his face in the dust – there may yet be hope.

30 Let him offer his cheek to one who would strike him, and let him be filled with disgrace.

31 For no one is cast off by the Lord for ever.

32 Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love.

33 For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone.

... hugely misrepresented and taken out of context.

Slide 1 – false context images

Slide 2 – Right context images

... but because of God's great love we are not consumed,

... I force myself to remember

- “God is compassionate”.
- “His compassions are new every morning”
- “God is faithful”.

v 31, no one is cast off by the Lord forever.

... God’s massive judgement is still overwhelming,

For us today

... a wrong response to grief

- to turn away from God
- to bottle it up
- If your cause of lament is due to sin then a failure to repent

1) God is merciful and his compassion does not cease in a broken world

... not something he feels but something he knows to be true.

Do you think like this?

2) Things happen according to God’s timetable so we must learn to wait

Lam 3:26 ... it is good for people to wait.

3) The best is yet to come.

... suffering and pain do not win in the end.

See Revelation 21

Lamentations 3:31... no one is cast off by the Lord forever.

4) God’s goodness can always be trusted

God does not delight in the grief that sin causes in this world.

Instead he rescues us from sin