Faith: Tested and True

YHWH is Good to Those Who Wait for Him
Lesson 6
Lamentations 3

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
July 12, 2020
Lamentations

- A funeral song in a chiastic structure
  - C: Lamentations 1 – Looking at fallen Zion
  - B: Lamentations 2 – YHWH is trying to destroy His people
    - A: Lamentations 3 – YHWH’S lovingkindness, compassion, faithfulness
    - B’: Lamentations 4 – YHWH accomplished His wrath
    - C’: Lamentations 5 – A call for YHWH to look at fallen Zion and restore it

- History: Destruction of Jerusalem, the Temple, and the Law
  - The nation Israel is the central story of the Old Testament
  - A lesson about the ways of God in salvation
Lamentations 3

- A personal lament
- Acrostic – Each verse begins with a consecutive letter of the alphabet
- Each line of each verse consists of paired statements
- Each verse has 1 pair (Lam. 5), 2 pairs (Lam. 4), or 3 pairs (Lam. 1 and 2)
- Lamentations 3 - single pair for each verse; each alphabet letter occurs 3 times
- Outline
  - Jeremiah laments his suffering (3:1-18)
  - Jeremiah remembers YHWH (3:19-39)
  - Jeremiah looks again at his suffering (3:40-54)
  - Jeremiah remembers YHWH in his suffering (3:55-66)
Jeremiah Laments His Suffering (3:1-18)

- **ALEPH (1-3)**
  - The severity of his suffering – because of the rod of His wrath
- **BET (4-6)**
  - Physical suffering – weight loss and pain – bitterness and hardship – the living dead
- **GIMEL (7-9)**
  - The silence of God – no way to get help – his way out is a maze
- **DALET (10-12)**
  - God seems actively against him – animals lie in wait – God Himself is the hunter
- **HE (13-15)**
  - The injury from God – to his “kidneys” – he is a joke to people
  - He is filled with bitterness – wormwood
- **VAV (16-18)**
  - Total physical humiliation – No peace, happiness, strength, hope
  - First mention of YHWH
Jeremiah Remembers YHWH (3:19-39)

- **ZAYIN (19-21)**
  - He remembers and has hope

- **CHET (22-24)**
  - YHWH’S lovingkindness never ceases
  - YHWH’S compassion never fails
  - YHWH’S faithfulness is great
  - The name which reveals that the Most High Lord God is Savior (Exodus 34:5-7)
  - YHWH is my portion – the priest’s inheritance – his hope
  - Jeremiah remembers the character of His God
Jeremiah Remembers YHWH (3:19-39)

- **TET (25-27)**
  - YHWH is good to those who wait for, seek, and wait silently for the salvation of YHWH

- **YOD (28-30)**
  - Alone and silent – suffer willingly (Isa 50:6; Matt 26:65; 27:30)

- **KAF (31-33)**
  - Suffering limited by lovingkindness – no pleasure for God (Ezekiel 18:23)

- **LAMED (34-36)**
  - Most High Lord God does not approve of injustice

- **MEM (37-39)**
  - The Most High orders both good and calamity
  - No mortal, sinful man has the right to question God
Jeremiah Looks Again at His Suffering (3:40-54)

- **NUN (40-42)**
  - A call to self examination and worship – return to YHWH – repent

- **SAMEK (43-45) and PE (46-48)**
  - A God of wrath against sin – Jeremiah weeps for the destruction of Israel

- **AYIN (49-51)**
  - His grief is intense but he waits for YHWH to look down from heaven on them

- **TSADE (52-54)**
  - He remembers his own suffering without cause – “I am cut off”
Jeremiah Remembers YHWH in Suffering (3:55-66)

- **QOF (55-57)**
  - He calls on the NAME of YHWH – SAVIOR – from the lowest pit
  - He hears, He draws near, He comforts

- **RESH (58-60)**
  - YHWH is his advocate – His Redeemer – the Judge of his adversaries

- **SHIN (61-63)**
  - YHWH hears and sees his enemies

- **TAV (64-66)**
  - YHWH will come as judge of the wicked and destroy them
  - Matt 5:43-44 – pray for those who persecute you
  - Eph 6:12 – we do not struggle against flesh and blood . . .
YHWH is Good to Those Who Wait for Him

- Wait silently for the salvation of YHWH
- The priority of knowing God – His character and His ways
- The blessing of the life of Christ (Hebrews 4:14-16)
- Lamentations 3:22-24 – the faith of Jeremiah and all believers