

### Lamentations 3:1-25

Recently, everyday has filled with bad news. The number of Covid-19 cases are increasing exponentially in some countries. My wife and I are watching the number of new cases in my local committee near daily. The number of deaths worldwide also increases. Financial impact is so severe that the stock market has quickly dropped the worst in the last 50 years. Over 10% drop within a day occurred more than once recently. Various cities are in lockdown. Countries around the world are fighting this war. How do we find hope and peace when bad news are around us constantly? This passage helps us to find that.

The book of Lamentations is likely written by Jeremiah. Lamentations means sorrow, weeping and pain. The book was written after the Babylon's invasion of Judah (586BC) during the exile in Babylon. The writer witnessed the suffering situation of Jewish people. There are 22 verses in every chapter of this book except chapter 3 which has 66. The ancient Hebrew alphabet has 22 letters, and each verse in each chapter starts with an alphabet letter. Chapter 3 has it repeated 3 times; first 3 sentences started with Alef, Alef, Alef, next 3 sentences started with Bet, Bet, Bet, etc. Nobody knows why but it might be related to the Jewish people had suffered all kinds of pain like from "A to Z" in Hebrew alphabet.

#### 1) The description of bad news

##### a. Disobedience that led to God's wrath

Chapter 3 verse 1 stated God's wrath is in place. God's wrath because the Israelites disobeyed God. The disobedience and sins are described in the book of Jeremiah. Today, people in many countries have disobeyed God. People do not believe in the true God. Awful sins are occurring in every society. I can not say the Covid-19 is God's wrath, but it can act as a good reminder for all of us when we read the book of Jeremiah and Lamentations.

##### b. Sorrow and pain that seems endless

Verses 2 to 20 described the sorrow situation. More descriptions in other chapters of this book. The description in verses 5 to 7 is similar to those that have the Covid-19 and there's no cure available, feeling isolated and

trapped. Even friends and family members feel “trapped” in the hopeless situation.

## **2) Hope in the miserable and desperate situation**

Verses 21 to 25 revealed there is a way for hope

### **a. God’s love and compassion (vs. 22-24)**

Verses 22-24 describe God’s mercy. God is righteous and at the same time merciful. “Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.” They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (verses 22 & 23). Also see I John 1:19 and Psalms 103:10-14.

### **b. Hope in Him and seek Him (vs. 21 & 25)**

Verse 21 and 25 lead us to the hope. Verse 25 states “The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks him”. It is clear that hope can only come from God. It does not necessarily mean cure or less pain, but God can give you peace and eternal life when you accept Jesus as Savior and Lord. In New Testament, Jesus said in John 16:33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (also see John 3:16, Matt. 7:7, and Phil. 4:7).

It is important for us to seek Him. Seek Him is a continuous process. We need to keep praying, and read and study His Word (Bible). This is where hope and peace come from. We need to focus on God and receive strength from Him; as a result, we are able to serve Him and serve people once we have hope, peace and strength.

In conclusion, bad news can occur in our lives and especially difficult to deal with when one is in the midst of it. The passage helps us to evaluate ourselves and the situation. We can confess and repent if we have sinned. We should turn to God for hope since He is a merciful God although it can be difficult for us to understand when we are in pain. Finally, we should continue to seek God. He can give us peace, hope and strength to empower us to move positively forward.