

~MOURNING (1565)

- .. Causes Of Mourning
- .. Ways Of Expressing Sorrow
- .. Prohibitions Involving Mourning
- .. A Time To Mourn
- .. A Balanced View Of Mourning
- .. Figurative And Prophetic Use

▪ Mourning among Oriental peoples was customarily accompanied by much outward display of grief, and this is reflected in the Biblical accounts of periods of mourning. One entire book of the Bible, Lamentations, is an expression of mourning over the fate of Jerusalem.

.. Causes Of Mourning

- Persons **mourned** to express repentance.
- And on the twenty-fourth day of this month the sons of Israel gathered themselves together **with fasting and with sackcloth and dirt upon themselves.** (**Nehemiah 9:1**)
- And the seed of Israel proceeded to separate themselves from all the foreigners, and to stand and **make confession of their own sins and the errors of their fathers.** (**Nehemiah 9:2**)
- And the men of Nineveh began to put faith in God, and they proceeded to **proclaim a fast and to put on sackcloth**, from the greatest one of them even to the least one of them.
- And the men of Nineveh began to put faith in God, and they proceeded to **proclaim a fast and to put on sackcloth**, from the greatest one of them even to the least one of them. (**Jonah 3:5**)
- When the word reached the king of Nineveh, then he rose up from his throne and put off his official garment from himself and **covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the ashes.** (**Jonah 3:6**)
- Furthermore, he had the cry made, and he had it said in Nineveh, by the decree of the king and his great ones, saying; No man and no domestic animal, no herd and no flock, should taste anything at all. None should take food. Even water they should not drink.

(Jonah 3:7)

- **And let them cover themselves with sackcloth, man and domestic animal, and let them call out to God with strength and come back, each one from his bad way and from the violence that was in their hands. (Jonah 3:8)**
- **Who is there knowing whether the true God may turn back and actually feel regret and turn back from his burning anger, so that we may not perish? (Jonah 3:9)**
- **Or because of the imminence of calamity.**
- **And in all the different jurisdictional districts, wherever the king's word and his Law were reaching, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting and weeping and wailing. Sackcloth and ashes themselves came to be spread out as a couch for many. (Esther 4:3)**
- **O daughter of my people, gird on sackcloth and wallow in the ashes. Make your mourning that for an only son, the wailing of bitterness, because suddenly the despoiler will come upon us. (Jeremiah 6:26)**
- **Therefore this is what Yehowah the God of armies, Yehowah, has said; In all the public squares there will be wailing, and in all the streets people will be saying; Ah! Ah! And they will have to call a farmer to mourning, and to wailing those experienced in lamentation. (Amos 5:16)**
- **And in all vineyards there will be wailing, for I shall pass through the midst of you, Yehowah has said. (Amos 5:17)**
- **Or a disastrous condition already prevailing,**
- **Wake up, you drunkards, and weep, and howl, all you wine drinkers, on account of sweet wine, for it has been cut off from your mouths. (Joel 1:5)**
- **For there is a nation that has come up into my land, mighty and without number. Its teeth are the teeth of a lion, and it has the jawbones of a lion. (Joel 1:6)**
- **It has set my vine as an object of astonishment, and my fig tree**

- as a stump. It has positively stripped it bare and thrown it away. The twigs of it have become white. (Joel 1:7)
- Wail, as a virgin girded with sackcloth does over the owner of her youth. (Joel 1:8)
 - Grain offering and drink offering have been cut off from the house of Yehowah, the priests, the ministers of Yehowah, have mourned. (Joel 1:9)
 - The field has been despoiled, the ground has gone to **mourning**, for the grain has been despoiled, the new wine has been dried up, the oil has faded away. (Joel 1:10)
 - Farmers have felt shame, vinedressers have howled, on account of wheat and on account of barley, for the harvest of the field has perished. (Joel 1:11)
 - The vine itself has shown dryness, and even the fig tree has faded away. As for the pomegranate tree, also the palm tree and the apple tree, all the trees of the field, they have dried up, for exultation has gone ashamed away from the sons of mankind. (Joel 1:12)
 - Gird yourselves, and beat your breasts, you priests. **Howl**, you ministers of the altar. Come in, spend the night in sackcloth, you ministers of my God, for from the house of your God grain offering and drink offering have been withheld. (Joel 1:13)
 - **Sanctify a time of fasting.** Call together a solemn assembly. Gather together the older men, all the inhabitants of the land, to the house of Yehowah your God, and cry to Yehowah for aid. (Joel 1:14)
 - The most common **cause** of **mourning**, undoubtedly, was **death**. The death of a member of the immediate family set in motion a period of mourning
 - So Sarah died in Kiriatharba, that is to say; Hebron, in the land of Canaan, and Abraham came in to bewail Sarah and to weep over her. (Genesis 23:2)
 - However, Esau harbored animosity for Jacob on account of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau kept

