

## Jeremiah's Suffering and Hope

Lamentations 3

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • December 22, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2019

### **Prelude:**

- I. As I read the whole poem,
  - A. remember to see what Jeremiah wanted you to see.
  - B. See the images.
  - C. Hear any sounds that he mentions.
  - D. Feel what he felt.
- II. A great city fell, but
  - A. now consider how one man suffered.
  - B. Also see the glimmers of hope that he shines forth.
- III. Remember the teaching of Jesus that those who mourn shall be comforted.

### **Persuasion:**

- I. 3.1–6 • Affliction in Darkness
  - A. The poet said that he walked in darkness and not in light.
    1. What do you think he meant by that?
    2. What is it like to walk in darkness?
    3. How was what he suffered like walking in darkness?
  - B. Whose hand did the mourner think was against him?
    1. Why did he think that way?
    2. Jeremiah had not engaged in any of Jerusalem's sins, yet, he suffered their fate.
  - C. How did the poet depict his health?
  - D. What surrounded him?
  - E. The darkness that he experienced at that time he compared to what?
- II. 3.7–9 • God Trapped the Poet

- A. How did he describe his situation?
- B. Did he believe that God heard and answered his prayer?
- C. What lay before him making it impossible for him to move on?
- D. What is he picturing in these three verses?

III. 3.10–15 • The Prophet Personally Attacked

- A. He compared his suffering what kind of predators?
  - 1. Whatever way he went, someone attacked him.
  - 2. What would a bear or lion attack be like?
- B. He pictures how he felt in verse 11.
- C. What kind of weapon did he picture God using against him?
- D. How did the people treat the prophet?
- E. With what had he been filled and what had he drunk?

IV. 3.16–18 • Final Picture of the Prophet's Suffering

- A. What would it be like to have gravel in your mouth?
- B. What would it be like to be covered with ashes?
- C. He had been moved away from what?
- D. What did he say had perished?

V. 3.19–21 • Asks God to Remember

- A. Here this poem takes a turn.
- B. He asked God to remember him and then he realized that he did have what?

VI. 3.22–33 • Hope

- A. What did Jeremiah say kept them from not being consumed?
- B. How often do the Lord's compassions become new?
- C. Notice now in verse 24 that Jeremiah now had hope.
  - 1. You can understand what he said that his hope was gone.

2. However, he thought on it more and realized that there are signs of hope everyday, starting with every morning.

D. According to verses 25 and 26 what should we do?

1. We often think that we have to do something, and there are plenty of times in life when we should do something.
2. However, other times show that we cannot do anything, that our situation is out of our control, and it is then that we must wait on the Lord.

E. What then should a man bear in his youth?

F. In what ways do verses 28–30 picture waiting?

G. For how long does the Lord cast off? (vv. 31–33)

### VII.3.34–36 • The Lord's Disapproval

A. What things does the Lord not approve? (vv 34–36)

B. Why do you think Jeremiah mentioned these things in the midst of the out-pouring of his personal suffering and his pointing out of hope?

C. Did he refer to the Babylonians or to his own brethren who had done these things perhaps?

### VIII.3.37–42 • A Little Preaching

A. Verse 37 could be a reminder to the survivors that their prophets had failed them because the Lord had not sent them.

1. What they experienced and saw at the hands of the Babylonians was the result of believing those prophets.
2. Beware of false prophets today who keep predicting the end and have failed every time.

B. What proceeds from the mouth of the Most High?

1. Should we not listen to Him then?
2. Why listen to all these other prophets of error whether of religions or political things?

C. Should we complain for the punishment of our sins?

1. If we should not, what should we do?

2. In verses 40–42, the prophet revealed what we should do.

3. What should we do?

- a) Examine yourself
- b) Turn back to the Lord
- c) Lift hearts and hands to God
- d) Confess

IX. 3.43–45 • God Has Hidden Himself

- A. What had God covered Himself with?
- B. He used that covering for what?
- C. What kept their prayers from going through to Him?
- D. What had they become in the midst of the peoples?

X. 3.46–51 • Tears

- A. What had their enemies opened against them?
- B. What then came upon the Jews?
- C. With what did Jeremiah overflow?
- D. Did his eyes cease the flowing?
- E. How long would his tears flow?
- F. How did his eyes bring suffering to his soul?

XI. 3.52–57 • Life in the Pit

- A. Did the enemy have any cause of hunting down Jerusalem?
  - 1. From the perspective of the enemy nations, Jerusalem had not attacked them.
  - 2. They had no personal reason for attacking.
- B. What is the picture in verses 53 and 54?
- C. What did Jeremiah do from the lowest pit?
- D. What did God say?

XII.3.58–66 • A Plea Against the Enemy

- A. What had the Lord seen?
- B. What had the Lord heard?
- C. What did Jeremiah want the Lord to give to the enemy?

**Life Lessons:**

- I. When you suffer call upon the Lord.
- II. Do not fear to express your full emotions either to God or to man.
- III. Lay out all your problems before the Lord.