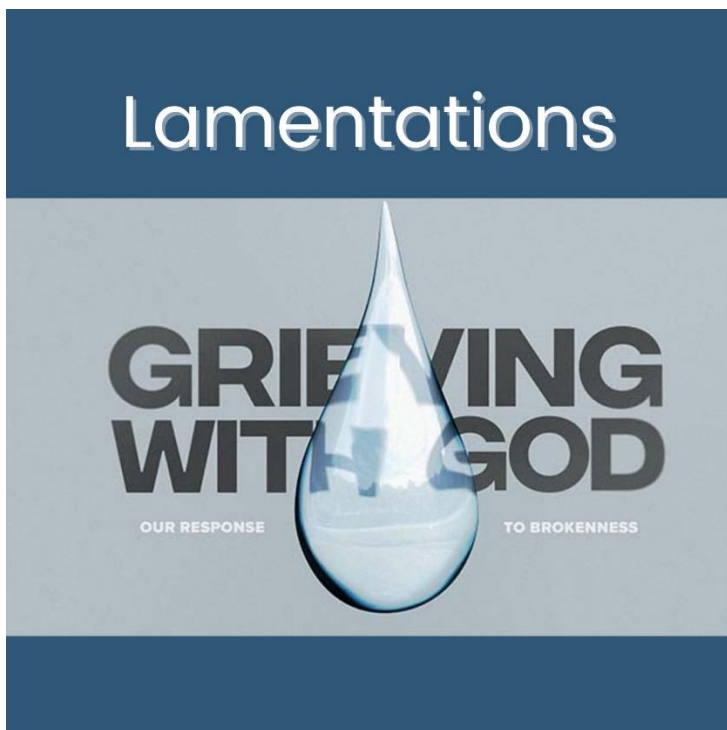


# Daily Worship Booklet

March 31<sup>st</sup> – April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025



God tells us that Ezra read from the book of the Law, day after day, and the people of God were filled with joy.

## **Westminster Shorter Catechism**

*Question 23:* What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?

*Answer:* Christ, as our Redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

*Scripture Proofs:*

Deuteronomy 18:18; Acts 2:33; Acts 3:22-23; Hebrews 1:1-2; Hebrews 4:14-15; Hebrews 5:5-6; Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33; John 18:37; 1 Corinthians 15:25.

*Comment:* While on earth, the Lord Jesus, as a prophet, preached the Word of God, which He now sends that same Word out across the world through men He has called and ordained to preach. While on earth, He prayed for His Bride and offered Himself as the only acceptable atonement sacrifice; now He continues to pray for her as the Great High Priest. While on earth, He ruled over all the forces arrayed against him daily, according to the will of the Father, and now He reigns as the Mediatorial King.

**Psalm of the Week:** Psalm 142. The words are on page 8.

### **Please pray for:**

Mon - Mark and Alison, Robin and Irelyn Dumalski

Tues - Josh and Karin, Elyssa, Julia, Sarah and Suzannah Foster

Wed - Norm and Jane Fry

Thur - Debra Geggie

Frid - Jon and Amy, Grace, Elloise, Rita, Margaret, Leo,  
and Beth Harper

### **Bible Questions for the week:**

1. What did God do to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah?

*Answer - Genesis 19:24*

2. What happened to Lot's wife, and who did God allow to escape from Sodom?

*Answer - Genesis 19:26, 30*

*There are slight modifications to the notes written  
by Rev. Kyle Borg (Winchester RPCNA) on Lamentations.*

**Please pray for the Holy Spirit's help as you study God's Word.**

## **Monday – Lamentations 4:12-19 - The Disappointment of Presumption.**

When the Apostle Paul spent time in Ephesus, he did not hesitate to proclaim the "whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27). This is something that is required of every man who preaches the Word of God. Difficult as it may be at times, and as much as many do not wish to hear, he is to "reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching" (2 Timothy 4:2). What a tremendous responsibility is on those who proclaim God's Word!