- saying in his heart; The days of the period of **mourning** for my father are getting closer. After that I am going to kill Jacob my brother. (**Genesis 27:41**)
- And he went examining it and exclaimed; It is my son's long garment! A vicious wild beast must have devoured him! Joseph is surely torn to pieces! (**Genesis 37:33**)
 - With that Jacob ripped his mantles apart and put sackcloth upon his hips and carried on **mourning** over his son for many days. (**Genesis 37:34**)
 - And all his sons and all his daughters kept rising up to comfort him, but he kept refusing to take comfort and saying; For I shall go down **mourning** to my son into Sheol! And his father continued weeping for him. (**Genesis 37:35**)
 - While the death of a parent or of an only son are set out as occasions of the deepest grief.
 - As for a companion, as for a brother of mine, I walked about like one **mourning** for a mother. Saddened, I bowed down. (**Psalms 35:14**)
 - And I will turn your festivals into **mourning** and all your songs into a dirge, and I will bring up upon all hips sackcloth and upon every head baldness, and I will make the situation like the mourning for an only son, and the end result of it as a bitter day. (**Amos 8:10**)
 - And I will pour out upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the spirit of favor and entreaties, and they will certainly look to the One whom they pierced through, and they will certainly wail over Him as in the wailing over an only son, and there will be a bitter lamentation over him as when there is **bitter lamentation over the firstborn son**. (**Zechariah 12:10**)
 - The death of a national leader occasioned periods of **mourning** lasting from 7 to 30 days.
 - And all the assembly got to see that Aaron had expired, and all the house of Israel continued weeping for Aaron thirty days. (**Numbers 20:29**)

- And the sons of Israel proceeded to weep for Moses on the desert plains of Moab thirty days. At length the days of weeping of the **mourning** period for Moses were completed. (**Deuteronomy 34:8**)
- And it came about the next day that, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they got to find Saul and his three sons fallen upon Mount Gilboa. (**1 Samuel 31:8**)
- Immediately all the valiant men rose up and went all night long and took the corpse of Saul and the corpses of his sons off the wall of Beth-shan and came to Jabesh and burned them there. (**1 Samuel 31:12**)
- Then they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree in Jabesh, and they went fasting for seven days. (**1 Samuel 31:13**)
- The Egyptians continued to shed tears over the death of Joseph's father Jacob for 70 days, with an additional 7-day period of **mourning** rites in Canaan.
- And they took fully forty days for him, for this many days they customarily take for the embalming, and the Egyptians continued to shed tears for him seventy days. (**Genesis 50:3**)
- Finally the days of weeping for him passed, and Joseph spoke to Pharaoh's household, saying; If, now, I have found favor in your eyes, speak, please, in the hearing of Pharaoh, saying; (**Genesis 50:4**)
- My father made me swear, saying; Look! I am dying. In my burial place which I have excavated for myself in the land of Canaan is where you are to bury me. And now, please, let me go up and bury my father, after which I am willing to return. (**Genesis 50:5**)
- Accordingly Pharaoh said; Go up and bury your father just as he made you swear. (**Genesis 50:6**)
- So Joseph went up to bury his father, and there went up with him all of Pharaoh's servants, the older men of his household and all the older men of the land of Egypt. (**Genesis 50:7**)

- And all of Joseph's household and his brothers and the household of his father. Only their little children and their flocks and their herds they left in the land of Goshen. ([Genesis 50:8](#))
- There also went up with him both chariots and horsemen, and the camp came to be very numerous. ([Genesis 50:9](#))
- Then they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is in the region of the Jordan, and there they carried on a very great and heavy wailing and he kept up the **mourning** rites for his father seven days. ([Genesis 50:10](#))
- And the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, got to see the **mourning** rites in the threshing floor of Atad, and they exclaimed; This is a heavy mourning for the Egyptians! That is why its name was called Abelmizraim, which is in the region of the Jordan. ([Genesis 50:11](#))

