

WHEN THINGS ARE FALLING APART
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INTRODUCTION:

A. Our world will fall apart even though we are Christians.

I. UNLOADING OUR FRUSTRATIONS ON GOD

A. What?

I am the one who has seen afflictions, that comes from the rod of the Lord's anger. He has...lead me into darkness...He has made my skin and flesh grow old and broken my bones....He has surrounded me with anguish and distress. He has buried me in a dark place like those long dead. He has walled me in and bound me in heavy chains...I cry and shout, He has shut out my prayers. He has blocked my way...made my road crooked.

— Lamentations 3:1-10

- Tell God exactly how you feel. "I'm tired of this..."

Peace has been stripped away and I have forgotten what prosperity is (and feels like). My splendor is gone! Everything I had hoped for from the Lord is lost!

— Lamentations 3:17-18

II. REMEMBER, GOD LOVES US.

A. It is easy to focus on our pain, problems and pressures BUT we must choose to focus on God's love for us instead.

...my suffering...is bitter beyond words...I will never forget this awful time as I grieve over my loss.

— Lamentations 3:19-20

B. Once we open the channel of our real emotions to the Lord THEN His sustaining love can rush in.

...but His love for us is sure and strong...The Lord is good to everyone who trusts in Him...so it is best...to wait for Him to save us.

— Lamentations 3:33 & 25-26

III. LIFE IS OFTEN A WAITING GAME.

A. *When life is heavy and hard to take, go off by yourself. Enter the silence. Bow in prayer. Don't ask questions: Wait for hope [of the Lord] to appear.*

— Lamentations 3:28 (The Message)

B. When we are hopeless we have to hang on until hope appears....and it will.

IV. I CHANGE WHAT I CAN AND THE REST IS UP TO GOD.

A. We can't change everything, and we will never change anyone.

- We need to attend to the present....

...let us test and examine our ways. Let us turn back to the Lord. — Lamentations 3:40

- Ask God to relieve our fears.

Yes, you came when I called; you told me, "Do not fear."

— Lamentations 3:57

V. EXPECT JESUS TO RESTORE OUR LIFE.

A. *Restore us, O Lord, and bring us back to you again. Give us back the joys we once had.*

— Lamentations 5:21

CONCLUSIONS: