

## **Jeremiah, Job, and God's Faithfulness**

Lamentations 3:16-23 (NASB)

*He has also made my teeth grind with gravel; He has made me cower in the dust.*

<sup>17</sup> *My soul has been excluded from peace; I have forgotten happiness.*

<sup>18</sup> *So I say, "My strength has failed, And so has my hope from the Lord."*

<sup>19</sup> *Remember my misery and my homelessness, the wormwood and bitterness.*

<sup>20</sup> *My soul certainly remembers, And is bent over within me.*

<sup>21</sup> *I recall this to my mind, Therefore I wait.*

<sup>22</sup> *The Lord's acts of mercy indeed do not end, For His compassions do not fail.*

<sup>23</sup> *They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.*

Number 23:19 (NASB)

*God is not a man, that He would lie,*

*Nor a son of man, that He would change His mind;*

*Has He said, and will He not do it?*

*Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?*

## **Introduction**

Last Sunday, I spoke about God's faithfulness based on Lamentations 3 written by Prophet Jeremiah where Jeremiah declared that God's faithfulness is steadfast through thick and thin. He declared so in the midst of trouble and despair, not in the time of peace and prosperity. This morning, we are going to talk about that in details.

Here's a bit of historical context about the prophet Jeremiah and the time in which he lived.

Jeremiah served during one of the darkest periods in Israel's history—roughly 600 years before Christ was born. He served faithfully as God's prophet, warning the people of Judah—of coming judgment if they did not return to God. Sadly, however, God's people didn't repent of their sins, and his prophecy came true. Jeremiah witnessed firsthand the fulfillment of those warnings. In the year of 586 B.C., the kingdom of Judah was invaded and destroyed by the Babylonian Empire.

## **Content**

This is what Jeremiah witnessed with his own eyes.

### Historical Facts

The Babylonian army set fire to the *house of the Lord*—the holy temple in Jerusalem. It was gone. Then they burned down the royal palace, followed by house after house, until the entire city was in ruins. Smoke filled the sky. The protective walls that once surrounded Jerusalem—walls that symbolized strength and security—were torn down stone by stone. But the devastation didn't end there.

The enemy took thousands of people—nobles, soldiers, craftsmen, and commoners—and forced them to march hundreds of miles to Babylon. They were now captives, slaves, paraded through foreign lands. And as if to mock the Israelites, the Babylonian soldiers proudly displayed the treasures they had looted from the temple, saying, “*Look what we took. Look what we conquered.*”

This tragic event is known as the **Babylonian Captivity**, which lasted for 70 long years. Generations were born and died in exile before a remnant finally returned home.

But here's something interesting—Jeremiah wasn't taken away with the captives.

He was left behind, along with the poor and powerless—whom the Babylonians deemed no threat. Their logic was simple: *Leave the weak ones. They won't resist. They can't rebuild.* And so, Jeremiah remained, walking through the ashes of a fallen city, surrounded by the brokenhearted and the forgotten.

Day and night, Jeremiah remained in Jerusalem—watching, grieving, and walking through the ruins of his beloved nation. He witnessed the fall not just of a city, but of a people. And he didn't turn away from the sorrow. He sat with it. He wrote it down.

That's what the *Book of Lamentations* is all about. It is the record of his raw, unfiltered pain and loss. That's why it's called *Lamentations*—because it's filled with weeping, mourning, and cries of the heart.

### From Despair to Hope

Today's passage, **Lamentations chapter 3**, begins not with hope, but with anguish. Jeremiah opens the chapter by describing how it feels to experience God's judgment firsthand as follows:

*“I am the one who has seen affliction under the rod of God’s wrath; He has driven and brought me into darkness without any light. Against me alone He turns His hand, again and again, all day long. He has made my flesh and my skin waste away and broken my bones.”*  
(Lamentations 3:1–4, adapted from various translations)

You can hear the weight in his voice. This is not a prophet speaking from a distance—this is a man *inside* the pain. And yet, it is *from that very place of affliction* that he lifts his voice and declares: *Great is Your faithfulness.*” That’s what makes it so powerful.

