

JULY 7, 2024

Hope in God's Mercy

Lamentations 3:19-38



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Do you ever get discouraged by what is happening in our nation? It can be mind numbing and even scary. This is not the country we grew up in. Innocent blood is being shed every day through crime and many so-called doctors. Millions of criminals have come across our borders. Lawlessness abounds. Thousands are dying from drug overdoses. Thousands of children are missing. There is a war against our children and our youth. There is no morality for many of our citizens and many in our government. Our government is incapable of fixing this mess. This is very discouraging! But did you know that God wants to encourage us in our discouragement? He does and He understands our situation as individuals and as a nation. There is always hope in His mercy!

Lamentations 3:19 Remember my situation, Lord. In a very discouraging situation Jeremiah turns to the Lord.

20 My soul remembers and is bowed down within me. My heart, my innermost being, remembers His mercy. Humbled before Him.

21 I recall and have hope. In your discouragement, do you recall what the Lord has done for you? Do you remember how He has encouraged you in the past?

22-23 His lovingkindnesses never cease. His compassions never fail. EVERY morning they are new! Great is Thy faithfulness.

24 The Lord is my portion, says my soul. My heart, my innermost being. He has given Himself to us. This gives us hope.

25-26 What do we do in these times? Wait on Him, seek Him, wait in silence for Him to come through. My soul waits in silence for God only. Be still and know that I am God.

27-30 What is Jeremiah saying here? God brought the judgement because of their sin and rebellion. So, either they bear it and learn His mercies, or totally lose it to despair, hopelessness, and anger at God. Bear the yoke, be silent, shut your mouth and humble yourselves, take the abuse and humiliation. Why? Because it is from God. Isn't this exactly what Jesus did? **Isaiah 50:6, Isaiah 53:7.**

31 For the Lord will not reject forever. Is He your portion? Then He will not reject forever. Bear it and learn from it. Humble yourselves with prayer, fasting, and humility.

32 They go hand in hand. We will be stronger for it if we do it His way.

33 He brought judgement to bring Israel back to Himself. Willingly or from the heart.

34-36 Here is what men do to others. They crushed the prisoners, gave them no justice in front of God, perverted decisions in court. This is not His way of doing things. There is no purpose or greater cause in these actions.

37-38 Everything passes through God's hand, both good and evil. **John 19:10-11.**



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THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Do you turn to the Lord in your discouragement?
- Do you rely on His mercy and compassion?
- Do you shut your mouth and humble yourself before Him?
- Will you fast, pray, and humble yourselves for our nation?