

THE NEW GRACE

A close-up photograph of a wheat field. The sun is rising directly behind a central stalk of wheat, creating a bright, glowing effect. The wheat stalks are green and have long, thin awns. The background is a soft, golden-yellow light from the sun, which is slightly out of focus.

LAMENTATIONS 3

Rev. Alan Yin

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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.

Hebrew Culture of Lamenting

1. Chapter 1, 2, 4 start with the same Hebrew word which means a sound of sigh.
2. Hebrew expressing of their sorrows are total different from Western and Eastern culture.

The Western culture likes to analyze everything;

The Eastern culture like to suppress their feelings and emotions;

The Hebrew culture would morn bitterly, weeping, crying, sighing, torning cloths, singing lamenting songs before God

3. Lamentations shows us another way of expressing our sorrows and sufferings.



HE - GOD

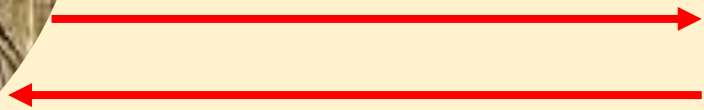
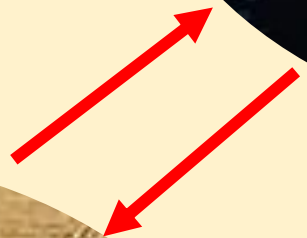
I - Jeremiah



She - Jerusalem



**Three
protagonists
in
Lamentations**



Chapter One: She (Jerusalem) Her Sufferings



Chapter 2: He (GOD) His Judgment



Chapter 3: I (Jeremiah) My sufferings and our new grace



Chapter 4: Their/Ours sufferings



Chapter 5: Our prayers





Chapter 3: My sufferings and God's new Grace



Chapter 4 : we repent

Chapter 5 : we pray



Two Literacy Characters of Lamentations:

1. Relatively long verses;
2. Supplement to the long ones;

Example :

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. (Lamentations 1:1)

Last part of the verse one in red is the supplemental part.

**I remember my affliction and my wandering,
the bitterness and the gall.**

**I well remember them,
and my soul is downcast within me.**

**Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope.**

(Lamentations 3:19-21)

The Answer for Jeremiah's Bitter/Sweet

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.

(Lamentations 3:22-23)

God's covenant love

I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness. (Jer 31:3)

The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. (Jer 31:31, 33)

The Faithfulness of God

(Two Characters of Faithfulness)

God is faithful, he will save!

Is your love declared in the grave, your faithfulness in Destruction? (Ps 88:11)

God is faithful, he will judge!

They will sing before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth. (Ps 96:13)

The New Grace

(Lamentations 3:19-27)

1. Learn to lament and sigh where was in suffering
 - a. Sighing is characteristic of Lamentations
 - b. Sighing is characteristic of Hebrew culture
 - c. We need to sigh for ourselves, for our children, for brothers and sisters

The New Grace

(Lamentations 3:19-27)

2. Learn to connect in the midst of suffering
 - a. The three roles of Lamentations: Nation (Jerusalem), individual (Jeremiah), and God
 - b. Characters in the five chapters of Lamentations :
 - i. Chapter 1: The nation – She (Jerusalem), the suffering of Jerusalem
 - ii. Chapter 2: God – He, the judgment of Jehovah
 - iii. Chapter 3: The Person – Jeremiah (I and God (3:1-39), We and God 3:40-66), My Suffering and God's New Grace
 - iv. Chapter 4, The Nation – They, we (Jerusalem, Jeremiah), our abuses
 - v. Chapter 5, The Nation – We (Jerusalem, Jeremiah), our supplication
 - c. Jeremiah is a connection in suffering, a connection between God and men for the new grace!

The New Grace

(Lamentations 3:19-27)

3. Learn to experience new grace in God's faithfulness (3:19-27)
 - a. Literary characteristics of lamentations: short sentences after long sentences, supplementary enhancement after long ones;
 - b. A turn of despair and hope in the midst of suffering
 - c. God's love, mercy: covenant love, eternal love
 - d. God's love and mercy is new every morning:
 - i. New in a new beginning; ii. New ends the over night of darkness; iii. New in life blessings
 - e. God's faithfulness:
 - i. Faithfulness in salvation; ii. Faithful in Judgment
 - iii. Love mercy expressed in both salvation and judgment



Questions



- 1. Find out how the long and short verses in Lamentations 3:19-27 mean for our understanding of the text**
- 2. What are some things in your life today that you should sigh but have not yet sighed about?**
- 3. What is the key to the new grace in our suffering today?**
- 4. What effect does weeping Jeremiah have on our prayers?
What improvements do we need in our prayers?**