



2. The path of one who is seeking (Lamentations 3:26-32)
  - a. The good found in hope (Lamentations 3:26)
    - (1) Consider the conditions:
      - a) A promise of seventy years of Babylonian captivity
      - b) Little to no relief in the immediate
    - (2) The demonstration of expectation
      - a) Hope
      - b) Quietly wait
    - (3) The subject of expectation—"the salvation of the LORD"
      - a) This is not a look forward to a spiritual birth.
      - b) Instead, it is physical deliverance promised at the conclusion of the seventy years (Jeremiah 25:11-14).
    - (4) The effect of expectation—"It is good that a man"
      - a) These people had no immediate help or hope in sight.
      - b) However, to sit around and dwell on the problems and negativity was injurious to the people.
      - c) Instead, a look forward to the salvation to come was the only way they were going to make it through.
  - b. The good found in labour (Lamentations 3:27-30)
    - (1) The call to labour (Lamentations 3:27)
      - a) The nature of the labour
        - i) It is identified as a man bearing the yoke.
        - ii) The basic idea of a yoke is to tie together two or more for the purpose of unifying their labour.
      - b) The time of the labour
        - i) Specifically, the Bible indicates that the time for this yoke bearing was in one's youth.
        - ii) While that is a truth that remains true in a general sense, the greater point may have been that this labour was not to be put off by anyone.
        - iii) In other words, man is never going to be younger than he is right now. Bear the yoke now.
      - c) The effect of the labour—"It is good for a man"
    - (2) The benefits of this labour (Lamentations 3:28-30)
      - a) The safety and silence (Lamentations 3:28)
        - i) A labouring man afterward sits alone and keeps silence all because he has borne the yoke.
        - ii) The indication seems to be that he avoids much trouble and complaining by labour.
      - b) The submission and humility (Lamentations 3:29)
      - c) The meekness (Lamentations 3:30)
  - c. The good found in mercy (Lamentations 3:31-32)
    - (1) The forward look—"the Lord will not cast off for ever" (Lamentations 3:31).
    - (2) The present—"though he cause grief" (Lamentations 3:32)
    - (3) The forward look—"yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies" (Lamentations 3:32).



## C. The Disapproval of the LORD (Lamentations 3:33-36)

1. Willing affliction (Lamentations 3:33)
  - a. The origin—"he"; referring back to Lamentations 3:31; "the Lord"
  - b. The subject—"the children of men"
  - c. The act—"he doth not afflict willingly."
    - (1) The word *afflict* means to cast down or to strike.
    - (2) It is not God's ultimate desire and purpose in life to see men stricken or destroyed.
    - (3) This is not to say that He will not do it, but that it will always be as a result of man's action and never as an initial decision on the part of God.
2. Willing grief (Lamentations 3:33)
  - a. The origin—"he"; referring back to Lamentations 3:31; "the Lord"
  - b. The subject—"the children of men"
  - c. The act—"he doth not...willingly...grieve."
    - (1) The word *grieve* means to cause pain, to injure, or to cause to be sorrowful.
    - (2) At this point, it should be extremely obvious why we must understand the distinction made in the context.
      - a) In Lamentations 3:32, the Bible says, "though he cause grief."
      - b) In Lamentations 3:33, the Bible clarifies that He does not willingly grieve man.
      - c) In other words, grief comes from God to man only as a response to man's grieving of God.
3. Crushing (Lamentations 3:34)
  - a. The origin—"his"; referring back to Lamentations 3:31; "the Lord"
  - b. The subject—"the prisoners of the earth"
  - c. The act—"To crush under his feet"
    - (1) To crush
    - (2) Under His feet
4. Turning aside (Lamentations 3:35)
  - a. The origin—"the most High"
  - b. The subject—"a man"
  - c. The act—"To turn aside the right of a man before the face of the most High"
5. Subverting (Lamentations 3:36)
  - a. The origin—"the Lord"
  - b. The subject—"a man"
  - c. The act—"To subvert a man in his cause, the Lord approveth not"; to *subvert* means to overthrow.
6. The whole point of the passage was to remind man that the present conditions were not His desired choice (Leviticus 26:1-46). In doing so, the Lord also gave light as to the proper response man would give the corrections of the Lord.



### III. THE REPENTANT HEART (Lamentations 3:37-66)

#### A. A Proper Understanding (Lamentations 3:37-41)

1. The improper response (Lamentations 3:37-39)
  - a. The vanity of positive speaking (Lamentations 3:37)
    - (1) The obvious nature of the question
      - a) Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass?
      - b) When the Lord commandeth it not?
    - (2) The point of the question
      - a) Throughout the downfall of the southern kingdom, men rose up and declared positive messages to counteract the negativity of the prophet Jeremiah (see Jeremiah 6:9-19; Jeremiah 8:4-15; Ezekiel 13:1-16).
      - b) At the end of the day, Jeremiah's negative prophecy came to pass and the positive message of the false prophets only served to condemn the inhabitants of the land.
      - c) This was not because Jeremiah's message was negative, but because it was commanded by the Lord.
      - d) It matters not what man says when it denies the word of God. Men may be pleased by the words of others, mainly when those words are pleasing the flesh, but the word of God will come to pass regardless of our positive speaking.
  - b. The dual nature of the Lord's doings (Lamentations 3:38)
    - (1) The source of the words—"Out of the mouth of the MOST HIGH"
    - (2) The giving of the words—"proceedeth" (Isaiah 55:11)
    - (3) The potential of the word (Job 2:10)
      - a) Evil
      - b) Good
  - c. The folly of complaint (Lamentations 3:39)
    - (1) The complainer—"Wherefore doth a LIVING MAN complain?"
    - (2) The consideration
      - a) First of all, you are still alive. It could and probably should be worse.
      - b) Second, the circumstances may very well be a punishment or response for your sins.
2. The proper response (Lamentations 3:40-41)
  - a. Self-consideration (Lamentations 3:40)
    - (1) Let us search and try our ways.
    - (2) Let us turn again to the LORD.
  - b. Prayer and worship of God (Lamentations 3:41)
    - (1) The act—let us lift up
      - a) Our heart
      - b) With our hands
    - (2) The recipient—unto God in the heavens