

# God's New Year's Resolution

**Lamentations 3:22-24**

22 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail.  
 23 They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.  
 24 I say to myself,  
 "The Lord is my portion;  
 therefore I will wait for Him."



**Lamentations: Jeremiah's Journal of Woes**

Jeremiah's heartbroken lament after God judged the Jews for their unrepentant sin.\*

\* Chuck Swindoll - Lamentations: Jeremiah's Journal of Woes - Insight for Living (ifi.org.au)

**Lamentations: Jeremiah's Journal of Woes**

Fall of Jerusalem to Babylon in 587 BC

**Daniel 1**  
*"In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it...  
 ...And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand..."*

**Lamentations: Jeremiah's Journal of Woes**

Fall of Jerusalem to Babylon in 587 BC

- Idolatry, children sacrificed to idols, heathen gods in the temple.
- God's righteous judgement due to sin, broken covenant.



- 5 “acrostic” chapters  
Ch 1, 2 & 4 – 1 verse / Hebrew letter  
Ch 3 – 3 verses / Hebrew letter
- Poems of “lament”  
Express grief, sorrow, pain, confusion, & mourning over substantial loss!



- Chapter 1  
**Jerusalem’s destruction!**  
Grief, shame as that of a bereaved widow to whom no one comes to offer comfort.  
“Her foes have become her masters; her enemies are at ease. The Lord has brought her grief because of her many sins. Her children have gone into exile, captive before the foe.” (v5)



- Chapter 2  
**God’s Judgment!**  
Anguish amidst God’s righteous anger released in the appropriate time and way.  
“The Lord has done what he planned; he has fulfilled his word, which he decreed long ago.” (v17)  
God’s **CONDITIONAL** promises: Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28-20



- Chapter 3  
**Jeremiah’s Burden!**  
A lone voice grieving for the people.  
“I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of the Lord’s wrath. He has driven me away and made me walk in darkness rather than light...” (v1-2)  
One in the midst who sees and carries the burden & grief!



- Chapter 4  
**Contrasts of the Siege!**  
Prior glory replaced with pain and devastation!  
“With their own hands compassionate women have cooked their own children, who became their food when my people were destroyed. The Lord has given full vent to his wrath; he has poured out his fierce anger. He kindled a fire in Zion that consumed her foundations...” (v10-11)



- Chapter 5  
**Cry of the Remnant!**  
Recognition of their reproach & a prayer for restoration  
“The crown has fallen from our head. Woe to us, for we have sinned! ...Restore us to yourself, Lord, that we may return; renew our days as of old...” (v16, 21)



**But...**  
**It's also a book of hope!**

*"Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, 'The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.'"*

v21-24

*"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."*

v22-23 ESV

*"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."*

v22-23 ESV

**Covenantal Love**


*"I am not worthy of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two camps."*

Genesis 32:10

**Covenantal Love**

*"Thus says the LORD: 'Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices **steadfast love**, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.'"*

Jeremiah 9:23-24




**Final notes...**

**Lamentations does not have a nice, neat ending...**

*“Why do you always forget us? Why do you forsake us so long? Restore us to yourself, Lord, that we may return; renew our days as of old unless you have utterly rejected us and are angry with us beyond measure.”*


5:20-22



**Final notes...**

Amidst these protests against evil, sin, selfishness...  
... processing of grief, emotion & confusion...


**God APPEARS to be silent!**



**Final notes...**

**But...**

**The Scriptures ARE HIS WORD!**  
**He speaks by their very inclusion!**



**Final notes...**

**But...**

**The Scriptures ARE HIS WORD!**  
Wrestling with confusion, pain, grief...  
It's all part of the journey of faith in a broken world!

**God's New Year's Resolution?**

**Day**  
**God's New Year's ~~Resolution~~!**

*“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;  
His mercies never come to an end;  
They are new every morning!”*

