

Lamentations 3:1-66 **Jeremiah's Anguish In The Service Of Yahweh**

Jeremiah Feels Personal Affliction as he follows the commandments of Yahweh

- 1 I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of His wrath.
- 2 He has led me and made me walk In darkness and not in light.
- 3 Surely He has turned His hand against me Time and time again throughout the day.
- 4 He has aged my flesh and my skin, And broken my bones.
- 5 He has besieged me And surrounded me with bitterness and woe.
- 6 He has set me in dark places Like the dead of long ago.
- 7 He has hedged me in so that I cannot get out; He has made my chain heavy.
- 8 Even when I cry and shout, He shuts out my prayer.
- 9 He has blocked my ways with hewn stone; He has made my paths crooked.
- 10 He has been to me a bear lying in wait, Like a lion in ambush.
- 11 He has turned aside my ways and torn me in pieces; He has made me desolate.
- 12 He has bent His bow And set me up as a target for the arrow.
- 13 He has caused the arrows of His quiver To pierce my loins.
- 14 I have become the ridicule of all my people — Their taunting song all the day.
- 15 He has filled me with bitterness, He has made me drink wormwood.
- 16 He has also broken my teeth with gravel, and covered me with ashes.
- 17 You have moved my soul far from peace; I have forgotten prosperity.
- 18 And I said, "My strength and my hope Have perished from Yahweh (the Lord)."
- 19 Remember my affliction and roaming, The wormwood and the gall.
- 20 My soul still remembers And sinks within me.

Hope restored by remembering the faithful mercies of Yahweh

- 21 This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope.
- 22 Through Yahweh (the Lord) mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.
- 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.
- 24 "Yahweh (the Lord) is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"
- 25 Yahweh (the Lord) is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him.

Waiting quietly for the Salvation of Yahweh

- 26 It is good that one should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of Yahweh (the Lord).
- 27 It is good for a man to bear The yoke in his youth.
- 28 Let him sit alone and keep silent, Because God has laid it on him;
- 29 Let him put his mouth in the dust — There may yet be hope.
- 30 Let him give his cheek to the one who strikes him, And be full of reproach.

There is a limit and end to the Wrath of Yahweh which renews Hope

- 31 For Adoney (the Lord) will not cast off forever.
- 32 Though He causes grief, Yet He will show compassion According to the multitude of His mercies.
- 33 For He does not afflict willingly, Nor grieve the children of men.
- 34 To crush under one's feet All the prisoners of the earth,
- 35 To turn aside the justice due a man Before the face of the Most High,
- 36 Or subvert a man in his cause — Adoney (the Lord) does not approve.

Woe and well-being both come from the mouth of the Most High

37 Who is he who speaks and it comes to pass, When Adoney (the Lord) has not commanded it?
38 Is it not from the mouth of the Most High That woe and well-being proceed?

Call to Repentance

39 Why should a living man complain, A man for the punishment of his sins?
40 Let us search out and examine our ways, And turn back to Yahweh (the Lord);
41 Let us lift our hearts and hands To El (God) in heaven.

Israel's sins have turned Yahweh's face away in His anger so He does not hear their prayers.

42 We have transgressed and rebelled; You have not pardoned.
43 You have covered Yourself with anger And pursued us; You have slain and not pitied.
44 You have covered Yourself with a cloud, That prayer should not pass through.
45 You have made us an offscouring and refuse In the midst of the peoples.

Jeremiah's sorrow and grief

46 All our enemies Have opened their mouths against us.
47 Fear and a snare have come upon us, Desolation and destruction.
48 My eyes overflow with rivers of water For the destruction of the daughter of my people.
49 My eyes flow and do not cease, Without interruption,
50 Till Yahweh (the Lord) from heaven Looks down and sees.

51 My eyes bring suffering to my soul Because of all the daughters of my city.
52 My enemies without cause Hunted me down like a bird.
53 They silenced my life in the pit And threw stones at me.
54 The waters flowed over my head; I said, "I am cut off!"

Jeremiah prayed and Yahweh heard his plea

55 I called on Your name, O Yahweh (Lord), From the lowest pit.
56 You have heard my voice: "Do not hide Your ear From my sighing, from my cry for help."
57 You drew near on the day I called on You, And said, "Do not fear!"
58 O Adoney (Lord), You have pleaded the case for my soul; You have redeemed my life.
59 O Yahweh (Lord), You have seen how I am wronged; Judge my case.