This is precisely where many of the priests and prophets of Judah had gone wrong. Jeremiah groans: "This was for the sins of her prophets and the iniquities of her priests, who shed in the midst of her the blood of the righteous." Rather than being like Ezekiel's watchmen on the wall (see Ezekiel 33:1-9), they had not exposed the iniquity of the people (see Lamentations 2:14), nor the sentence of God against covenantal rebellion (see Deuteronomy 28:15). When half-truths truncate the counsel of God, when sin is not exposed, and when repentance is not proclaimed, then people grow comfortable and presumptuous, happily receiving the words "Peace, peace" where there is no peace. That is what happened to these people: "The kings of the earth did not believe, nor any of the inhabitants of the world, that foe or enemy could enter the gates of Jerusalem" (v. 12). However, their presumption was disappointed, as God, according to His Word, scattered and regarded them no more.

Presumption is a sin we must constantly guard against. We are told to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12), to "be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election" (2 Peter 1:10), and to "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour" (Matthew 25:13).

### **Questions**

1. What does it mean to "presume"?
2. Why do preachers have to tell the whole truth?
3. How do you make your calling and election sure?

### **Memory Verse**

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." Lam 3:22-24

## **Tuesday - Lamentations 4:20-22 - Under His Shadow.**

This fourth lament presents a sweeping and building picture of the destruction that the Lord brought upon Zion because of its sin. Not only has everything been wrecked, but everyone had been impacted - sons, children, mothers, princes, priests, and prophets. As if that was not enough, we come to the pinnacle of human loss: "The breath of our nostrils, the Lord's anointed, was captured in their pits". Certainly, the Lord had devoured the foundation of Zion (v. 11).

We probably find it difficult to grasp the significance of this event. Though King Zedekiah had done evil in the sight of the Lord (see Jeremiah 52:2-3), he represented the very life of the people and the rule of the Lord. As long as the king was with them, they enjoyed unity, solidarity, and protection, even while living in a foreign land: "Under his shadow, we shall live among the nations." But even this hope was snuffed out as the king of Judah was captured fleeing Jerusalem, and they "put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him in chains, and the king of Babylon took him to Babylon, and put him in prison til the day of his death" (Jeremiah 52:11).

How expectant these people had been that their king could deliver them, and how hopeless it now seemed. But the praises of Israel remind us: "Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish." (Psalm 146:3-4) We need a king whose reign will never end and who is from everlasting to everlasting. In Zion's hopelessness, we fix our eyes on the Lord's Anointed, Jesus Christ. His dominion extends over all nations, so that as He gathers us from the north and south, the east and west, we can live under His shadow, among all the nations.

### **Questions**

1. What did the King represent to the people of Judah?
2. Who is our King, and how far does His dominion extend?

### **Memory Verse**

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." Lam 3:22-24

## **Wednesday - Lamentations 4:20-22 - Yes and Amen.**

We saw yesterday the great tragedy of the loss of the king. The people of Judah must have been thrown into doubt and confusion about all things, especially the covenant promise of God. When the Lord made His covenant with David, He had promised to "establish the throne of His kingdom forever" (2 Samuel 7:13). With Zedekiah captured, Jerusalem destroyed, and the Davidic throne empty, the people must have wondered where the promise of God was. Had it failed?

Even as Jeremiah laments the capture of the king, he immediately turns to a word of certainty - or, to be more precise, a sardonic taunt: "Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, you who dwell in the land of Uz; but to you also the cup shall pass". What could have given Jeremiah this confidence? His confidence did not come from his senses - what he saw, heard, or felt. Rather, it was grounded in God's unchanging covenantal promise.

Unlike Saul, whose kingship was removed for sin, the Lord told David that sin would never dethrone his line: "When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul" (2 Samuel 7:14-15). This was not a free pass to transgress God's law; as such, sin would be severely punished. However, it was an unconditional promise that God's covenant mercy would never allow the Davidic line to come to an end. While the kingdom was experiencing the severe discipline of God, He had not forgotten His promise. It is for this reason that Jeremiah knew the tables would turn.

Let us learn to trust God's promises. We may not always have a present experience or enjoyment of them, but to those who are united to Jesus, we can be certain that "all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory." (2 Corinthians 1:20)

### **Questions**

1. What had God promised David?
2. Had the promise of God failed in Judah?
3. Who has come to fulfill all the promises?

### **Memory Verse**

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." Lam 3:22-24

## Thursday - Lamentations 4:21-22 - This Too Shall Pass.

Sometimes, it seems that the people of God are being overcome. We read in our newspapers and see on our television programs the horrific reports of Christian persecution throughout the world. Nevertheless, God has promised: "him who dishonors you I will curse" (Genesis 12:3). We see such a fulfillment in the closing words of this fourth lament.