•• Ways Of Expressing Sorrow

- **Mourning** was given expression vocally and by weeping, as well as by disfigurement of the physical appearance and by fasting or otherwise abstaining from normal practices. **Wailing or loud and bitter crying might accompany the weeping.**
- At this David took hold of his garments and ripped them apart, and so did all the men also that were with him. ([2 Samuel 1:11](#))
- And they began to wail and weep and fast until the evening over Saul and over Jonathan his son and over the people of Yehowah and over the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. ([2 Samuel 1:12](#))
- And Mordecai himself got knowledge of everything that had been done, and Mordecai proceeded to rip his garments apart and put on sackcloth and ashes and go out into the middle of the city and cry out with a loud and bitter outcry. ([Esther 4:1](#))
- The chest was beaten.
- Tremble, you women who are at ease! Be agitated, you careless ones! **Undress and make yourselves naked, and gird sackcloth upon the loins.** ([Isaiah 32:11](#))

- **Beat yourselves upon the breasts** in lamentation over the desirable fields, over the fruit-bearing vine. (**Isaiah 32:12**)
- And it has been fixed, she has been uncovered, she will certainly be carried away, and her slave girls will **be moaning, like the sound of doves, beating repeatedly upon their hearts.** (**Nahum 2:7**)
- But people were all weeping and beating themselves in grief for her. So he said; Stop **weeping**, for she did not die but is sleeping. (**Luke 8:52**)
- **Garments were often ripped apart**
- And it came about that when he caught sight of her, he began to rip his garments and to say; Alas, my daughter! You have indeed made me bend down, and you yourself have become the one I was ostracizing. And I, I have opened my mouth to Yehowah, and I am unable to turn back. (**Judges 11:35**)
- And it came about that as soon as the king heard the words of the book of the Law, he immediately ripped his garments apart. (**2 Kings 22:11**)
- For the reason that your heart was soft so that you humbled yourself because of Yehowah at your hearing what I have spoken against this place and its inhabitants for it to become an object of astonishment and a malediction, and then you ripped your garments apart and began weeping before me, I, even I, have heard, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**2 Kings 22:19**)
- **Dust or ashes might be cast on the head and sackcloth be worn.**
- Then Tamar **placed ashes upon her head**, and the striped robe that was upon her **she ripped apart**, and she kept her hands put upon her head and went walking away, crying out as she walked. (**2 Samuel 13:19**)
- And it came about that as soon as the king heard the woman's words, he immediately **ripped his garments apart**, and as he was passing along upon the wall, the people got to see, and, look! Sackcloth was underneath upon his flesh. (**2 Kings 6:30**)
- And three companions of Job got to hear of all this calamity that

had come upon him, and they proceeded to come, each one from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite. So they met together by appointment to come and sympathize with him and comfort him. (**Job 2:11**)

- When they raised their eyes from far off they did not then recognize him. And they proceeded to **raise their voice and weep and rip each one his sleeveless coat apart and toss dust toward the heavens** upon their heads. (**Job 2:12**)
- **Sandals might be removed and the head or face be covered.**
- And David was going up by the ascent of the Olives, weeping as he went up, with his head covered, and he was walking barefoot, and all the people that were with him covered each one his head, and they went up weeping as they went up. (**2 Samuel 15:30**)
- And the king himself covered up his face, and the king continued crying out with a loud voice; My son Absalom! Absalom my son, my son! (**2 Samuel 19:4**)
- The hair might be pulled out or cut off and the beard shaved.
- And Job proceeded to get up and **rip his sleeveless coat apart and cut the hair off his head** and fall to the earth and bow down. (**Job 1:20**)
- Now as soon as I heard of this thing I ripped apart my garment and my sleeveless coat, and I began to pull out some of the hair of my head and of my beard, and I kept sitting stunned. (**Ezra 9:3**)
- Then there came men from Shechem, from Shiloh and from Samaria, eighty men with their beards shaved off and with their garments ripped apart and with cuts made upon themselves, and there were grain offering and frankincense in their hand to bring to the house of Yehowah. (**Jeremiah 41:5**)
- While some persons, following pagan practices, made cuts in their body.
- And they will certainly die, the great ones and the small ones, in this land. They will not be buried, neither will people beat themselves for them, **nor will anyone make cuts upon himself or**

make himself bald for them. (Jeremiah 16:6)

