

Learning to Lament
3. Great is Thy Faithfulness (Lamentations 3v1-33)

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Introduction

- Different pictures?
- The **climax** of Lamentations

No hope! (v1-20)

- *“My splendour has gone and all that I had hoped for...”*

The beginning of hope (v21)

Reasons for hope (v22-23)

- God's great love
- God's compassions
- God's faithfulness

The experience of hope (v24-33)

- Waiting
- Seeking
- Confidence

Conclusion

Lamentations 3v1-33 (NIV)

- ¹ I am the man who has seen affliction
by the rod of the LORD'S wrath.
- ² He has driven me away and made me walk
in darkness rather than light;
- ³ indeed, he has turned his hand against me
again and again, all day long.
- ⁴ He has made my skin and my flesh grow old
and has broken my bones.
- ⁵ He has besieged me and surrounded me
with bitterness and hardship.
- ⁶ He has made me dwell in darkness
like those long dead.
- ⁷ He has walled me in so I cannot escape;
he has weighed me down with chains.
- ⁸ Even when I call out or cry for help,
he shuts out my prayer.
- ⁹ He has barred my way with blocks of stone;
he has made my paths crooked.
- ¹⁰ Like a bear lying in wait,
like a lion in hiding,
- ¹¹ he dragged me from the path and mangled me
and left me without help.
- ¹² He drew his bow
and made me the target for his arrows.

¹³ He pierced my heart

with arrows from his quiver.

¹⁴ I became the laughingstock of all my people;

they mock me in song all day long.

¹⁵ He has filled me with bitter herbs

and given me gall to drink.

¹⁶ He has broken my teeth with gravel;

he has trampled me in the dust.

¹⁷ I have been deprived of peace;

I have forgotten what prosperity is.

¹⁸ So I say, "My splendor is gone

and all that I had hoped from the LORD."

¹⁹ I remember my affliction and my wandering,

the bitterness and the gall.

²⁰ I well remember them,

and my soul is downcast within me.

²¹ Yet this I call to mind

and therefore I have hope:

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 forever.

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.