

THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR

Lamentations 3:1-6 (ESV)

¹ I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath; ² he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; ³ surely against me he turns his hand again and again the whole day long. ⁴ He has made my flesh and my skin waste away; he has broken my bones; ⁵ he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; ⁶ he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago.

Lamentations 3:17-18 (ESV)

¹⁷ my soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; ¹⁸ so I say, "My endurance has perished; so has my hope from the Lord."

HOPE IN THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR

Lamentations 3:21-24 (ESV)

²¹ But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: ²² The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴ "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

Call this to mind:

1. God's love and His mercies NEVER end

Chesed Yahweh

Exodus 34:6-7 (ESV)

⁶ "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

2. The LORD is our portion

a. This means we possess EVERYTHING!

Romans 8:18 (ESV) ¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

b. This means our hope is TOTALLY SECURE

1 Peter 1:4-5 (ESV) ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.