

Don't Despair

Lamentation 3:22-26

Dr. Paul Cannings

A. His Love Never Ceases (vs. 22-23):

1. Lord's loving-kindnesses – The Lord has all power and authority, and because He alone sustains His relationship with us, He is mightily capable of daily executing His steadfast, generous, and kind love towards us.

a) God offered a fresh supply of loyal love daily to His covenant people. Much like the manna in the wilderness, the supply could not be exhausted. This truth caused Jeremiah to call out in praise, "Great is Your faithfulness." He was taken back by the limitless supply of God's grace offered to him. [\[1\]](#)

2. Completely never – Loving us is the disposition the Lord is committed to displaying towards us.

a) Faithful One, you will be safe forever. He is *faithful to chasten* (Ps. 119:75); Lamentations itself teaches this lesson. He wants to bring us to the place of repentance and confession (Lam. 3:39–41). He is *faithful to forgive* when we do confess our sins (1 John 1:9). He is *faithful to sympathize* when we have burdens and problems (Heb. 2:17–18; 4:14–16). We never need to fear that He is too busy to listen or too tired to help. He is *faithful to deliver* when we cry out for help in temptation (1 Cor. 10:13). He is *faithful to keep us* in this life and unto life eternal (1 Tim. 1:15; 1

Thes. 5:23–24). We can commit our lives and souls to the faithful Creator's hands (1 Peter 4:19) and know that He will do all things well.^[2]

3. Completely never – No matter how ugly things may develop around us, the Lord is completely committed to generously bestowing His kindness towards us.

4. Compassions never fail – Like a mother nursing her child, the Lord is affectionately and wholly committed to executing His favor and grace towards us. This is impossible for Him not to do because love is who He is (1 John 4:8,16), and faithfulness to His covenant is what He does (Romans 8:37-39).

a) In fact, God's loyal love could be seen in His faithfulness in carrying out the curses He had promised while at the same time preserving a remnant. The judgment itself was a witness to the fact that God had not abandoned His people. God's "compassions" (from *reḥem*, "womb," and in the pl. for intensity) showed His gentle feeling of concern for those who belonged to Him.^[3]

5. New every morning – The Lord's loving-kindness provides us with inner spiritual refreshment as a result of the growth of the Holy Spirit in our lives. This transforms us to experience the strength of the Lord from the inside out (1 John 4:4).

a) The unbroken mood of despair was displaced by a beautiful affirmation of hope despite suffering (cf. Job 1:21; Hab 3:17–18; Rom 5:3; 1 Pet 4:12–13). The basis for renewed hope is God's "great love." The Hebrew word *hesed*, sometimes translated as "covenant love" or "loyal love," is a word that has the basic meaning of *loyalty* or *faithfulness*, primarily as related to the covenant initiated by God; the word involves obligations to family, friends, and the community. Another basis of hope is God's unfailing "compassions" (*raḥămîm*; from a word related to the

womb, it describes the tender, caring love of a mother), which are experienced in a fresh and new way every day.^[4]

6. Great is your faithfulness - We can live completely assured with one hundred percent certainty that the Lord will fulfill what the scriptures say He will do. Failure is impossible (Isaiah 55:11). There is guaranteed success.

B. Remain Hopeful and Seek Him (v. 24):

1. The Lord – The Lord is completely committed to His covenant with us, and no matter the level of resistance that may take place in or around us, He has the power, and all authority to fight for us and deliver us from danger.
2. My portion; Reward – The people in Lamentations were about to lose everything, possibly their lives. The ones who were faithful could suffer because of all those who chose to live outside the will of God. Jeremiah is reassuring them that the Lord can replace everything, just like He did for Job, if they remain faithful to His Word (Romans 8:31).
3. My portion; Reward – The Lord is the provider for all a person needs. This is why it is important to trust His love and faithfulness when it seems like we are about to lose everything. Our trust in Him blesses us to experience His transforming inner strength while we wait.
4. Says my soul – When the Lord’s loving-kindness is a constant refreshment, especially in the midst of extremely difficult times, the depth of our inner emotions becomes our voice that expresses loudly the goodness of God.

5. Therefore I have hope in Him – Because of the covenantal faithfulness which steadfastly extends His kindness (this can be seen historically for centuries) for those who place their trust in Him we can, especially when life issues are overwhelmingly difficult, patiently wait on Him.
6. Therefore I have hope in Him – Because of the Lord's power and His loving, gracious nature, we can with certainty expect Him to produce a better future which eventually will drown out the pain of our present troubles.
7. The Lord is good – Because the Lord is all-powerful , He can create delightful and practical results that benefit those who place their trust in Him no matter the difficulties they may experience.
8. To those who wait for Him – For all those who eagerly, patiently endure all the trials they may encounter because they expect with confidence the Lord's loving-kindness and compassion to rescue them, these faithful believers will not be disappointed.
9. To the person who seeks Him – The Lord does not disappoint the believer who inquires of Him through prayer, godly counsel, and the study of His Word. This believer's efforts are guaranteed to be rewarded.
10. It is good – Because the Lord is all-powerful , will never forsake His covenant, He willingly extends His lovingkindness and grace to all those who trust in Him providing excellent practical results in their time of need.
11. Tremble, fear, a man should both hope – Because the Lord is all powerful and is committed to executing His heart towards us, we can place all our anguish and mental distress before Him knowing that His lovingkindness and grace will keep us refreshingly solid, each day.

12. Silently waits – When we are convinced that the Lord is faithful, it empowers us to silently and patiently wait on the Lord because we know He is good.

a) “Silence” is an expression of the psalmist’s (the Lamentations are psalms) for resignation to the will of God; comp. Ps. 62:1 (Hebrew, 2), 65:1 (Hebrew, 2), and see Authorized Version, margin. The thought of the verse is that of Ps. 37:7.^[5]

13. For the salvation of the Lord – Our confidence in who the Lord is, those who trust His lovingkindness, compassion, and faithfulness, to those He becomes our deliverance from all our troubles. This is why His faithfulness is new every morning.

^[1] Dyer, C. H. (1985). [Lamentations](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, pp. 1217–1218). Victor Books.

^[2] Wiersbe, W. W. (1993). [Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament](#) (La 3:18–36). Victor Books.

^[3] Dyer, C. H. (1985). [Lamentations](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 1217). Victor Books.

^[4] Huey, F. B. (1993). [Jeremiah, Lamentations](#) (Vol. 16, p. 473). Broadman & Holman Publishers.

^[5] Spence-Jones, H. D. M., ed. (1909). [Lamentations](#) (p. 33). Funk & Wagnalls Company.