

CHAPTER 3

IAM the man *that* hath seen affliction by the rod of his wrath.

2 He hath led me, and brought *me into* darkness, but not *into* light.

3 Surely against me is he turned; he turneth his hand *against me* all the day.

4 My flesh and my skin hath he made old; he hath broken my bones.

5 He hath builded against me, and compassed *me* with gall and travail.

6 He hath set me in dark places, as *they that be* dead of old.

7 He hath hedged me about, that I cannot get out: he hath made my chain heavy.

8 Also when I cry and shout, he shutteth out my prayer.

9 He hath inclosed my ways with hewn stone, he hath made my paths crooked.

10 He *was* unto me *as* a bear lying in wait, *and as* a lion in secret places.

11 He hath turned aside my ways, and pulled me in pieces: he

hath made me desolate.

12 He hath bent his bow, and set me as a mark for the arrow.

13 He hath caused the arrows of his quiver to enter into my reins.

14 I was a derision to all my people; *and* their song all the day.

15 He hath filled me with bitterness, he hath made me drunken with wormwood.

16 He hath also broken my teeth with gravel stones, he hath covered me with ashes.

17 And thou hast removed my soul far off from peace: I forgot prosperity.

18 And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the LORD:

19 Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall.

20 My soul hath *them* still in remembrance, and is humbled in me.

21. This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.

22 ¶ *It is of* the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

23 *They are* new every morning:

great *is* thy faithfulness.

24 The LORD *is* my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

25 The LORD *is* good unto them that wait for him, to the soul *that* seeketh him.

26 *It is* good that *a man* should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.

27 *It is* good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

28 He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne *it* upon him.

29 He putteth his mouth in the dust; if so be there may be hope.

30 He giveth *his* cheek to him that smiteth him: he is filled full with reproach.

31 For the Lord will not cast off for ever:

32 But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.

33 For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.

34 To crush under his feet all the prisoners of the earth,

35 To turn aside the right of a man before the face of the most High,

36 To subvert a man in his

cause, the Lord approveth not.

37 ¶ Who *is* he *that* saith, and it cometh to pass, *when* the Lord commandeth *it* not?

38 Out of the mouth of the most High proceedeth not evil and good?

39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

40 Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.

41 Let us lift up our heart with *our* hands unto God in the heavens.

42. We have transgressed and have rebelled: thou hast not pardoned.

43 Thou hast covered with anger, and persecuted us: thou hast slain, thou hast not pitied.

44 Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud, that *our* prayer should not pass through.

45 Thou hast made us *as* the off-scouring and refuse in the midst of the people.

46 All our enemies have opened their mouths against us.

47 Fear and a snare is come upon us, desolation and destruction.

48 Mine eye runneth down with rivers of water for the destruction of the daughter of my people.

49 Mine eye trickleth down, and

ceaseth not, without any intermission,

50 Till the LORD look down, and behold from heaven.

51 Mine eye affecteth mine heart because of all the daughters of my city.

52 Mine enemies chased me sore, like a bird, without cause.

53 They have cut off my life in the dungeon, and cast a stone upon me.

54 Waters flowed over mine head; *then* I said, I am cut off.

55 ¶ I called upon thy name, O LORD, out of the low dungeon.

56 Thou hast heard my voice: hide not thine ear at my breathing, at my cry.

57 Thou drewest near in the day *that* I called upon thee: thou saidst, Fear not.

58 O Lord, thou hast pleaded the causes of my soul; thou hast redeemed my life.

59 O LORD, thou hast seen my wrong: judge thou my cause.

60 Thou hast seen all their vengeance *and* all their imaginations against me.

61 Thou hast heard their reproach, O LORD, *and* all their imaginations against me;

62 The lips of those that rose up against me, and their device

against me all the day.

63 Behold their sitting down, and their rising up; I *am* their musick.

64 ¶ Render unto them a recompence, O LORD, according to the work of their hands.

65 Give them sorrow of heart, thy curse unto them.

66 Persecute and destroy them in anger from under the heavens of the LORD.

CHAPTER 4

HOW is the gold become dim! *How* is the most fine gold changed! the stones of the sanctuary are poured out in the top of every street.

2 The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold, how are they esteemed as earthen pitchers, the work of the hands of the potter!

3 Even the sea monsters draw out the breast, they give suck to their young ones: the daughter of my people *is become* cruel, like the ostriches in the wilderness.

4 The tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst: the young children ask bread, *and* no man breaketh *it* unto them.

5 They that did feed delicately are desolate in the streets: they

that were brought up in scarlet embrace dunghills.

