

43 O God You are my God alone  
 Whom eagerly I seek  
 though longing fills my soul with thirst  
 and leaves my body weak  
 Just as a dry and barren land  
 awakes a freshening shower  
 I long within Your house to see  
 Your glory and Your power

Your faithful love surpasses life  
 evoking all my praise  
 Though every day, to bless Your name  
 my hands in joy I'll raise  
 My deepest needs You satisfy  
 as with a sumptuous feast  
 So on my lips and in my heart  
 Your praise has never ceased.

Throughout the night I lie in bed  
 and call You Lord to mind  
 in darkest hours I meditate  
 how God my strength is kind  
 Beneath the shadow of Your wing  
 I live and feel secure  
 and daily as I follow close  
 Your right hand keep me sure

From the restlessness and uncertainties of changing circumstances we turn to You,  
 the only ultimate security and certainty in time and in eternity.

We echo the words we have been singing,  
 praying that as we study Your word today we may sense something of Your greatness  
 experience something of Your power  
 so that when we may be having dark hours in meditating on You  
 we may know the security of your kindness  
 and be aware of Your strength to enable us as we seek to follow You in our daily lives,  
 reflecting the likeness of Jesus in all our contacts and dealings with other folk,  
 seeking to be salt to prevent things being rotten  
 seeking to be light in the darkness



Through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord and Saviour AMEN.

**Jeremiah Follows on from**

- Amos with the theme of justice in nations
- Micah with the theme consistent worship
- Hosea with the theme of God's love for unfaithful folk
- Isaiah with the theme of God's majesty and active care

**Relevant for us today because**

1. in it we see God's word at a time of national crisis
2. we see how this young guy manages
3. also we see about coping with spiritual tensions and depression

## Jeremiah 1.3-10

The word of the Lord came to me, saying,  
"Before I formed you in the womb I knew[a] you,  
before you were born I set you apart;  
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

"Alas, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young."

7 But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. 8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord.

9 Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. 10 See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

## Lamentations 3.19-24

I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall.

I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

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1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light

2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord  
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling and I with thee one

3. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always  
Thou and thou only first in my heart  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art

4. High King of heaven, my victory won  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall  
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

Sometimes we feel up against it, struggling with things personally or looking at the issues in society globally, we feel inadequate - We see that feeling with many in the Bible who knew that they were called to be God's person : Moses, Gideon, and Jeremiah

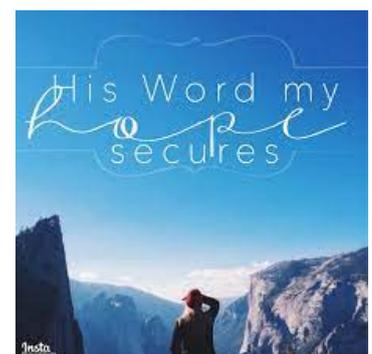
### A. **God's proclamation** -

7,9 not own ideas focus off self and the uncertainty of circ...



### B. **God's presence** -

8 no insurance policy in Lamentations 3  
Problems about which he was honest - are we?  
Perspective which gave hope  
Fresh every morning -  
do we allow contact with God to grow stale?  
Portion - appropriate  
like a piece of cake suitable for the person getting it!



### C. God's power over nations -

10 have we lost concept of greatness of God and entered a ghetto mentality?  
Jesus spoke about being salt and light -  
salt - in days before freezers to prevent things going rotten  
light - when people feel life dark to bring the light  
are there things that are rotten ? or people feeling dark and gloomy!

MP1075 Jesus all for Jesus

All I am and have and ever hope to be

Jesus all for Jesus

All I am and have and ever hope to be

All of my ambitions hopes and plans

I surrender these into Your hands

All of my ambitions hopes and plans

I surrender these into Your hands

For it's only in Your will  
that I am free

For it's only in Your will  
that I am free

Jesus all for Jesus

All I am and have  
and ever hope to be.

We take these moments to reflect on our lives, in the light of Jesus

and to reflect on our world globally (filling in examples)

thinking of the things which are rotten, needing the salt of Jesus

thinking of the things which are dark and glooming needing the light of Jesus.

to reflect on things nationally (filling in examples)

thinking of the things which are rotten, needing the salt of Jesus

thinking of the things which are dark and glooming needing the light of Jesus.

to reflect on our community (filling in examples)

thinking of people who have been at the receiving end of rotten things

thinking of those for whom light is dark praying that we may bring the light of Jesus

Hear then our prayers spoken and unspoken

Through Jesus Christ who taught us when we pray to say "our Father .."

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1. His name for ever shall endure;

last like the sun it shall:

men shall be blessed in him, and blessed

all nations shall him call.

2. Now blessed be the Lord our God,  
the God of Israel,

For he alone doth wondrous works,  
in glory that excel.

And blessed be his glorious name

to all eternity:

the whole earth let his glory fill.

Amen, so let it be.