

The Lord's Compassion Never Fails!

July 1, 2018 – Lamentations 3:22-26

“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him. The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him; It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.”

Do you like poetry?

The book of Lamentations is poetry, penned by the prophet Jeremiah who is sometimes referred to as The Weeping Prophet. Jeremiah’s ministry went from about 627 B.C. – 585 B.C. (42 years of Ministry.) He saw Jerusalem conquered.

Jeremiah was lamenting because Judah had done evil in the eyes of the Lord and God was going to send the enemy army of the Babylonians, from the region of present day Iran / Iraq, to carry Judah into captivity.

The book of Lamentation is a form of *Acrostic* Poetry. Lamentations consists of 5 chapters, and of those, 4 are Acrostic, that is an Alphabet poetry. This means that each verse or group of verses begin with the Hebrew letter in Alphabetical order.

An example in English would be:

Allen ran to school.

Ben studied hard.

Carol stayed home.

There are 22 letters in the Hebrew Alphabet and chapters 1-2-4 have 22 verses with each verse beginning with one of the letters of the Hebrew Alphabet.

Chapter 3 has 66 verses. It is divided into groups of 3 verses with each of the three verses beginning with the Hebrew Alphabet.

In this sense, the book of Lamentations is similar to Psalm 119 which is an *Acrostic* Psalm.

For anyone who is interested the Hebrew Alphabet is given below:

The Hebrew Alphabet - (Aleph) א -; (Beth) ב -; (Gimel) ג -; (Daleth) ד -; (He) ה -; (Waw) ו -; (Zayin) ז -; (**Heth**) ח -; (**Teth**) ט -; (Yodh) י -; (Kaph) כ -; (Lamedh) ל -; (Mem) מ -; (Nun) נ -; (Samekh) ס -; (Ayin) ע -; (Pe) פ -; (Tsadhe) צ -; (Qoph) ק -; (Resh) ר -; (Sin / Shin) ש -; (Tav) ת -;

In the opening five verses of Lamentations chapter one, we read the following words:

Vs. 1 - *How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations! She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave. **Vs. 2** – Bitterly she weeps at night, tears are upon her cheeks. Among all her lovers there is none to comfort her. All her friends have betrayed her; they have become her enemies.*

Vs. 3 – *After affliction and harsh labor, **JUDAH has gone into exile.** She dwells among the nations; she finds no resting place. All who pursue her have overtaken her in the midst of her distress.*

Vs. 4 – *The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to her appointed fests. All her gateways are desolate, her priests groan, her maidens grieve, and she is in bitter anguish.*

Vs. 5 – *Her foes have become her masters; her enemies are at ease. The Lord has brought her grief because of her many sins. Her children have gone into exile, captive before the foe.*”

This leads us to ask the question: Why will and has Judah gone into Exile?

The answer is because Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord!

An example of what was happening in Judah can be found in the following section of Scripture:

II Kings 21:1-6 – **“Manasseh – king of Jerusalem – did evil in the eyes of the Lord, following the detestable practices of the nations which the Lord had driven out before the Israelites.... He sacrificed his own son in the fire, practiced sorcery and divination, and consulted mediums and spiritists. Provoking the Lord to anger”** 697 B.C.

It was this type of spiritual depravation that resulted in the Lord allowing Jerusalem to fall to the Babylonians on August 14, 586 B.C. as is recorded in II Kings 24:20; 25:1-20.

The king of the Babylonians at the time was King Nebuchadnezzar and his commander was a man by the name of–Nebuzaradan.

The Lord allowed this to happen as a form of discipline. The Lord wanted His people to return to Him.

It is in the midst of this book of Lament, that we have the comforting words of the Lord as recorded in the text for this sermon:

*“Because of the Lord’s great **love** we are not consumed, for His **compassions** never fail. They are new every morning; great is your **faithfulness**. I say to myself, The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him. The Lord is **good** to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him; It is good to wait quietly for the **salvation** of the Lord.”*

And so God’s Love never fails. The Lord God preserved a remnant from the tribe of Judah and it is this remnant of Judah from which the Savior would come.

God was watching out for all mankind and was guiding the events of the world for the benefit of all people.

Despite the evil of the people of Judah and of all the world, God still won heaven for them, for us, for you and I.

“God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.” (Gal. 4:4-5)

You have Salvation in Christ Jesus.

You have life now, and you have eternal life in heaven. AMEN