6 For the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, that was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her.

7 Her Nazarites were purer than snow, they were whiter than milk, they were more ruddy in body than rubies, their polishing *was* of sapphire:

8 Their visage is blacker than a coal; they are not known in the streets: their skin cleaveth to their bones; it is withered, it is become like a stick.

9 *They that be* slain with the sword are better than *they that be* slain with hunger: for these pine away, stricken through for *want of* the fruits of the field.

10 The hands of the pitiful women have sodden their own children: they were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my people.

11 The LORD hath accomplished his fury; he hath poured out his fierce anger, and hath kindled a fire in Zion, and it hath devoured the foundations thereof.

12 The kings of the earth, and

all the inhabitants of the world, would not have believed that the adversary and the enemy should have entered into the gates of Jerusalem.

13 ¶ For the sins of her prophets, *and* the iniquities of her priests, that have shed the blood of the just in the midst of her,

14 They have wandered *as* blind *men* in the streets, they have polluted themselves with blood, so that men could not touch their garments.

15 They cried unto them, Depart ye; *it is* unclean; depart, depart, touch not: when they fled away and wandered, they said among the heathen, They shall no more sojourn *there*.

16 The anger of the LORD hath divided them; he will no more regard them: they respected not the persons of the priests, they favoured not the elders.

17 As for us, our eyes as yet failed for our vain help: in our watching we have watched for a nation *that* could not save *us*.

18 They hunt our steps, that we cannot go in our streets: our end is near, our days are fulfilled; for our end is come.

19 Our persecutors are swifter

than the eagles of the heaven: they pursued us upon the mountains, they laid wait for us in the wilderness.

20 The breath of our nostrils, the anointed of the LORD, was taken in their pits, of whom we said, Under his shadow we shall live among the heathen.

21 ¶ Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, that dwellest in the land of Uz; the cup also shall pass through unto thee: thou shalt be drunken, and shalt make thyself naked.

22 ¶ The punishment of thine iniquity is accomplished, O daughter of Zion; he will no more carry thee away into captivity: he will visit thine iniquity, O daughter of Edom; he will discover thy sins.

CHAPTER 5

REMEMBER, O LORD, what is come upon us: consider, and behold our reproach.

2 Our inheritance is turned to strangers, our houses to aliens.

3 We are orphans and fatherless, our mothers *are* as widows.

4 We have drunken our water for money; our wood is sold unto us.

5 Our necks *are* under persecution: we labour, *and* have no rest.

6 We have given the hand *to* the Egyptians, *and to* the Assyrians, to be satisfied with bread.

7 Our fathers have sinned, *and are* not; and we have borne their iniquities.

8 Servants have ruled over us: *there is* none that doth deliver *us* out of their hand.

9 We gat our bread with *the peril of* our lives because of the sword of the wilderness.

10 Our skin was black like an oven because of the terrible famine.

11 They ravished the women in Zion, *and* the maids in the cities of Judah.

12 Princes are hanged up by their hand: the faces of elders were not honoured.

13 They took the young men to grind, and the children fell under the wood.

14 The elders have ceased from the gate, the young men from their musick.

15 The joy of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning.

16 The crown is fallen *from* our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned!

17. For this our heart is faint; for these *things* our eyes are dim.

18 Because of the mountain of

Zion, which is desolate, the foxes walk upon it.

19 Thou, O LORD, remainest for ever; thy throne from generation to generation.

20 Wherefore dost thou forget us for ever, *and* forsake us so long time?

21 Turn thou us unto thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old.

22 But thou hast utterly rejected us; thou art very wroth against us.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

In chapter 3 we see the heart-cry of a chastened people.

In chapter 4 we see the horrors of the siege, and the fall of the city of Jerusalem. Her disaster is described in verses 1-20. The gold and the stone of the Temple had been desecrated.

Chapter 5 records the lament over Judah's misery under Babylon's heel, and the petition for restoration and divine mercy. Throughout the Book of Lamentations, Jeremiah had been dwelling on his sorrows and the sorrows of the people, but now we see him lifting up his eyes to the Lord. God is always faithful in His mercy, when we as Christians turn away from our sins and turn our eyes to Him. His compassion fails not. Even though we have failed Him, and will fail Him in the future, He cannot fail us. As the songwriter says, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." The prerequisite for God's mercy toward us is that we confess our sins. First John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." He is also faithful to deliver us when we cry out for help in temptations (I Corinthians 10:13); He is faithful to keep us in this life and unto eternal life (I Timothy 1:15; I Thessalonians 5:23,24). We desperately need to commit our souls and lives into the hands of our faithful Creator. Then, and only then, will we have a successful Christian life. God was merciful to the remnant of His people, as He is merciful to us today; but the lesson we should learn from the Book of Lamentations is that God is faithful to His Word. Backsliding and sin by God's people will be chastised. "Be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers 32:23).