As you read through Lamentations chapter 3, it almost feels like Jeremiah is accusing God. The lament is intense, personal, and unrelenting. In verse 16, he writes: *The Lord has also made my teeth grind with gravel; He has made me cower in the dust.*

Then in verse 17: <sup>17</sup> *My soul has been excluded from peace; I have forgotten happiness.*

And by verse 18, he reaches a breaking point: <sup>18</sup> *So I say, “My strength has failed, And so has my hope from the Lord.”*

It’s as if Jeremiah is saying, “I’ve lost everything—even my hope in God.” But then—something happens. In verses 21–23, the tone suddenly shifts: <sup>21</sup> *I recall this to my mind, Therefore I wait.* <sup>22</sup> *The Lord’s acts of mercy indeed do not end, For His compassions do not fail.* <sup>23</sup> *They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.*

Did you catch that? From despair to hope. From accusation to worship.  
The mood changes completely.

So, what happened?

What caused Jeremiah, in the pit of grief, to suddenly rise in hope?

That’s what makes this passage so powerful. This is not shallow optimism. This is not someone glossing over pain. This is deep, defiant faith—faith that chooses to trust in the character of God even when everything else has crumbled.

And I say—what a confession. What a faith.  
And honestly, what a tough example to follow.

But it’s worth taking a closer look into Jeremiah’s heart and mind here. You might call it his *theology*—his understanding of who God is.

## From the Faithful to the Faithful

In **2 Samuel 22:26**, King David sang to the Lord: *“To the faithful, You show Yourself faithful.”*

The same God showed Himself faithful to Jeremiah *because* Jeremiah, even in grief, remained faithful to God. By the way, this kind of faith doesn’t come from emotion—it comes from conviction. It comes from a heart that believes, with unwavering trust, that God *does not do wrong to His people*. That’s significant.

Jeremiah might have felt abandoned, but he never accused God of being unjust. He might have cried out in agony, but he never doubted God’s faithfulness. And that’s what made room for hope to rise.

## Job a Man of Faith

Let me tell you about another man in Scripture who wrestled with immense suffering—**Job, a man of unwavering faith**. I’m sure many of you are familiar with his story...

Job was known as a righteous man, both before God and before people. He was faithful, upright, and deeply devoted to the Lord. He had everything—wealth, health, and a large, loving family.

But one day, Satan appeared before God in heaven and challenged Job’s faith.

He said to God, *“Does Job serve You for nothing? Of course he’s thankful. Look at how You’ve blessed him—with possessions, protection, health, and family. Take those away, and he’ll curse You to Your face.”*

And God responded, in essence, *“Let’s see.”*

And so, the testing began.

First, Job’s vast wealth was wiped out. Raiders came and stole all his livestock—his oxen, sheep, and camels. Everything was gone in a day. But Job didn’t complain.

Then Satan said, *“Try taking away his children. Let’s see what happens then.”*

So, a great wind—like a tornado—struck the house where Job’s ten children were feasting together. The roof collapsed. All ten of them died.

Still, Job did not accuse God. In fact, he said: *“The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.”* (Job 1:21)

Satan wasn’t finished. He said, *“Take away his health. Strike his body, and he’ll surely curse You.”*

And so, Job was afflicted with painful sores from head to toe. He sat in ashes, scraping his skin with a broken piece of pottery. The suffering was so intense that even his wife—heartbroken and disillusioned—said to him: *“Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!”*

But Job replied: *“You are speaking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?”* (Job 2:10)

And Scripture tells us that **in all this, Job did not sin with his lips.**

I believe **Jeremiah and Job** stand in the same line.

They both were devastated. They both grieved. They both mourned. But they never doubted the faithfulness of God.

They were honest with their pain—but still faithful with their hearts.

They teach us that *true faith* isn’t about pretending everything is fine. It’s about holding onto God even when nothing makes sense—believing He is good, even when life is not.

And that realization brings us to our next verse—a verse that captures the heart of God’s unchanging nature. Would you read it with me now, together in one voice?

**Numbers 23:19**

*“God is not a man, that He would lie, nor a son of man, that He would change His mind; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”*

Amen.

**Conclusion**

For closing, let me say this: We all face disappointment. And yes, there are times—even for the most faithful—when we feel disappointed *with* God. Times when we feel forgotten. Times when despair sets in, and hope seems out of reach.

But in those very moments—*especially* in those moments—let us do what Jeremiah did: **Call this to mind, and have hope.**

Don't let despair drive you away from God. Let it drive you *toward* Him.

When the trials of life feel like fire—when everything around you seems to be falling apart—remember: **God can be trusted.**

He is faithful.

He does not change.

He does not walk away.

He stays with us, supports us, strengthens us, and shelters us—even in the storm.

He is not fickle. He is not unreliable.

He is loyal. He is steady. He is true.

And He will remain **faithful forever.**

Amen.