

Continuing Tears (Lamentations 3v34-66)

Background

Lamentations contains five related laments about the fall of Jerusalem in 586BC. In chapters 1 and 2, Jeremiah describes the sorrow of Jerusalem and the fierceness of God's anger. In chapter 3, Jeremiah's tears continue to flow.

Questions

In verses 1-33, Jeremiah remembered God's compassion. In verses 34-66, Jeremiah remembers God's justice.

- > What does God look at disapprovingly (34-36)? What does he control (37-39)? What does Jeremiah urge God's people to do (40-42)?

The people of Jerusalem cried out to God but he did not restore them. They seemed to be the lowest of the nations; they were mocked by their enemies; and they were afraid (45-47).

- > If their prayers were not being heard (or so it seemed), what was the only thing left for them to do (48-51)?

In verses 52-63, Jeremiah either remembers God's help in the past or he continues to call out for help. Then, in verses 64-66, he calls on God to punish their enemies.

- > Was it right for Jeremiah to want justice to be done? Did God answer Jeremiah's prayers?

At the end of this chapter, Jeremiah is still weeping. But one day, his weeping would come to an end. Jesus died to deal with his sorrows and ours (Isaiah 53v4).

Application

We may have to endure many days of weeping but we should never lose sight of what our Saviour has done. "Weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning" (Psalm 30v4).

Lamentations 3v34-66

¹I am the man who has seen affliction
by the rod of His wrath...

²²Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed,
Because His compassions fail not.

²³They are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.

²⁴"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"Therefore I hope in Him!"

³⁴To crush under one's feet
All the prisoners of the earth,

³⁵To turn aside the justice due a man
Before the face of the Most High,

³⁶Or subvert a man in his cause—
The Lord does not approve.

³⁷Who is he who speaks and it comes to pass,
When the Lord has not commanded it?...

⁴⁰Let us search out and examine our ways,
And turn back to the Lord...

⁴⁹My eyes flow and do not cease,
Without interruption,

⁵⁰Till the Lord from heaven
Looks down and sees.

⁵¹My eyes bring suffering to my soul
Because of all the daughters of my city...

⁶⁴Repay them, O Lord,
According to the work of their hands.

⁶⁵Give them a veiled heart;
Your curse be upon them!

⁶⁶In Your anger, pursue and destroy them
From under the heavens of the Lord.