

“Jesus: Our Hope in the World”

Lamentations 3:21-26

Nigel Unrau, Lead Pastor • December 3, 2017

¹ Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrew 11:1

¹² ...*remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. Ephesians 2:12

²¹ This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope.

²² The LORD’s lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail.

²³ *They* are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

²⁴ “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I have hope in Him.”

²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him.

²⁶ *It is good* that he waits silently for the salvation of the LORD. Lamentations 3:21-26

¹ 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.

² She weeps bitterly in the night and her tears are on her cheeks;

She has none to comfort her among all her lovers. Lamentations 1:1-2a

¹⁵ All who pass along the way clap their hands *in derision* at you; They hiss and shake their heads at the daughter of Jerusalem, “Is this the city of which they said, ‘The perfection of beauty, a joy to all the earth?’” Lamentations 2:15

A. Looking for hope in all the wrong places.

1) Pursuing safety and security in the world rather than in God.

^{2b} All her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they have become her enemies. Lamentations 1:2b

³ Judah has gone into exile under affliction and under harsh servitude; She dwells among the nations, *but* she has found no rest; all her pursuers have overtaken her in the midst of distress. Lamentations 1:3

2) Preferring worldly wisdom over God’s revelation.

¹⁴ Your prophets have seen for you false and foolish *visions*; and they have not exposed your iniquity so as to restore you from captivity, but they have seen for you false and misleading oracles. Lamentations 2:14

¹³ “For from the least of them even to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for gain, and from the prophet even to the priest everyone deals falsely.

¹⁴ “They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ but there is no peace.

¹⁵ “Were they ashamed because of the abomination they have done? They were not even ashamed at all; they did not even know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they shall be cast down,” says the LORD.

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD, “Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk *in it*.’” Jeremiah 6:13-16

3) Turning to God for preservation rather than in repentance.

³⁹ Why should *any* living mortal, or *any* man, offer complaint in view of his sins?

⁴⁰ Let us examine and probe our ways, and let us return to the LORD.

⁴¹ We lift up our heart ^[c]and hands toward God in heaven;

⁴² We have transgressed and rebelled, You have not pardoned.

⁴³ You have covered *Yourself* with anger and pursued us; You have slain *and* have not spared.

⁴⁴ You have covered Yourself with a cloud so that no prayer can pass through. Lamentations 3:39-44

¹⁰ For the sorrow that is according to *the will of God* produces a repentance without regret, *leading* to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. 2 Corinthians 7:10

¹⁹ You, O LORD, rule forever; Your throne is from generation to generation.

²⁰ Why do You forget us forever? Why do You forsake us so long?

²¹ Restore us to You, O LORD, that we may be restored; renew our days as of old, Lamentations 5:19-21

²² Unless You have utterly rejected us *and* are exceedingly angry with us. Lamentations 5:22

B. The only reason for hope:

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²⁴ "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him."

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1) The person of God.

2) The character of God.

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. Hebrews 11:6

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:13

¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

¹⁸ He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God." John 3:17-21

Jeremiah 44