While the Babylonians were the main enemy in the destruction of Jerusalem (Jeremiah 52:4), it is likely that Edom - the descendants of Esau - encouraged and even helped the Babylonians in the overthrow of Jerusalem. The Psalmist called this to mind when he sang: "Remember, O LORD, against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem, how they said, "Lay it bare, lay it bare, down to its foundations!" (Psalm 137:7, see also Obadiah 1:1-14). It is for this reason that Jeremiah turns from grief to taunting the Edomites.

In full confidence of God's covenant promise, Jeremiah speaks to the daughter of Edom and then the daughter of Zion. To the first, he says: "To you also the cup shall pass; you shall become drunk and strip yourself bare." To the other, he says: "The punishment of your iniquity, O daughter of Zion, is accomplished". While Edom will be made to drink the wrath of God to the point of intoxication, His people will not remain forever under His judgment but will be returned from exile and received into His favour. Here, we see a significant reversal! Edom's joy will be turned to judgment, and Zion's judgment will turn to joy.

It may seem like the enemies of the church prevail. But the Lord is not slow to keep His promises. Until then, we say with the Prophet Micah: "Rejoice not over me, O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me. I will bear the indignation of the Lord because I have sinned against him, until he pleads my cause and executes judgment for me. He will bring me out to the light; I shall look upon his vindication" (Micah 7:8-9).

### Question

1. Why will the church never be overcome?

### Memory Verse

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." Lam 3:22-24

## **Friday - Lamentations 5:1-14 - The Mourner's Prayer.**

This final lament is unique. It is not in the form of an acrostic, although it retains the twenty-two-verse structure. More unique, however, is that this whole lament is a prayer. That is fitting not only because the fourth lament did not end with the usual prayer, but because Jeremiah, representing the people of God, brings to a close this book of excessive mourning with a long-sustained prayer - he concludes by bringing us before the face of God.

As we survey this prayer, three things need to be set before us.

- First, Jeremiah comes urgently to the Lord: "Remember, O LORD, what has befallen us; look, and see our disgrace!" (v. 1). He is not simply asking God to think about the past, but it is a plea for His interest and intervention. Our needs ought to drive us to our knees again and again.
- Second, Jeremiah comes unassumingly: "woe to us, for we have sinned!" (v. 16). Prayer is not a time to hide behind pretenses, but to come openly and humbly before the Lord who searches and knows all things.
- Finally, he comes uncertainly: "Why do you forget us forever, why do you forsake us for so many days?" (v. 20). Faith can go to the Lord in prayer despite confusion, frailty, doubt, and perplexity - and it should be to discover through prayer the storehouses of God's abundant grace.

It cannot be said better than how Charles Spurgeon said it: "The fox flies to its hole for protection; the bird flies to the wood for shelter; and even so the tried believer hastes to the mercy seat for safety. Heaven's great harbor for refuge is All-prayer; thousands of weather-beaten vessels have found a haven there, and the moment a storm comes on, it is wise for us to make for it with all sail."

### **Question**

1. In what three ways did Jeremiah pray?

### **Memory Verse**

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." Lam 3:22-24

## Psalm 142

1. To You, O LORD, I lift my voice;  
I supplication make.  
I pour my thoughts out to the LORD,  
To Him my trouble take.

2. For when my soul is overwhelmed,  
My every way You see.  
Upon the path on which I walk  
Their traps were laid for me.

3. None notices. Look to my right,  
No one regards me there.  
There's no escape for me to take,  
And none to show me care.

4. I cried to You, O LORD, and said,  
"You are my refuge true;  
And in the land of those who live,  
My portion is with You."

5. Since I'm brought low in misery,  
O listen to my cry;  
Save me from persecuting foes  
Who stronger are than I.

6. So, out of bondage, bring my soul  
That I Your name may praise;  
The righteous then will join with me,  
For You have shown me grace.