- **Baldness must come to Gaza. Ashkelon has been put to silence. O remnant of their low plain, how long will you keep making cuts upon yourself? (Jeremiah 47:5)**
- **In addition to fasting, the person might abstain from rubbing himself with oil or washing his garments.**
- **Accordingly Joab sent to Tekoa and took from there a wise woman and said to her; Go in mourning, please, and dress yourself, please, with garments of mourning, and do not rub yourself with oil, and you must become like a woman here who has been mourning many days over someone dead. (2 Samuel 14:2)**
- **As for Mephibosheth the grandson of Saul, he came down to meet the king, and he had not attended to his feet nor had he attended to his mustache nor had he washed his garments from the day that the king went away until the day that he came in peace. (2 Samuel 19:24)**
- **In those days I myself, Daniel, happened to be mourning for three full weeks. (Daniel 10:2)**
- **Dainty bread I did not eat, and no flesh or wine entered into my mouth, and in no way did I grease myself until the completing of the three full weeks. (Daniel 10:3)**
- **Sometimes sitting on the ground or amid ashes.**
- **And her entrances will have to mourn and express sorrow, and she will certainly be cleaned out. She will sit down on the very earth. (Isaiah 3:26)**
- **At this the king got up and ripped his clothes apart and lay upon the earth, and all his servants were standing by with their garments ripped apart. (2 Samuel 13:31)**
- **And he proceeded to take for himself a fragment of earthenware with which to scrape himself, and he was sitting in among the ashes. (Job 2:8)**
- **Plaintive elegies at times were composed as songs of mourning.**

- **And David proceeded to chant this dirge over Saul and Jonathan his son. (2 Samuel 1:17)**
- **And to say that the sons of Judah should be taught, The Bow. Look! It is written in the book of Jashar. (2 Samuel 1:18)**
- **The beauty, O Israel, is slain upon your high places. How have the mighty men fallen! (2 Samuel 1:19)**
- **Do not, you people, tell it in Gath. Do not announce it in the streets of Ashkelon, for fear that the daughters of the Philistines may rejoice, for fear that the daughters of the uncircumcised men may exult. (2 Samuel 1:20)**
- **You mountains of Gilboa, let no dew, let no rain be upon you, nor let there be fields of holy contributions, because there the shield of mighty ones was befouled, the shield of Saul, so that there was none anointed with oil. (2 Samuel 1:21)**
- **From the blood of the slain, from the fat of mighty ones, the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, and the sword of Saul would not return without success. (2 Samuel 1:22)**
- **Saul and Jonathan, the lovable ones and the pleasant ones during their life, and in their death they were not separated. Swifter than the eagles they were, mightier than the lions they were. (2 Samuel 1:23)**
- **You daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet with finery, who put ornaments of gold upon your clothing. (2 Samuel 1:24)**
- **How have the mighty ones fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan slain upon your high places! (2 Samuel 1:25)**
- **I am distressed over you, my brother Jonathan, very pleasant you were to me. More wonderful was your love to me than the love from women. (2 Samuel 1:26)**
- **How have the mighty ones fallen and the weapons of war perished! (2 Samuel 1:27)**
- **And the king went on to chant over Abner and say; As with the**

death of a senseless person should Abner die? (2 Samuel 3:33)

- Your hands had not been bound ones, and your feet had not been put into fetters of copper. As one falling before the sons of unrighteousness you have fallen. At that all the people wept over him again. (2 Samuel 3:34)
- And Jeremiah began to chant over Josiah, and all the male singers and female singers keep talking about Josiah in their dirges down till today, and they have them set as a regulation over Israel, and there they are written among the dirges. (2 Chronicles 35:25)
- A particular type of song was the *shig-ga-yohn'*, a Hebrew term that occurs in the superscription of (Psalms Chapter 7) a related term appears in.
- The prayer of Habakkuk the prophet in dirges. (Habakkuk 3:1)
- This was a dirge-like composition and apparently indicates a highly emotional song with rapid changes of rhythm. It will be noted in both of these references. (Psalms Chapter 7)
- O Yehowah, I have heard the report about you. I have become afraid, O Yehowah, of your activity. In the midst of the years O bring it to life! In the midst of the years may you make it known. During the agitation, to show mercy may you remember. (Habakkuk 3:2)
- God himself proceeded to come from Teman, even a Holy One from Mount Paran. His dignity covered the heavens, and with his praise the earth became filled. (Habakkuk 3:3)
- As for his brightness, it got to be just like the light. He had two rays issuing out of his hand, and there the hiding of his strength was. (Habakkuk 3:4)
- Before him pestilence kept going, and burning fever would go forth at his feet. (Habakkuk 3:5)
- He stood still, that he might shake up the earth. He saw, and then caused nations to leap. And the eternal mountains got to be smashed, the indefinitely lasting hills bowed down. The walkings of long ago are his. (Habakkuk 3:6)

