

Where is God?

Lamentation 3

⁵ He has besieged me and surrounded me with bitterness and hardship. ⁶ He has made me dwell in darkness like those long dead. ⁸ Even when I call out or cry for help, he shuts out my prayer. ⁹ He has barred my way with blocks of stone; he has made my paths crooked. ¹⁵ He has filled me with bitter herbs and given me gall to drink. ¹⁶ He has broken my teeth with gravel; he has trampled me in the dust. ¹⁷ I have been deprived of peace; I have forgotten what prosperity is.

¹⁸ So I say, "My splendor is gone and all that I had hoped from the LORD." ¹⁹ I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. ²⁰ I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.

²¹ **Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:**

²² Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴ I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." ²⁵ The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; ²⁶ it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

²⁷ It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young. ²⁸ Let him sit alone in silence, for the LORD has laid it on him.

²⁹ Let him bury his face in the dust—there may yet be hope. ³⁰ Let him offer his cheek to one who would strike him, and let him be filled with disgrace. ³¹ For no one is cast off by the Lord forever. ³² Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love.

³³ For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone.

Isaiah 40 ²⁷ Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹ but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Matthew 5 ¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

When very disastrous and difficult things happen as a result of a very broken world (which includes our environment) and the presence of real forces of evil we ask the legitimate questions, "Where is God?" "Why is this happening?"

In seeking answers to these questions, the Scriptures do not look for or expect a world that is "_____ " of brokenness, suffering and evil but rather a God who is very "_____", walking His people through their very real lives.

Hope and life are found in trusting God's _____ not longing for sufferings _____!
It is a powerful yet not futile call to _____!

Human beings in deep and devastating need provide a powerful canvas on which God paints a portrait of His compassion through the loving and sacrificial acts of His people!

He reveals His heart through His _____ as they act out of loving compassion in His name!

Opportunities:

- www.austindisasterreliefnetwork.org
- www.inthecityforthecity.org
- www.austincitywalls.org
- The yard signs!
- The "Walls" series!
- PoG's "Serve the City" Day—November 6, 2011

Even in the worst of times, God calls enables and empowers us to build life-giving _____ not life destroying _____ through faith in Him.

Dear Lord Jesus,
I SURRENDER myself and my agenda for this day in my life to You!
I RECEIVE You, Your agenda and Your resources for me!
And now I will ACT like it in faith-filled obedience! Amen