

JULY 27, 2021

Journey Enews

Journey Community Christian Church

Service Times:
Saturday @ 6 PM
Sunday @ 10:30 AM

Our services will be streaming
to our Facebook Page AND
our website:

journeychurchsite.org

Join us this weekend in-
person or online!

Journey Church
Contact Info:
1050 US 27 S STE 8
Cynthiana, KY 41031
859.235.8449

journeychurchoffice@gmail.com

Facebook:
Journey Church Cynthiana

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Lamentations

Have you noticed? God's strategy can be surprisingly unexpected. Have you read the book of Lamentations recently? It is on page 1,273 in my Bible, a little more than halfway through the whole book. More than two thousand words of lament after lament after lament. In all fairness, it is not the longest story in the Bible. At just five chapters long, Lamentations ranks #39 in length out of sixty six total books of the Bible.



Still, why is Lamentations even in there? It is such a sad story fully of sad words by the saddest prophet, Jeremiah. The title should give it away – it suggests something of a “funeral dirge or funeral songs.” The author, Jeremiah, grieves the total destruction of Jerusalem, its people, and the temple worship of God.

What might be God's strategy for including in the Bible such a difficult story? What if we all need perspective in difficult times? If you are feeling frustrated, discouraged and wearied by endless interruptions to our daily peace, give God a chance again. Jeremiah, in the middle of his story (chapter 3), reaches the apex of his sadness, and then goes on to share hope of better days ahead. “God is good ... hope comes from above.” (3:21, 24-25).

Whether our day is filled with news of pandemics, social injustice, racial divides, or political paralysis, never give up. God is still working on it. His divine purpose for the book of Lamentations is to guide us through our own laments of loss. Whatever has been broken from personal sin and rebellion, His mercy and grace restores His love again. We find hope and recovery through repentance and a contrite heart. This has always been – since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden – God's eternal plan for Jesus and the Cross (John 3:16).

Jeremiah shares some much-needed words of encouragement. When our real purpose in life has drifted off course, away from God, there is hope. *“The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.”* Lamentations 3:22-23 NLT

It's never too late to get things straightened out with God. Bad things can happen, even to the nicest people. Storms will appear from nowhere without warning, leaving a path of destruction; innocent people may suffer. Sadness and loss are a part of the human experience. It is unavoidable and impossible to prevent suffering; this is our destiny in a fallen, sinful world (Genesis 1-3).

We, like Jeremiah, lament the suffering of the world. Yet, the Good News we discover from Lamentations and the rest of the Bible is that people are never alone. God is nearby waiting for us to repent and return once more. Halfway through this difficult season in the world for many, let me know if I can help. We really are better together. God is for everybody. We have to tell everybody.

Every sunrise is an opportunity for God to show His mercies anew.

Bobby D.