- **Under what is hurtful I saw the tents of Cushan. The tent cloths of the land of Midian began to be agitated. ([Habakkuk 3:7](#))**
- **Is it against the rivers, O Yehowah, is it against the rivers that your anger has become hot, or is your fury against the sea? For you went riding upon your horses, your chariots were salvation. ([Habakkuk 3:8](#))**
- **In its nakedness your bow comes to be uncovered. The sworn oaths of the tribes are the thing said. With rivers you proceeded to split the earth. ([Habakkuk 3:9](#))**
- **Mountains saw you, they got to be in severe pains. A thunderstorm of waters passed through. The watery deep gave forth its sound. On high its hands it lifted up. ([Habakkuk 3:10](#))**
- **Sun, moon, stood still, in the lofty abode thereof. Like light your own arrows kept going. The lightning of your spear served for brightness. ([Habakkuk 3:11](#))**
- **With denunciation you went marching through the earth. In anger you went threshing the nations. ([Habakkuk 3:12](#))**
- **And you went forth for the salvation of your people, to save your anointed one. You broke to pieces the head one out of the house of the wicked one. There was a laying of the foundation bare, clear up to the neck. ([Habakkuk 3:13](#))**
- **With his own rods you pierced the head of his warriors when they moved tempestuously to scatter me. Their high glee was as of those bent on devouring an afflicted one in a place of concealment. ([Habakkuk 3:14](#))**
- **Through the sea you trod with your horses, through the heap of vast waters. ([Habakkuk 3:15](#))**
- **I heard, and my belly began to be agitated, at the sound my lips quivered, rottenness began to enter into my bones, and in my situation I was agitated, that I should quietly wait for the day of distress, for his coming up to the people, that he may raid them. ([Habakkuk 3:16](#))**
- **Although the fig tree itself may not blossom, and there may be**

- no yield on the vines, the work of the olive tree may actually turn out a failure, and the terraces themselves may actually produce no food, the flock may actually be severed from the pen, and there may be no herd in the enclosures. (**Habakkuk 3:17**)
- Yet, as for me, I will exult in Yehowah himself. I will be joyful in the God of my salvation. (**Habakkuk 3:18**)
 - Yehowah the Sovereign Lord is my vital energy, and he will make my feet like those of the hinds, and upon my high places he will cause me to tread. To the director on my stringed instruments. (**Habakkuk 3:19**)
 - That the elements of danger, strong outbursts of appeal or emotion, and subsequent rejoicing in Yehowah are present.
 - Occasionally, professional mourners were employed at funerals, and musicians played mournful tunes.
 - This is what Yehowah of armies has said; Behave with understanding, you people, and call the dirge-chanting women, that they may come, and send even to the skilled women, that they may come. (**Jeremiah 9:17**)
 - And that they may hurry and raise up over us a lamentation. And may our eyes run down with tears and our own beaming eyes trickle with waters. (**Jeremiah 9:18**)
 - When, now, he came into the rulers house and caught sight of the flute players and the crowd in noisy confusion. (**Matthew 9:23**)
 - These were imitated by little children playing in the marketplaces in the time of Jesus earthly ministry.
 - With whom shall I compare this generation? It is like young children sitting in the marketplaces who cry out to their playmates. (**Matthew 11:16**)
 - Saying; We played the flute for you, but you did not dance, we wailed, but you did not beat yourselves in grief. (**Matthew 11:17**)
 - The pipe or flute was the preferred instrument for **lamentation**.
[See Josephus Jewish War, III, 437, ix, 5]

