

# He Will Not Cast Forever

Lamentations 3:31-33

Thesis: God does not afflict willingly. He gets no delight in the chastening of His children, but because He loves us. He is faithful and will chastise in order to share in His righteousness.

Introduction:

1. Of all books in the Bible two stand out as the saddest:
  - a. Job - personal tragedy
  - b. Lamentations - national tragedy, horror of God's judgment against His people. (Mackie and Collins). Lamentations 2:20; 4:10; Dt. 28:53-57
2. Matthew 16:13ff - There are several similarities between Jeremiah and Jesus
3. God's children had suffered and would continue to suffer in exile... (Lam. 3:31-33.)
  - I. The rejection will not last forever (vs. 31)
    - A. A description of the horrors that Jeremiah described would seem like the suffering would never end. (Jeremiah 25:11)
    - B. There is hope - in the New Covenant when God will return with compassion for all nations (Jeremiah 31:31; Hebrews 8:6-13)
  - II. God does cause grief (vs. 32)
    - A. God raised up the Babylonians to punish (Hab. 1:6).
    - B. Psalm 79:38; 106:43-45
  - III. "**FOR**" He does not afflict or grieve from the HEART (willingly) (vs. 33)
    - A. vs. 32 says He causes grief, vs. 33 says He does not afflict from the heart...is there a contradiction?
    - B. God's heart's desire is for man to be obedient and have a relationship with Him

Conclusion:

1. "Why do You forget us forever? Why do You forsake us so long? Restore us to You, O Lord, that we may be restored; Renew our days as of old, Unless You have utterly rejected us *And* are exceedingly angry with us." (Lam. 5:20-22)
2. Hebrews 11:9-10

# Questions for Reflection

1. Why was Lamentations written?
2. What is the context of these verses about God's love and compassion?
3. How could the writer of Lamentations say that God causes grief (Lam. 3:32) and that He does not grieve (Lam. 3:33)
4. What does the "**FOR**" at the beginning of vs. 33 say about how God's love and compassion relate to the grief He causes people?
5. Why did Abraham live out his days in tents in Canaan and not in a house? Does this have anything to do with us today? (Hebrews 11:9-10)