

A hallway with a dark wood floor and patterned wallpaper. A row of seven doors is visible, with the central door highlighted in yellow. The text "WISDOM YOUR CHOICE" is overlaid on the floor.

WISDOM
YOUR **CHOICE**



Symphony of Lament

Lamentations

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- The same God who disciplines is the same who comforts and loves.
- Greater understanding is given in light of evil in this world.

Does God cry? Lament over Jerusalem

Matthew 23:36-38

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you desolate.

WISDOM: YOUR CHOICE

Does God cry? Jesus and the death of Lazarus

John 11:33-37 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

WISDOM: YOUR CHOICE

Reasons for lamenting loss and affliction...

- All loss goes back to original sin

Genesis 3:22-23

Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.

WISDOM: YOUR CHOICE

Reason for lamenting loss and affliction...

- All loss goes back to original sin
- My poor choices magnifies loss

Lamentations 2:14

Your prophets have seen for you
false and deceptive visions;
they have not exposed your iniquity
to restore your fortunes,
but have seen for you oracles
that are false and misleading.

WISDOM: YOUR CHOICE

Reason for lamenting loss and affliction...

- All loss goes back to original sin
- My poor choices magnifies loss
- Death, destruction and division can be a part of life due to sinful patterns of others that afflict me

Lamentations 4:10; 2:20

The hands of compassionate women
have boiled their own children;
they became their food
during the destruction of the daughter of my people.

WISDOM: YOUR CHOICE

Where is God in all of this?

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- Right in the middle of it – Lamentations 3

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- 3:1-20 – lament from the human heart

What is my response to God in the midst of loss? 3:21-40

- God's love and mercy are new every morning vv.21-24
- God's goodness to those who wait for Him vv. 25-30
- God's affliction is tempered by His love vv.31-33
- God sees unjust loss and does not approve vv.34-36
- God's sovereignty is always involved vv.37-39
- God's desire is for us to return to Him v.40

Where is God in all of this?

Lamentations 3:22-23

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.