- That is why my own heart will be boisterous for Moab himself, just like flutes, and for the men of Kir-heres my very heart will be boisterous, just like flutes. That is why the very abundance that he has produced will certainly perish. (**Jeremiah 48:36**)
- When, now, he came into the rulers house and caught sight of the flute players and the crowd in noisy confusion. (**Matthew 9:23**)
- After a burial the women customarily visited the grave, to **weep** and **mourn**.
- Therefore the Jews that were with her in the house and that were consoling her, on seeing Mary rise quickly and go out, followed her, supposing that she was going to the memorial tomb to weep there. (**John 11:31**)
- A funeral meal seems to have been served sometime during the **mourning** period and, in some instances, appears to have been made into a special feast.
- They will not continue pouring out wine to Yehowah. And their sacrifices will not be gratifying to him, they are like the bread of times of **mourning** to them, all those eating it will defile themselves. For their bread is for their own soul, it will not come into the house of Yehowah. (**Hosea 9:4**)
- For this is what Yehowah has said; Do not enter into the house of a **mourners feast**, and do not go to bewail and do not sympathize with them. For I have taken away my peace from this people, is the utterance of Yehowah, even loving-kindness and mercies. (**Jeremiah 16:5**)
- And they will not deal out to them any bread on account of **mourning** to comfort someone over the dead, neither will they give them the cup of consolation to drink on account of one's father and on account of one's mother. (**Jeremiah 16:7**)

.. Prohibitions Involving Mourning

- On occasion God's people as a body, or as individuals, were instructed not to **mourn** over the death of certain ones, such as condemned wrongdoers.

- Later on Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took up and brought each one his fire holder and put fire in them and placed incense upon it, and they began offering before Yehowah illegitimate fire, which he had not prescribed for them. ([Leviticus 10:1](#))
- At this a fire came out from before Yehowah and consumed them, so that they died before Yehowah. ([Leviticus 10:2](#))
- Subsequently Moses said to Aaron and to Eleazar and Ithamar his other sons; Do not let your heads go un-groomed, and you must not tear your garments, that you may not die and that he may not become indignant against all the assembly, but your brothers of the whole house of Israel will do the weeping over the burning, which Yehowah has made burn. ([Leviticus 10:6](#))
- The prophet Ezekiel was commanded to adopt none of the signs of **mourning** for his deceased wife, thereby serving as a portent for the Israelites with him in Babylon that they would be so stunned that they would not mourn the divine execution of judgment on Jerusalem for its unfaithfulness.
- And the word of Yehowah continued to occur to me, saying; ([Ezekiel 24:15](#))
- Son of man, here I am taking away from you the thing desirable to your eyes by a blow, and you should not beat your breast, neither should you weep nor should your tears come on. ([Ezekiel 24:16](#))
- Sigh without words. For the dead ones no **mourning** should you make. Your headress bind on yourself, and your sandals you should put upon your feet. And you should not cover over the mustache, and the bread of men you should not eat. ([Ezekiel 24:17](#))
- And I proceeded to speak to the people in the morning, and my wife gradually died in the evening. So I did in the morning just as I had been commanded. ([Ezekiel 24:18](#))
- And the people kept saying to me; Will you not tell us what these things have to do with us, that you are doing? ([Ezekiel 24:19](#))

- Then I said to them; The very word of Yehowah has occurred to me, saying; ([Ezekiel 24:20](#))
- Say to the house of Israel; This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; Here I am profaning my sanctuary, the pride of your strength, the thing desirable to your eyes and the object of your souls compassion, and your sons and your daughters whom you people have left behind, by the sword they will fall. ([Ezekiel 24:21](#))
- And you will have to do just as I have done. Mustaches you will not cover over, and the bread of men you will not eat. ([Ezekiel 24:22](#))
- And your headdress will be on your heads, and your sandals be upon your feet. You will not beat yourselves nor will you weep, and you will have to rot away in your errors, and you will actually groan over one another. ([Ezekiel 24:23](#))
- And Ezekiel has become for you a portent. In accord with all that he has done, you will do. When it comes, you will also have to know that I am the Sovereign Lord Yehowah. ([Ezekiel 24:24](#))
- Jeremiah received somewhat similar instructions.
- For this is what Yehowah has said; Do not enter into the house of a mourners feast, and do not go to bewail and do not sympathize with them. For I have taken away my peace from this people, is the utterance of Yehowah, even loving-kindness and mercies. ([Jeremiah 16:5](#))
- And they will certainly die, the great ones and the small ones, in this land. They will not be buried, neither will people beat themselves for them, nor will anyone make cuts upon himself or make himself bald for them. ([Jeremiah 16:6](#))
- And they will not deal out to them any bread on account of **mourning** to comfort someone over the dead, neither will they give them the cup of consolation to drink on account of one's father and on account of one's mother. ([Jeremiah 16:7](#))
- And you must enter no house of banqueting at all to sit down with them to eat and to drink. ([Jeremiah 16:8](#))

