

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Lamentations 3:18-26 “*My strength and my hope have perished from the LORD.*” Remember my affliction and roaming, the wormwood and the gall. My soul still remembers and sinks within me. This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. Through the LORD’S mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. **They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.** ‘The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘Therefore I hope in Him! The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.’”

Quote: “The promises of the Bible are nothing more than God’s covenant to be faithful to His people. It is His character that makes these promises valid.” Jerry Bridges

Jeremiah was young when God called him to a challenging, unpopular and dangerous task. “Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: ‘*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.*’ Then said I: ‘Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.’ But the LORD said to me: ‘Do not say, “I am a youth,” For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you,’ says the LORD.”¹ There are many other examples of God declaring His knowledge of and purpose for individuals in His providential plan—Moses, David, Isaiah, John the Baptist and Paul to name a few.² In each of their lives the detailed providence of God Who is sovereign offers hope to all who are trusting in Christ alone.

Called “the weeping prophet,” Jeremiah’s words paint a picture of hope and trust through grievous personal trials. His commission from God was a declaration of God’s judgment against Judah’s abominations and a call to repentance.³ His was an unpopular message that resulted in a life of loneliness, imprisonment and abuse. He suffered greatly to the point of lamenting the day that he was born, and asked the telling question, “Why did I come forth from the womb to see labor and sorrow, That my days should be consumed with

shame?”⁴ Little did he know that, while the message he preached fell on deaf ears during his forty-year ministry, millions would read the account of his life and find great solace in the truth that when we do not understand what God is doing, we can rest in Who He is—the Creator, Sustainer and Sovereign of Heaven, Earth and us! “*And the heavens will praise Your wonders, O Lord; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the (angels).*”⁵

My Father whispers gently in the dawn of morning skies with vibrant, pastel anthems that fall softly on my eyes. **His mercy and compassion bring fresh hope with each new day,** reminding me that *He ordains all things that come my way.*

Though brilliance of the noonday Sun will not permit my gaze, my Father’s holy purity outshines these blinding rays that are a wanting emblem of the glory ‘round God’s throne—mere shadows of that Excellence, unique to Him alone.

Rest in the Father’s Faithfulness

Then slowly a crescendo swells in praise to The Most High in flaming gold and violet tones that bring a soul-deep sigh. The Lord of all creation bids His Sun to take its flight, and herald forth in other lands His majesty and might.

Soft twilight melts this splendor into deep’ning shades of blue, and ushers in night’s lullabies in subtle, calming hues. A serenade of peace they bring to saints at end of day who thank God for His faithfulness as Guardian, Hope and Stay.

With darkness comes a dazzling host across an ebon span. The wonder of their vast array inspires the mind of man, but night skies sing a special song to those who fear God’s name. They fan a passion deep within, His glory to proclaim.

The God Who is my Father sends hope’s message day and night that He will strengthen and provide no matter what my plight. He grants amazing grace for me to trust that He is near, and rest in His wise providence ‘midst sorrows, joys and fears.

1 Jer.1:4-8 2 Ex 33:12,17; Psa.139:14-16; Isa.49:1,5; Luke 1:15,41; Gal.1:15-16 3 Jer.32:26-42 4 Jer.20:14-18 5 Psa.89:5; J. MacArthur