



# Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy: Discovering the Grace of Lament

*Mark Vroegop*

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## **Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy: Discovering the Grace of Lament** Mark Vroegop

Where do you turn when the dark clouds of pain, suffering, and loss roll into your life? In a broken world, difficult trials can lead quickly to discouragement and despair--even for Christians. But the Bible sets forth an oft-neglected practice for dealing with such trials: lament. To lament is to turn to God in honest, desperate prayer, giving voice to the reality of our emotions--as intense and tumultuous as they may be. Ultimately, lament is an expression of faith in the God who hears our cries and responds with mercy and grace. Drawing on examples from the Bible and his own story of loss, pastor Mark Vroegop walks through steps of lament (Turn, Complain, Ask, and Trust) to show what lament is, why it is important, and how to enter into it--helping readers learn to live between the poles of God's goodness and the pain of a hard life.

## **Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy: Discovering the Grace of Lament Details**

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# From Reader Review *Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy*: Discovering the Grace of Lament for online ebook

## Joma Briones says

#DarkCloudsDeepMercy #NetGalley

The book cetered around 'lamenting'. A topic where we think we're familiar with or not at all but at the end... we really don't. The process, the reasons, the emotions... most of the things we can do to start our journey on lamenting. So like, you'll mostly read lament here okay? And it'll be a little hard to remove from your mind. It comforted me, personally, when I read how much it's okay to grieve and okay to say my troubles and my discontentment out loud to the Lord and that I was guided on how to do it properly.

This isn't a journey but a journey starter, a kind of handy life coach with stories to help you understand the deeper meanings in a much easier way.

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## Dorothy says

The prayer language of lament is often overlooked by today's followers of Jesus, and in this concise book Mark Vroegop presents the reason that it is so important, and he goes on to show his readers lessons and examples in both the Psalms of lament and the book of Lamentations. Prayers of lament are not an angry tirade against God, but rather a turning to prayer with honest complaint, a recognition of God's goodness and mercy, and a choice to trust God instead of circumstances. The book is well-organized to show how we can learn from lament and learn to lament. He includes appendices of examples, scripture references, and a bibliography for further exploration of this important aspect of Christian life. The writing style is very readable, and reflection questions are also included.

I received a free copy of this book from Amazon Vine in exchange for my honest review.

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## Rachel says

[Click here to read my review.](#)

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## David Steele says

Life is a series of events that is filled with moments of intense joy and seasons of pain and suffering. *Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy* by Mark Vroegop is concerned with the latter. The author is acutely aware that people who live in a fallen world will inevitably face what William Cowper refers to as the "dark clouds of Providence."

There have been a few notable contributions in recent days that address the subject of suffering. Tim Keller's, *Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering* and Paul David Tripp's, *Suffering* are two

examples of books that tackle the subject of suffering that are faithful to Scripture and offer readers a glimpse of hope through the prism of Scripture. Like the aforementioned books, Vroegrop wrestles with the subject. But *Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy* is unique in that it focuses on the subject of lament.

“The aim of this book,” writes Vroegrop, “is to help you discover the grace of lament - to encourage you to find deep mercy in the dark clouds.” His mission is accomplished in three parts:

Part 1: Learning to Lament/Psalms of Lament

Part 2: Learning from Lament: Lamentations

Part 3: Living with Lament: Personal and Community Applications

The author defines lament as “a prayer that leads to trust.” Such a prayer leads to two crucial questions:

“Where are you, God?”

“If you love me, why is this happening?”

Lament, then, is “the transition between pain and promise.”

With this solid foundation, the author shows how Christians are both commended and commanded to make lament to God.

Ultimately, painful seasons of life can be “platforms for worship.” These seasons lead the people of God to trust him fully and deeply. “Trust,” writes Vroegrop, “is believing what you know to be true even though the facts of suffering might call that belief into question. Lament keeps us turning toward trust by giving us language to step into the wilderness between our painful reality and our hopeful longings.”

I found *Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy* to be an immensely helpful and practical book. This book gives believers permission to grieve - even wail and mourn. But after grief comes another day, which leads to worship.

*Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy* is intimately tied to the Word of God and directs the people of God to the pathway that leads to him. Indeed, as the author notes, “Lament is the language of those stumbling in their journey to find mercy in dark clouds.”

Five takeaways are offered as a means of encouragement:

“Lament is how we tunnel our way to truth.”

“Lament is how we experience grace no matter what we face.”

“Lament gives us hope because it gives us a glimpse of truth.”

“Lament vocalizes a desire for justice that is unfulfilled.”

“In dark clouds, there is deep mercy as we discover the grace of lament.”

Readers will truly discover how to apply the grace of God in this well-written and deeply God-honoring

book.

I received this book free from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review.

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## **Becky says**

First sentence from the introduction: Learning to lament began on my knees. “No, Lord!” I pleaded. “Please not this!” It was 2004, and my wife, Sarah, awakened me, concerned that something was wrong with her pregnancy.

First sentence from chapter one: Who taught you to cry? The answer, of course, is “no one.” Although you don’t remember it, the first sound you made when you left the warm and protected home of your mother’s womb was a loud wail.

Dark Clouds Deep Mercy is a must read book for Christians in my opinion. It is simply an AMAZING read. Vroegop guides readers through the four elements of lament by teaching through four lament psalms and an entire book of laments--Lamentations. By the end of the book, believers will know what it means to lament, why it is important to lament, and perhaps more importantly still how they can themselves lament and learn from the process.

I believe that every person has either suffered pain or loss at some point in his or her life. So the book is more likely than not already relevant. If not yet--it probably will be soon enough. Lament is the Christian response to living in a world ruined--soured--by sin, injustice, pain, suffering, loss, grief, death.

What is lament?

Lament is rooted in what we believe. It is a prayer loaded with theology. Christians affirm that the world is broken, God is powerful, and he will be faithful. Therefore, lament stands in the gap between pain and promise.

Part of the grace of lament is the way it invites us to pray boldly even when we are bruised badly.

Lament rises from a firm belief in the character of God, an understanding of the brokenness of sin, and a heartfelt longing for the completion of God’s redemptive plan.

My favorite quotes:

To pray in pain, even with its messy struggle and tough questions, is an act of faith where we open up our hearts to God. Prayerful lament is better than silence. Giving God the silent treatment, it is the ultimate manifestation of unbelief.

Every Christian has a record of God's steadfast love. Therefore, we should remind ourselves about God's worthiness to be trusted. To be a Christian means trusting in what God says and who he is. We came to faith that way. We trusted that the Bible is true. We believed forgiveness is possible for those who receive Christ. Trusting in God's grace welcomed us into God's family. But that was only the beginning. Christians don't leave behind trusting God after coming to faith. On the contrary, being a follower of Jesus requires that we walk through life in continual trust.

One of the greatest joys of the new heavens and the new earth will be the absence of all songs of sorrow. Perhaps we'll sing the Psalms, but we'll not sing all of them. In God's presence there will be no need to lament. All our complaints will be complete. Our requests will have been answered. Praise will be in the air we breathe.

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### **Timothy says**

The message of biblical lament needs to be proclaimed in our day, and Mark Vroegop does a wonderful job bringing it to our contemporary culture. He navigates between the extremes of sinful grumbling and trite hope. Each chapter builds on the previous, and (if applied) will help to bolster your faith in the God who is close to the broken-hearted and who made his love plain through the greatest suffering imaginable: the Cross.

I'm thankful for the contribution this book brings to the western world. This is why I gave it five-stars.

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