- For this is what Yehowah of armies, the God of Israel, has said; Here I am causing to cease out of this place before the eyes of you people and in your days the voice of exultation and the voice of rejoicing, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride. (**Jeremiah 16:9**)
- And it must occur that, when you tell to this people all these words and they actually say to you; On what account has Yehowah spoken against us all this great calamity, and what is our error and what is our sin with which we have sinned against Yehowah our God? (**Jeremiah 16:10**)
- You must also say to them, On account of the fact that your fathers left me, is the utterance of Yehowah, and they kept going after other gods and serving them and bowing down to them. But me they left, and my Law they did not keep. (**Jeremiah 16:11**)
- And you yourselves have acted worse in your doing than your fathers, and here you are walking each one after the stubbornness of his bad heart in not obeying me. (**Jeremiah 16:12**)
- And I will hurl you out from off this land into the land that you yourselves have not known, neither your fathers, and there you will have to serve other gods day and night, because I shall not give you any favor. (**Jeremiah 16:13**)
- Certain **mourning** practices were forbidden under the Mosaic Law, including the inflicting of cuts in the flesh or causing of baldness on your foreheads.
- And you must not make cuts in your flesh for a deceased soul, and you must not put tattoo marking upon yourselves. I am Yehowah. (**Leviticus 19:28**)
- Sons you are of Yehowah your God. You must not make cuttings upon yourselves or impose baldness on your foreheads for a dead person. (**Deuteronomy 14:1**)
- And the misuse of tithes in connection with the dead.
- When you finish with tithing the entire tenth of your produce in the third year, the year of the tenth, you must also give it to the

Levite, the alien resident, the fatherless boy and the widow, and they must eat it within your gates and satisfy themselves. (Deuteronomy 26:12)

- **And you must say before Yehowah your God, I have cleared away what is holy from the house and I have also given it to the Levite and the alien resident, the fatherless boy and the widow, in accord with all your commandment that you have commanded me. I have not overstepped your commandments, nor have I forgotten. (Deuteronomy 26:13)**
- **I have not eaten of it during my **mourning**, nor have I removed any of it while unclean, nor have I given any of it for anyone dead. I have listened to the voice of Yehowah my God. I have done in accord with all that you have commanded me. (Deuteronomy 26:14)**
- **For certain members of their immediate families the priests could mourn openly, but the High Priest was restricted from doing so.**
- **And Yehowah went on to say to Moses; Talk to the priests, Aaron's sons, and you must say to them, For a deceased soul no one may defile himself among his people. (Leviticus 21:1)**
- **But for a blood relation of his who is close to him, for his mother and for his father and for his son and for his daughter and for his brother (Leviticus 21:2)**
- **And for his sister, a virgin who is close to him, who has not become a man's, for her he may defile himself. (Leviticus 21:3)**
- **He may not defile himself for a woman possessed by an owner among his people so as to make himself profane. (Leviticus 21:4)**
- **They should not produce baldness upon their heads, and the extremity of their beard they should not shave, and on their flesh they should not make an incision. (Leviticus 21:5)**
- **They should prove themselves holy to their God, and they should not profane the name of their God, because they are those presenting Yehowah's offerings made by fire, the bread of their God, and they must prove themselves holy. (Leviticus 21:6)**
- **And as for the High Priest of his brothers upon whose head the**

anointing oil would be poured and whose hand was filled with power to wear the garments, he should not let his head go ungroomed, and he should not tear his garments. (**Leviticus 21:10**)

- And he should not come to any dead soul. For his father and his mother he may not defile himself. (**Leviticus 21:11**)
- He should also not go out from the sanctuary and not profane the sanctuary of his God, because the sign of dedication, the anointing oil of his God, is upon him. I am Yehowah. (**Leviticus 21:12**)

