

CHAPTER 11.2

NOTES

"FAITHFULNESS IN PAIN"
Lamentations
December 7, 2014

Overview of Lamentations

- A. Written as Jerusalem falls
 - B. An acrostic
 - C. A Lament
- I. When hope is lost... (3:15-20)
- A. Shalom (wholeness and wellness) is gone. (17)
 - B. Enjoyment of good times is no more. (17)
 - C. Overwhelmed with despair. (18)
 - D. Incessant relentless thoughts of pain and hopelessness. (19-20)
- II. Hope is found. (3:21-26)
- A. What we set our minds on determines our response to suffering. (21)
 - B. Constant Sufficiency (22-23)
 - C. He is our portion. (24)
 - D. The Wait (25-26)
 - E. Salvation is His and is from Him. (26)

When hope is lost, it can be found only in the limitless sufficiency of God.

He is our portion.

How does this apply to me?

NEXT WEEK

"THE FALL OF JERUSALEM"
Jeremiah 38-39, 52

Historical Timeline:

The final king in Judah was Zedekiah. Installed by Nebuchadnezzar as a vassal king, he sought an alliance with Egypt and rebelled against Babylon.

During this time, Jeremiah was imprisoned because his message from the Lord was seen as traitorous. He spent time in a ghastly cell, in a waterless but mud filled well, and in the king's court of the guard. During all this time, his assistant rewrote his prophecies on a scroll, since the first copy had been burned by the previous king, Jehoiakim. Jeremiah remained faithful to His Lord and to His message.

With the Babylonian armies surrounding Jerusalem, Egypt's army marched north but was quickly rebuffed by the superior forces of Babylon. The Chaldean forces then returned to focus all of their energy on Jerusalem, laying siege to the city. Food supplies were soon exhausted and the walls of the city were breached. Jerusalem fell in 586 BC. The temple was burned, along with the palace and all the great homes in the city. Jerusalem's protective walls were demolished and a final, third wave, of people were carried away into exile.

Passage Overview:

Faithful service to the Lord cost Jeremiah greatly. He lost his freedom and experienced great suffering. But the Lord spared his life as the city crumbled before his eyes. Jeremiah was courageous. He would not be cowed or persuaded to temper his message. He was a servant of the Most High and this set him in conflict with the local rulers, both spiritual and political, of his day.

In reading the historical account of the fall of Jerusalem, we see that God is faithful to His promises. His covenant with Israel had clearly stated that their persistent refusal to obey the covenant would result in their exile from the land (Deut 28:63).

The sign of a true prophet of Yahweh is that his prophecy comes to pass (Deut 18:20-22). With the fall of Jerusalem, Jeremiah's prophecy was proven true. Yet he never boasted that he had been proven right. Instead, he lamented the destruction of the land and the severe punishment of the people. He stood tall and strong against enormous opposition, always faithful to God's word. Some listened. Most did not. His faithfulness in a faithless time still speaks to us today.

Reading for Next Week: 2 Chronicles 36; Jeremiah 36 - 39, 42 - 43, 52