

Talk 3 (Lamentations 3)

Hear the Man of Sorrows speak

Christ our covenant representative Head

3:1-21 How the Man of Sorrows suffers

- ³ I am the man [strong man] who has seen affliction [1:3, 7, 9]
under the rod of his wrath;
² he has driven and brought me
into darkness without any light; [Amos 5:18-20]
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.
- ⁷ He has walled me about so that I cannot escape;
he has made my chains heavy; [cf. Jer. 39:7]
⁸ though I call and cry for help,
he shuts out my prayer;
⁹ he has blocked my ways with blocks of stones [hewn stones];
he has made my paths crooked.
- ¹⁰ He is a bear lying in wait for me,
a lion in hiding;
¹¹ he turned aside my steps and tore me to pieces;
he has made me desolate;
¹² he bent his bow and set me
as a target for his arrow. [cf. Job 16:7-17]
- ¹³ He drove into my kidneys
the arrows of his quiver;
¹⁴ I have become the laughingstock of all peoples,
the object of their taunts all day long. [cf. Jer. 20:7]
¹⁵ He has filled me with bitterness;
he has sated me with wormwood.
- ¹⁶ He has made my teeth grind on gravel,
and made me cower in ashes;
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."
- ¹⁹ Remember my affliction and my wanderings,
the wormwood and the gall!
²⁰ My soul continually remembers it
and is bowed down within me. [cf. Psalms 42:5-6, 11; 43:5]
²¹ But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

3:22-39 What the Man of Sorrows calls to mind

- 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."
- ²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him.
²⁶ It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.
²⁷ It is good for a man [strong man] that he bear
the yoke in his youth.

²⁸ Let him sit alone [1:1 'lonely'] in silence
when it is laid on him;
²⁹ let him put his mouth in the dust—
there may yet be hope;
³⁰ let him give his cheek to the one who strikes,
and let him be filled with insults.

³¹ For the Lord will not
cast off forever,
³² but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
³³ for he does not afflict from his heart
or grieve the children of men.

³⁴ To crush underfoot
all the prisoners of the earth,
³⁵ to deny a man justice
in the presence of the Most High,
³⁶ to subvert a man in his lawsuit,
the Lord does not approve.

³⁷ Who has spoken and it came to pass,
unless the Lord has commanded it?
³⁸ Is it not from the mouth of the Most High
that good and bad come?
³⁹ Why should a living man complain,
a man, about the punishment of his sins?

3:40-48 How the Man of Sorrows leads his people in prayer

⁴⁰ Let us test and examine our ways,
and return to the LORD!
⁴¹ Let us lift up our hearts and hands
to God in heaven:
⁴² "We have transgressed and rebelled,
and you have not forgiven.

⁴³ "You have wrapped yourself with anger and pursued us,
killing without pity;
⁴⁴ you have wrapped yourself with a cloud
so that no prayer can pass through.
⁴⁵ You have made us scum and garbage [1 Cor. 4:13]
among the peoples.

⁴⁶ "All our enemies
open their mouths against us;
⁴⁷ panic and pitfall have come upon us,
devastation and destruction;
⁴⁸ my eyes flow with rivers of tears
because of the destruction of the daughter of my people.

3:49-66 The Man of Sorrows and his assurance in his prayers

⁴⁹ "My eyes will flow without ceasing,
without respite,
⁵⁰ until the LORD from heaven
looks down and sees;
⁵¹ my eyes cause me grief
at the fate of all the daughters of my city.

⁵² "I have been hunted like a bird
by those who were my enemies without cause;
⁵³ they flung me alive into the pit
and cast stones on me;
⁵⁴ water closed over my head;
I said, 'I am lost.' [cf. Jer. 37:16; 38:6-13; Psalm 18:16]

⁵⁵ "I called on your name, O LORD,
from the depths of the pit;
⁵⁶ you heard my plea, 'Do not close
your ear to my cry for help!'
⁵⁷ You came near when I called on you;
you said, 'Do not fear!'

⁵⁸ "You have taken up my cause, O Lord;
you have redeemed my life.
⁵⁹ You have seen the wrong done to me, O LORD;
judge my cause.
⁶⁰ You have seen all their vengeance,
all their plots against me.

⁶¹ "You have heard their taunts, O LORD,
all their plots against me.

⁶² The lips and thoughts of my assailants
are against me all the day long.

⁶³ Behold their sitting and their rising;
I am the object of their taunts.

⁶⁴ "You will repay them, O LORD,
according to the work of their hands.

⁶⁵ You will give them dullness of heart;
your curse will be on them.

⁶⁶ You will pursue them in anger and destroy them
from under your heavens, O LORD."

Responding to Lamentations 3

Reflect on the covenant curses

Genesis 3:13-19

Leviticus 18:24-30

Leviticus 26:14-39

Deuteronomy 28:15-68

Reflect on the cross of Christ

Romans 5:12-21

Galatians 3:11-14

Reflect on Psalm 22

Reflect on how the sufferings of Christ overflow to his suffering church

Romans 8:17 'provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.'

Colossians 1:24 'in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church'