

Great is your Faithfulness

Lamentations 3:22-23

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.

Lamentations is written by the prophet Jeremiah. It is a series of laments about daily life in the kingdom of Judah. There is a lot of sadness in this book. The conditions of the Jews were terrible. The leaders and other prominent people had been led off to Babylonia. This left the poor people behind in Jerusalem where the temple had been destroyed.

The beauty of these verses is that, in the midst of describing the sadness, God gives promises too (perfect relief in the form of hope), and an exhortation to wait for God. The theme of patience is strong here. The focus is on the Lord, and it is He for whom one must wait. The encouragement is to wait patiently and to wait in quietness.

We, too, live in times where much of the routine we have enjoyed has been lost. This brings despondence even to the most optimistic among us. We have much loss in our daily lives. We, too, need a ray of hope.

In these verses God comes to us with His sure and certain promise of encouragement and hope. The two word phrase *great love* in the Hebrew is plural and represents the Lord's loving faithfulness to his covenant promise. It demonstrates that God cannot end his desire to have good come to his people. And **we** are his people because of the faith he has given us through his unending grace.

The word *compassion* is a deep-seated desire that comes from deep within our insides. When this word is used, it means that God felt their hurt in his gut. That meant that all the hurts and pains they suffered were also borne by God. God has that deep concern and love for us too. When we read the words *steadfast love ... mercies* we find that they are plural to show how the Lord will multiply His blessings to the people.

Finally, the phrase *great is your faithfulness* means that this is the outflow of His compassionate love in fulfilling His promises. These are there for us every morning without fail.

Dear Lord, in the midst of the gloom of our days, help us to see your incredible and faithful compassion and love for us. Thank you for giving us your unending love every moment of every day. Help us to share it with others who are in need of it. All this we ask in your most holy and loving name. Amen