

## For Everything There is a Season Lamentations 3:17-32

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-4** – The book of Lamentations is a season of weeping/mourning

To **lament** is to passionately express grief or sorrow! God reserves an entire book in the Bible for this purpose! Why? **Because there is purpose in grief!**

It's hard to know and understand joy, without also knowing & experiencing sorrow (& vice versa)! **The contrast is what helps us give definition to both!**

Examples: Light & darkness, hot & cold, spring & fall, my outside deck

The author's sorrow, & his call for others to share in his grief, is due to the destruction God brought upon His people & the city that bears His name!

It is a very sorrowful book, but through this sorrow **a great light is cast on who God truly is** - the One who is faithful to His people, steadfast in His love, & whose mercies are new every day, despite the season! **Lamentations 3:17-32**

Do you hear the contrast? Do you see the hope amidst the sorrow? There is purpose in pain, not because it's a cliché, but because of who our God is!

I like this author b/c he uses an acrostic to present this message of contrast throughout the book! 4x's he goes thru the Hebrew alphabet to frame it!

So why don't we do the same thing this morning as we consider how the experiences we go through in life are like the changing of the seasons - They are all purposeful, and **it's in the contrast that our hope is revealed!**

The Hebrew alphabet has 22 letters, ours has 26, so you get a few extra! Here are some contrasting seasons that serve a greater purpose in our lives:

A – <b>Anguish and Amen</b>	2 Corinthians 1:20
B – Blah and Beauty	Psalm 27:4
C – Curse and the Cross	Galatians 3:13
D – <b>Doubt and Delight</b>	Psalm 1:1-3
E – Emptiness and Enough	Psalm 103:2-5
F – Fear and Faith	Isaiah 43:1-3a
G – <b>Guilt and Grace</b>	Hebrews 10:19-22

H – Helplessness and Hope	Psalm 42:5-6a
I – <b>Imprisonment and Inheritance</b>	1 Peter 1:3-5
J – Judgement and Justice	Romans 12:9
K – 1 <sup>st</sup> Key (the gospel) and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Key (discipline)	Hebrews 12:5-6
L – <b>Lamenting and Laughing</b>	Genesis 21:5-7
M – Martha and Mary	Luke 10:38-42
N – Nemesis and Neighborly	Matthew 5:43-44
O – <b>Obstacles and Opportunities</b>	James 1:2-3
P – Pain and Promise	Revelation 21:3-4
Q – Quarrels and Quiet	James 1:19-20
R – <b>Repentance and Restoration</b>	2 Chronicles 7:14
S – Sin and Salvation	Romans 6:23
T – Trials and Triumph	John 16:33
U – <b>Uniformity and Unity</b>	1 Corinthians 12:12-19
V – Vanity and Value	Matthew 6:25-26
W – <b>Wavering and Winning</b>	1 Corinthians 9:24
Y – Yearning and Yoked	Matthew 11:28-30
Z – Zeal and Zion	1 Peter 2:6

If all we hear is the lament, **we may never hear God's words of hope!**

If all we see is the season we are in right now, we may miss what God wants us to see in what has already come to pass – Jesus' 1<sup>st</sup> coming, as well as what is still yet to come – Jesus' return and coming glory!

**For everything there is a season**, and in every season there is an opportunity to see and savor Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord!

Don't miss what God has for you in whatever season you are in right now!

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Psalm 42:5-6a

1 Peter 1:3-5

Romans 12:9

Hebrews 12:5-6

Genesis 21:5-7

Luke 10:38-42

Matthew 5:43-44

James 1:2-3

Revelation 21:3-4

James 1:19-20

2 Chronicles 7:14

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John 16:33

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