Prayer for retribution against his enemies

60 You have seen all their vengeance, All their schemes against me.
61 You have heard their reproach, O Yahweh (Lord), All their schemes against me,
62 The lips of my enemies And their whispering against me all the day.
63 Look at their sitting down and their rising up; I am their taunting song.
64 Repay them, O Yahweh (Lord), According to the work of their hands.
65 Give them a veiled heart; Your curse be upon them!
66 In Your anger, Pursue and destroy them From under the heavens of Yahweh (the Lord).
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

☆ [Jeremiah Feels Personal Affliction following the commandments of Yahweh](#) [[Jeremiah 3:1-20](#)]

- ✧ Jeremiah has seen the affliction of the people and city of Jerusalem as Yahweh poured out His wrath upon a sinful people and city because of their constant unfaithfulness.
- ✧ Jeremiah has experienced personal affliction as he presented the warnings Yahweh gave him concerning coming and present judgment and the people rejected his warning choosing to attack the messenger instead of turning to Yahweh in repentance.
- ✧ Jeremiah feels trapped in his situation and that Yahweh does not hear his prayers.
- ✧ It is as though Yahweh has become his enemy.
- ✧ The people ridicule and taunt him mercilessly.
- ✧ O that Yahweh would remember his affliction and agony.
- ✧ **Hope restored by remembering the faithful mercies of Yahweh** [Lamentations 3:21-25]
 - ✧ In the midst of lamentations over the struggle of spirit as Jeremiah experiences anguish and rejection, still he draws hope by remembering Yahweh's mercies and compassion that are renewed every morning and the knowledge of Yahweh's great faithfulness.
 - ✧ Jeremiah experiences great hope as he looks to Yahweh as his reward, knowing that Yahweh is good to those who wait on His timing and seek Him wholeheartedly.
 - ✧ True faith in Yahweh brings great hope in the midst of adversity.
- ✧ **Waiting quietly for the Salvation of Yahweh** [Lamentations 3:26-30]
 - ✧ It is right to wait quietly on Yahweh for Salvation, to bear the burden laid on him by the Most High, to humbly accept the things Yahweh allows into one's life.
 - ✧ Job declared the same attitude and received a rich reward. [Job 2:10, 42:9-10, 12-17]
- ✧ **There is a limit and end to the Wrath of Yahweh which renews Hope.** [Lamentations 3:31-36]
 - ✧ The word Adoney replaces Yahweh for verses 31-37.
 - ✧ Adoney does not cast off forever, but after grief He will show compassion according to His great mercies.
 - ✧ Yahweh does not afflict or grieve the children of men willingly but seeks to call them to repentance. Peter worded it this way, " The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**" [2 Peter 3:9, Ezekiel 18:32, 33:11]
 - ✧ Adoney does not approve of any to crush underfoot all prisoners of the earth, nor turning aside the justice due a man, nor to undermine a man in his cause.
- ✧ **Woe and well-being both come from the mouth of the Most High** [Lamentations 3:37-38]
 - ✧ If Adoney has not spoken, the message will not come to pass.
 - ✧ Woe and well-being both spring from the mouth of the Most High as He speaks of punishment for sin and blessings for obedience and for repentance.
- ✧ **Call to Repentance** [Lamentations 3:39-41]
 - ✧ Jeremiah's question and advise to the people:
 - ✧ Why should a person complain for the punishment of his sins?
 - ✧ Let us examine our ways, repent and turn back to Yahweh.
 - ✧ Then lift our hearts and hands to El in Heaven.
- ✧ **Israel's sins have turned Yahweh's face away in His anger so He does not hear their prayers.** [Lamentations 3:42-45]
 - ✧ Jeremiah, as a good prophet, associates himself with the sins of the people acknowledging the consequences of their rebellion against Yahweh.
- ✧ **Jeremiah's sorrow and grief** [Lamentations 3:46-54]
 - ✧ Jeremiah sees his grief for the destruction of his people continuing until Yahweh has compassion on them.
 - ✧ Jeremiah's has been hunted like a bird as his enemies sought to silence him, he was thrown into a pit and they threw stones at him till he felt cut off.

- ☆ **Jeremiah prayed and Yahweh heard his plea** [[Lamentations 3:55-59](#)]
 - ◇ Jeremiah acknowledged that Yahweh heard his cry from the bottom of the pit.
 - ◇ Adoney has stood by Jeremiah's soul and redeemed his life.
 - ◇ Yahweh has seen how Jeremiah was wronged and has judged his case.
- ☆ **Prayer for retribution against his enemies** [[Lamentations 3:60-66](#)]
 - ◇ Yahweh has witnessed the persecution Jeremiah has faced from his enemies.
 - ◇ Jeremiah has called for Yahweh to bring vengeance for him against his enemies.