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls" (Proverbs 25:28).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 14 (found on page 8).

BIRTHDAY TODAY

FRED DUSKIN

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

430

AUGUSTINE DIED.

He said, "What I pray God for is that...He will call me from this world to Himself." When he was too weak to read the Psalms he ordered them printed in large letters and placed on his walls.

1840

THE BIRTHDAY OF IRA SANKEY.

Ira Sankey was called "the golden voice singer" and was associated with Dwight Moody. He wrote the beautiful song, "The Ninety and Nine" along with "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" and "O, Safe to the Rock" and others.

THE NINETY AND NINE

*There were ninety and nine that safely lay
In the shelter of the fold,
But one was out on the hills away,
Far off from the gates of gold.
Away on the mountains wild and bare,
Away from the tender Shepherd's care,
Away from the tender Shepherd's care.*

*"Lord, Thou hast here Thy ninety and nine;
Are they not enough for Thee?"
But the Shepherd made answer: "This of mine
Has wandered away from me,
And although the road be rough and steep,
I go to the desert to find my sheep,*

I go to the desert to find my sheep."

*But none of the ransomed ever knew
How deep were the waters crossed;
Nor how dark was the night that the Lord passed
through
Ere He found His sheep that was lost.
Out in the desert He heard its cry—
Sick and helpless, and ready to die.
Sick and helpless, and ready to die.*

*"Lord, whence are those blood-drops all the way
That mark out the mountain's track?"
"They were shed for one who had gone astray
Ere the Shepherd could bring him back."
"Lord, whence are Thy hands so rent and torn?"
"They are pierced tonight by many a thorn,
They are pierced tonight by many a thorn."*

*But all thro' the mountains, thunder-riven,
And up from the rocky steep,
There rose a cry to the gate of Heaven,
"Rejoice! I have found my sheep!"
And the angels echoed around the throne,
"Rejoice, for the Lord brings back His own!
Rejoice, for the Lord brings back His own!"*

When Sankey would practice people would gather outside of his house just to hear him sing in his "golden voice."

1906 THE DEATH OF THE BLIND GEORGE MATHESON.

George Matheson, as we learned last week, was the author of "O, Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go." Here are additional stanzas:

O, LOVE THAT WILT NOT LET ME GO
*O Light that follow'st all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine's glow
May brighter, fairer be.*

*O Joy that seekest me thro' pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow thro' the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.*

O Cross that liftest up my head,

*I dare not ask to hide from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.*

1928

W.A. CRISWELL WAS ORDAINED.

W.A. Criswell has for many years been pastor of the famous First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas, and is a warm-hearted Gospel preacher. Pray for him today.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1963

MORE THAN 250,000 PERSONS PARTICIPATED IN MARCH ON WASHINGTON demonstration, the largest civil rights demonstration in history.

1963

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR MAKES "I HAVE A DREAM" SPEECH AT LINCOLN MEMORIAL

1949

RIOT PREVENTED PAUL ROBESON FORM SINGING AT THE LAKELAND picnic grounds near Peekskill, Westchester County, New York.

1921

SECOND PAN-AFRICAN CONGRESS MET in London, Brussels and Paris, August 28 to September 6. Of the 113 delegates, 39 were from Africa and 36 were from America.

1955

EMMETT TILL (14) KIDNAPPED AND LYNCHED in Money, Mississippi.

1962

SEVENTY-FIVE MINISTERS AND LAYMEN—BLACKS AND WHITES—FROM NORTH ARRESTED after prayer demonstration in downtown Albany.

1964

RACE RIOT, PHILADELPHIA. (8/28-30).

1966

NATIONAL GUARD MOBILIZED TO PROTECT MILWAUKEE MARCHERS protesting judge's membership in lily-white club.

1968

REV. CHANNING E. PHILIPS OF WASHINGTON, D.C., BECAME FIRST BLACK NOMINATED FOR PRESIDENT by a major national party. Philips was nominated as favorite son candidate by District of Columbia delegation at Democratic convention in Chicago and received 671/2 votes.

Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 14 (for review):

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "I AM TOO GREAT A SINNER"

() Isaiah 1:18

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

() 1 Timothy 1:15

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

() Romans 5:6

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

() Romans 5:7

For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

() Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.