

# Hope in Troubles

Lessons from Lamentations 3:1-40

# The Source and Reasons for Troubles in Life

## SIN

**Man brought this upon himself because of his sins against God**

- ❖ ..Cursed is the ground because of you.. *Ge 3:17*
- ❖ ..Creation was subjected to futility.. *Ro 8:20*
- ❖ ..In the world you will have trouble.. *Jn 16:33*

## UNBELIEVERS / WICKED

**God can use troubles or lack of it as punishment and/or to show His grace**

- ❖ Have you not done this to yourself, by forsaking the Lord your God.. *Jer 2:17*
- ❖ Your ways and deeds have brought this upon you. This is your evil.. *Jer 4:18*
- ❖ The Lord is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish *2Pe 3:9*

## BELIEVERS / RIGHTEOUS

**God uses discipline and testing/trials for our good/refinement and His glory**

- ❖ ..He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.. *Heb 12:10*
- ❖ ..You [God] who test the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind.. *Jer 20:12*
- ❖ After suffering for a little while, ..God will perfect, ..and establish you *1Pe 5:10*

# Jeremiah's Troubles

1	Men from his hometown wanted to <b>kill</b> him for prophesying in the name of the Lord.	<i>Jer 11:18-23</i>
2	He felt <b>deserted by God</b> , even though he was not like the wicked.	<i>Jer 15:15-21</i>
3	He was <b>not allowed to marry</b> , since destruction was coming to the people of Judah.	<i>Jer 16:1-4</i>
4	He <b>could not go</b> to a house of mourning or feasting, since God would destroy both.	<i>Jer 16:5-9</i>
5	He was <b>threatened</b> to not deliver a message of doom and gloom.	<i>Jer 18:18-23</i>
6	He was <b>beaten</b> and thrown in the stocks ( <b>restrained</b> ).	<i>Jer 20:1-3</i>
7	He was <b>mocked</b> and became a <b>laughingstock</b> , because he preached God's word.	<i>Jer 20:7-8</i>
8	He felt <b>betrayed</b> by God and his trusted friends.	<i>Jer 20:9-10</i>
9	He fell into <b>despair/depression</b> and wished he was never born.	<i>Jer 20:14-18</i>
10	His life was <b>threatened</b> because he spoke against Jerusalem.	<i>Jer 26:7-10</i>
11	He was <b>imprisoned</b> by King Zedekiah.	<i>Jer 32:1-5</i>
12	He was <b>falsely accused</b> of being a traitor to Babylon, then <b>beaten</b> and <b>imprisoned</b> .	<i>Jer 37:11-16</i>
13	He was <b>thrown into a cistern</b> for telling the people to surrender to the Babylonians.	<i>Jer 38:1-6</i>

# Lamentations 3:1-18

## Jeremiah's troubles came from God, not by chance

- ❖ Not that God is an accomplice to evil, but He was using the troubles for Jeremiah's good
- ❖ Physical and emotional distress led him to depression and hopelessness

## God was intimately involved in his life and refined him along the way

- ❖ *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations." Jer 1:5*
- ❖ *"..if you extract the precious from the worthless, you will become my spokesman.." Jer 15:19*

## What did Jeremiah need to "extract the precious from the worthless"?

- ❖ **3** *..the testing of your faith produces endurance.*
- ❖ **4** *..so that you may be perfect and complete..*
- ❖ **5** *if any of you lacks **wisdom**, let him ask of God, who gives generously.. James 1:3-5*

# Lamentations 3:19-40

## What gave Jeremiah hope during his troubles?

- ❖ He remembered God's goodness, lovingkindness, compassion, and faithfulness during troubles
- ❖ He remembered that God is the source of all he needs, his portion

## What should we do when we go through troubles?

- ❖ Remember who God is (characteristics/attributes), seek Him, and silently wait on Him
  - *Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord. Jer 17:7*
- ❖ Accept His correction/refining and seek to understand what God is doing through the troubles
  - *23 I know, O Lord, that a man's way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps. 24 Correct me, O Lord.. Jer 10:23-24*
- ❖ Remember that nothing is too hard for God, and He has a perfect plan for our good and His glory
  - *"Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?" Jer 32:27*
  - *"For I know the plans that I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope" Jer 29:11*