

Lamentations 3:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

Analysis

They are new every morning (חֲדָשִׁים לְבָקָרִים, chadashim labqarim)—God's mercies are 'renewed' daily like the manna in the wilderness, emphasizing daily dependence and fresh provision. 'Morning' (boqer) carries connotations of hope after darkness, new beginnings after night's despair. **Great is thy faithfulness** (רַבָּה אֱמוּנָתְךָ, rabbah emunatekha)—'Emunah' is firmness, reliability, steadfastness. This declaration has become one of Scripture's most beloved affirmations, yet emerged from Jerusalem's ruins. The acrostic continues with the letter chet, structuring even desperate hope within ordered Hebrew poetry.

Historical Context

Contrasts with the daily deterioration during the siege when each morning brought fresh horrors. Now, even in exile's aftermath, Jeremiah affirms the opposite: each morning brings fresh evidence of God's sustaining faithfulness. This theology later influenced Jewish morning prayers (Shacharit) that daily recite God's faithfulness.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Do you approach each day expecting fresh evidence of God's faithfulness, or do you carry yesterday's disappointments into today's opportunities for grace?
2. How does the context of this declaration—spoken amid ruins, not prosperity—authenticate its truth more powerfully than if it had been written during Solomon's golden age?

Interlinear Text

הַיּוֹמָהִים	לְבֹקֶר יוֹם	רַבָּה	אֱמוּנָתְךָ:
They are new	every morning	great	is thy faithfulness
H2319	H1242	H7227	H530

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 10:23 (Faith): Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

Psalms 30:5 (Parallel theme): For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

Isaiah 33:2 (Parallel theme): O LORD, be gracious unto us; we have waited for thee: be thou their arm every morning, our salvation also in the time of trouble.

Psalms 89:33 (Faith): Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.

Psalms 36:5 (Faith): Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.

Zephaniah 3:5 (Parallel theme): The just LORD is in the midst thereof; he will not do iniquity: every morning doth he bring his judgment to light, he faileth not; but the unjust knoweth no shame.

Psalms 146:6 (Parallel theme): Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever:

Exodus 34:6 (Parallel theme): And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

Hebrews 6:18 (Parallel theme): That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

Titus 1:2 (Parallel theme): In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

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