A dark, atmospheric photograph of a forest. A wooden boardwalk or path leads from the bottom center towards a bright light source, likely the sun, which is breaking through the dense canopy of tall, thin trees. The light creates a strong lens flare and illuminates the path and the surrounding foliage. The overall mood is somber yet hopeful.

LAMENTATIONS

— HEARTACHE TO HOPE —

How bad was the situation after the invasion?

- 1:11 -- a willingness to pay anything for food
- 2:11 -- infants and babies fainting in the streets
- 2:20-21-- women eat their children/bodies piled up in the streets
- 4:4 -- constantly begging for food
- 4:9 -- to die by the sword would be a good day
- 5:11-13 -- the women are raped, leaders are hung, elderly are discarded and the young men are made to labor

HEARTACHE TO HOPE

How can a book with such atrocities speak about the steadfast love and mercies of God?

- Having an eternal perspective
- Understand there is purpose in trials
- Understand God's heart (desire)
- God has the answers and is not the problem

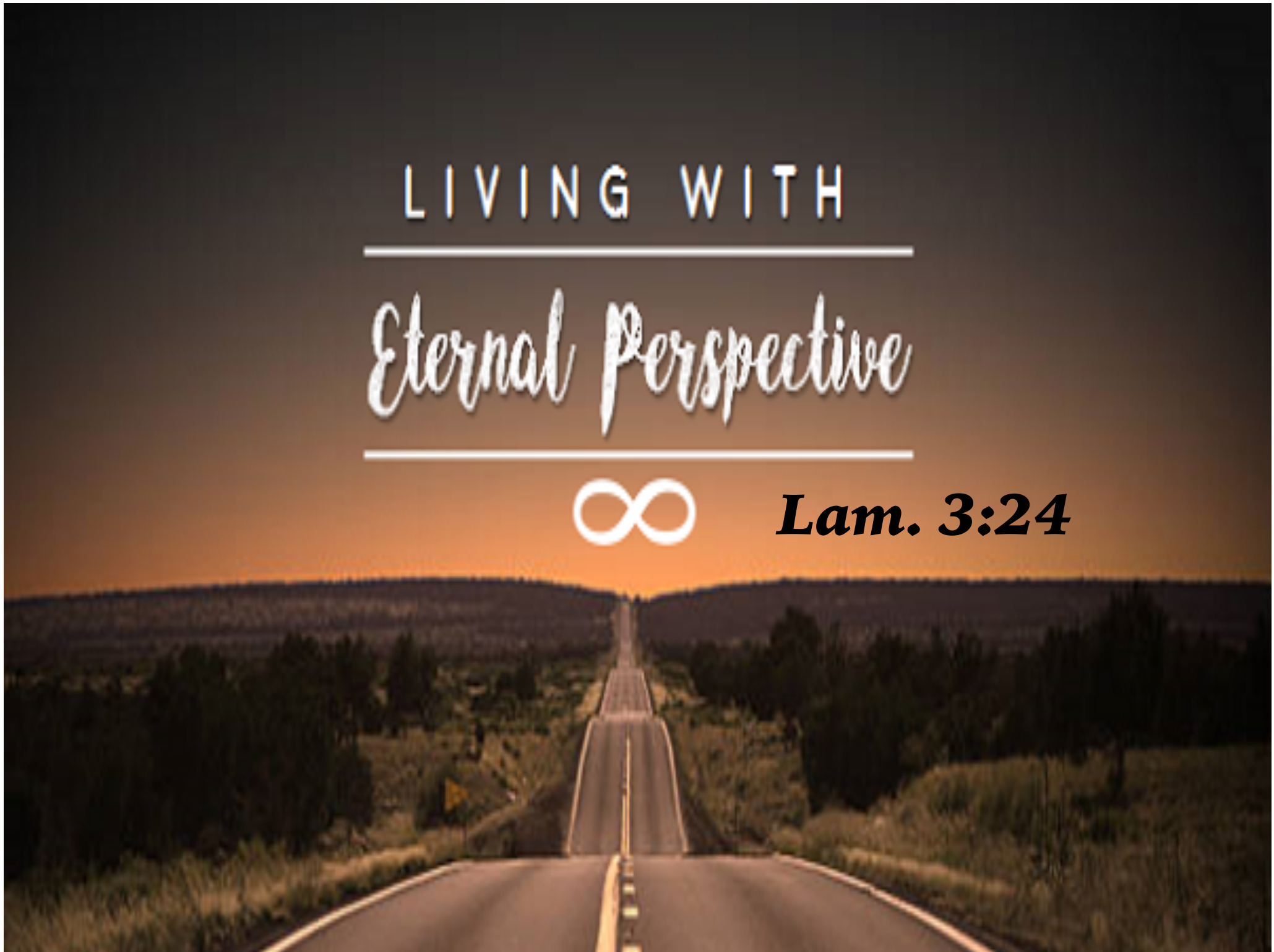
— LAMENTATIONS —
— HEARTACHE TO HOPE —

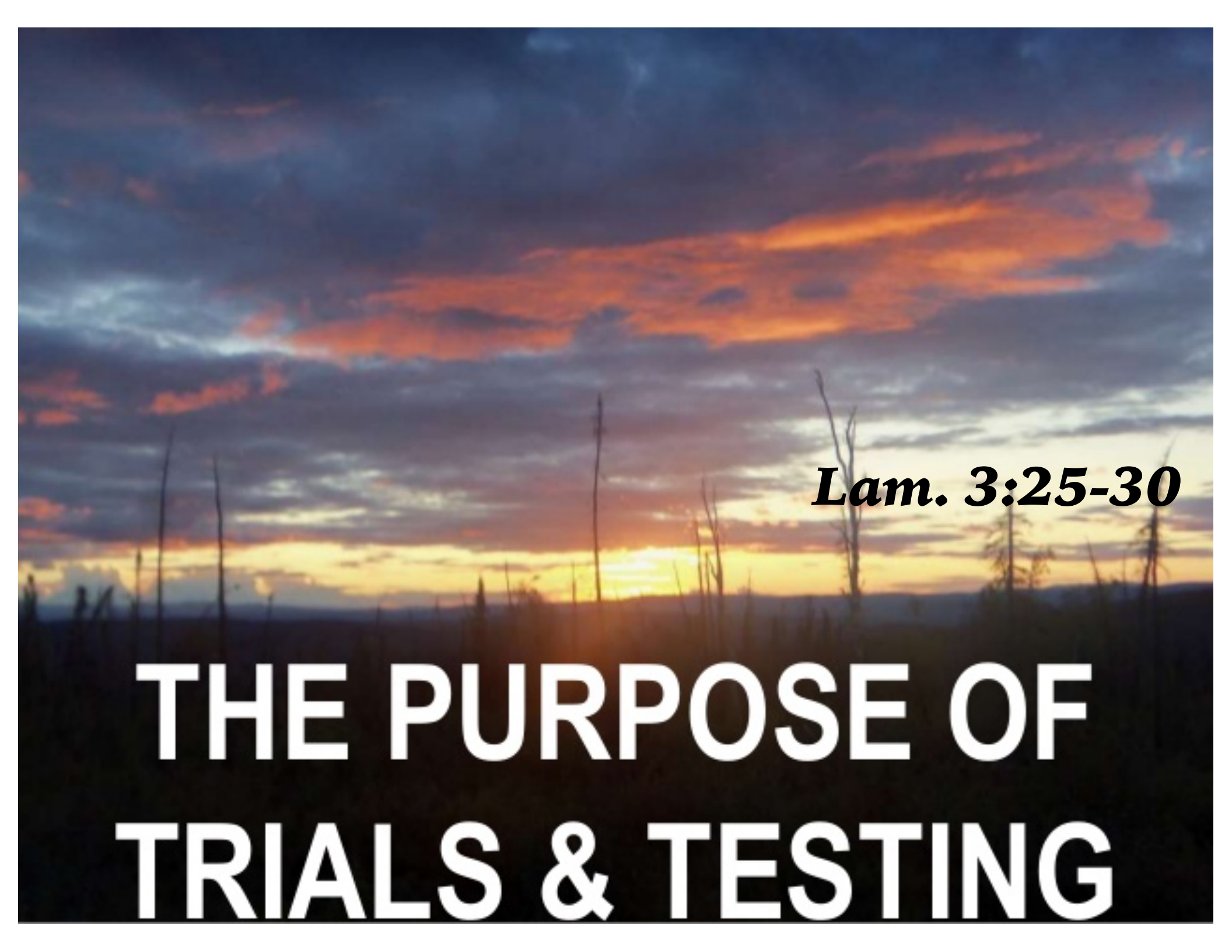
LIVING WITH

Eternal Perspective



Lam. 3:24





Lam. 3:25-30

THE PURPOSE OF TRIALS & TESTING

God's Desire

Is never condemnation

Lam. 3:31-33

The background of the slide is a photograph of a vast field of green wheat in the foreground, stretching to a horizon line. Above the horizon, the sky is filled with heavy, dark, grey clouds, suggesting an approaching storm or a somber atmosphere. The lighting is dramatic, with some highlights on the wheat and the edges of the clouds.

THE PROBLEM OF SIN

God is not to blame

Lam. 3:39-41

Images used from:

- <http://riversidecalvary.com/messages/through-the-bible/lamentations/>
- <http://compass1.org.au/living-with-eternal-perspective/>
- <https://www.slideshare.net/larrypasley/the-purpose-of-trials-testing>
- <http://slideplayer.com/slide/2354316/>
- <http://kevinpierpont.com/the-problem-of-sin/>