

# **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