



### Getting Started

After reading the last two chapters you might be shocked at the sub-heading for this chapter. To experience the suffering and devastation outlined and discover that it was God behind it seems to naturally bring to mind other, less flattering directions to move. Yet, the author moves to recalling the faithfulness of God in the midst of all the carnage.

### Read the Text

Lamentations 3

### Understand the Text

1. Who is talking and what pronouns are being used?
2. What aspects of God's character and actions are outlined in verses 22 to 27?
3. What is the attitude of the author given these realities? (v.21)
4. What is the conviction of the author in verse 31 and following?
5. What does the author call the people to in verses 40 & 41?
6. The rest of the chapter is a prayer to the Lord. What are the components of it?

### Apply the Text

1. The reiteration of the personal experience of suffering at the beginning of the chapter can feel repetitive, but drives home the point that this suffering was not national, or simply theological. Where are you experiencing real, personal suffering, and how do these verses resonate?
2. The author reflects on the character and actions of God and finds hope. Do you find this to be true in your own life? Why or why not?
3. In the midst of all this suffering the call is to self-examine, return, and worship (v.40-41). What is surprising about this call? Where do you struggle to heed the author's call? Why?

4. The confidence of the author in his prayer is that God will make everything right and bring justice. Do you have this confidence that God will make everything right? What stops you from engaging with this as a reality?
5. What aspects of the gospel do you see this text pointing toward?

### Biblical Thread | Supplemental Reading

- Deuteronomy 7:6-9  
*The faithfulness and repayment of the Lord*
- Hosea 6:1  
*Returning to the Lord*
- Hosea 11:8  
*The anguish of the Lord in judgement*
- Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
*The suffering servant parallel*
- 1 Corinthians 1:9, 2 Thessalonians 3:3, Hebrews 10:23, 1 Peter 4:19  
*Promises all hinge on God's faithfulness*

### Conclusion

The faithfulness of God is present even in His wrath, even in our suffering, even when we cannot understand it. If He is not faithful to His Word, His character, and His purposes, we have absolutely no hope. Everything hinges on His faithfulness. When God outlines that He will punish those who disregard His Word, it would be catastrophic if He acted otherwise, because we could not have any confidence in the promises He extends for those who trust and believe. This is why, even in the midst of unthinkable suffering, the lamenter calls Israel to repent, return, and worship God.

### Weekly Corporate Lament: LOVE OF MONEY

*For putting our trust in money*