

**He carries them close to his heart (v. 11)**

**Context:** shame and guilt. The 'baggage' we bring

- Written after warning about the exile (39. 6,7; 2 Chron. 36. 11-20)
- Focussed on the Jews exiled in Babylon 587-536 B.C.
- Intended for all with ears to hear

**Content:** comfort!

Notice:

- the tenderness of God, v. 1 – 11
- the immensity of God, v. 12 – 26
  - God of creation
  - Lord of providence
- the support of God, v. 27 – 31

**Conclusion:** know you are *loved*

- Thank him for leaving the past behind.
- Tell him you are trusting him about this year, whatever it will contain
- Practise leaning on him. 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength' (v. 31)