

## Lamentations 3:22-33

<sup>22</sup>The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; <sup>23</sup>they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup>“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” <sup>25</sup>The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. <sup>26</sup>It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. <sup>27</sup>It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth, <sup>28</sup>to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it, <sup>29</sup>to put one’s mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope), <sup>30</sup>to give one’s cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults. <sup>31</sup>For the Lord will not reject forever. <sup>32</sup>Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; <sup>33</sup>for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

### Background to Lamentations

*The book of Lamentations expresses the humiliation, suffering, and despair of Jerusalem and her people following the destruction of the city by the Babylonians in 587 BCE. Traditionally attributed to the authorship of the prophet Jeremiah, Lamentations was more likely written for public rituals commemorating the destruction of the city of Jerusalem and its Temple. Lamentations is notable both for the starkness of its imagery of the devastated city and for its poetic artistry. The book consists of five poems . . .*

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### Some things to Ponder:

- What are the contradictions in this passage?
- How can we cope when we encounter passages in the Bible which appear to contradict one another?

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*Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; <sup>33</sup>for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.*

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- So how do we reconcile suffering with the idea of God's love never ceasing?

### How do you understand these phrases?

- <sup>26</sup>It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.
- <sup>27</sup>It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth,
- <sup>28</sup>to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it,
- <sup>29</sup>to put one’s mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope),
- <sup>30</sup>to give one’s cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults.

How do we apply this passage to our current situation?

insults mouth  
afflict morning grief  
smiter **soul** according come  
youth anyone seeks give  
**good** every yoke ever grieve  
silence end filled  
sit imposed  
Although **Lord** willingly  
bear **steadfast**  
great **love** one's mercies  
portion new **one** dust faithfulness  
alone salvation abundance quietly  
compassion **wait**  
ceases **hope**  
causes reject