· A Time To Mourn

- For everything there is an appointed time, even a time for every affair under the heavens: (**Ecclesiastes 3:1**)
- A time to **weep** and a time to laugh, a time to **wail** and a time to skip about. (**Ecclesiastes 3:4**)
- States that there is a time to **weep** and a time to laugh, a time to **wail** and a time to skip about. In view of all mankind's dying condition, the heart of the wise ones is shown to be **in the house of mourning** rather than in the banquet house.
- Better is it to go **to the house of mourning** than to go to the banquet house, because that is the end of all mankind, and the one alive should take it to his heart. (**Ecclesiastes 7:2**)
- The heart of the wise ones is **in the house of mourning**, but the heart of the stupid ones is in the house of rejoicing. (**Ecclesiastes 7:4**)
- Even in laughter the heart may be in pain, and grief is what rejoicing ends up in. (**Proverbs 14:13**)
- Thus, the wise person makes use of his opportunity to express sympathy and give comfort, instead of ignoring such an occasion in favor of seeking pleasure. This helps him to keep in mind his own mortal state and to keep his heart in a right attitude toward his Creator.

- **Valid motives for **mourning** are set forth in the Scriptures. In addition to the death of loved ones**
- **However, he said; My son will not go down with you men, because his brother is dead and he has been left by himself. If a fatal accident should befall him on the way on which you would go, then you would certainly bring down my gray hairs with grief to Sheol. (**Genesis 42:38**)**
- **Then it is certain to occur that as soon as he sees that the boy is not there he will simply die, and your slaves will indeed bring down the gray hairs of your slave our father with grief to Sheol. (**Genesis 44:31**)**
- **Detestable and God-dishonoring practices of false religion are a cause for sighing and groaning.**
- **And Yehowah went on to say to him; Pass through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and you must put a mark on the foreheads of the men that are sighing and groaning over all the detestable things that are being done in the midst of it. (**Ezekiel 9:4**)**
- **And are you puffed up, and did you not rather mourn, in order, that the man that committed this deed should be taken away from your midst? (**1 Corinthians 5:2**)**
- **And grief is rightly expressed because of one's own errors.**
- **For my own errors have passed over my head, like a heavy load they are too heavy for me. (**Psalms 38:4**)**
- **I have become disconcerted, I have bowed low to an extreme degree, all day long I have walked about sad. (**Psalms 38:6**)**
- **For my very loins have become full of burning, and there is no sound spot in my flesh. (**Psalms 38:7**)**
- **I have grown numb and become crushed to an extreme degree, I have roared due to the groaning of my heart. (**Psalms 38:8**)**
- **O Yehowah, in front of you is all my desire, and from you my sighing itself has not been concealed. (**Psalms 38:9**)**

- My own heart has palpitated heavily, my power has left me, and the light of my own eyes also is not with me. (**Psalms 38:10**)
- Yehowah urges those who have drawn away from him; Come back to me with all your hearts, and with fasting and with weeping and with wailing. And rip apart your hearts, and not your garments.
- And now also, the utterance of Yehowah is, come back to me with all your hearts, and with fasting and with weeping and with wailing. (**Joel 2:12**)
- And rip apart your hearts, and not your garments, and come back to Yehowah your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness, and he will certainly feel regret on account of the calamity. (**Joel 2:13**)
- Draw close to God, and he will draw close to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you indecisive ones. (**James 4:8**)
- Give way to misery and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned into **mourning**, and your joy into dejection. (**James 4:9**)
- Elsewhere, also, stress is laid, not on the external expressions of grief or **mourning**, but on the inner stirrings and pain of heart, marking genuine sadness.
- Show me favor, O Yehowah, for I am in sore straits. With vexation my eye has become weak, my soul and my belly. (**Psalms 31:9**)
- For with grief my life has come to an end, and my years in sighing. Because of my error my power has stumbled, and my very bones have become weak. (**Psalms 31:10**)
- But because I have spoken these things to you grief has filled your hearts. (**John 16:6**)
- The heart is aware of the bitterness of one's soul, and with its rejoicing no stranger will intermeddle. (**Proverbs 14:10**)
- A joyful heart has a good effect on the countenance, but because of the pain of the heart there is a stricken spirit. (**Proverbs 15:13**)

- And immediately a cock crowed a second time, and Peter recalled the saying that Jesus spoke to him; Before a cock crows twice, you will disown me three times. And he broke down and gave way to weeping. (**Mark 14:72**)
- Even Yehowah speaks of himself as being hurt at his heart.
- And Yehowah felt regrets that he had made men in the earth, and he **felt hurt at his heart**. (**Genesis 6:6**)
- **During all their distress it was distressing to him**. And his own personal messenger saved them. In his love and in his compassion he himself repurchased them, and he proceeded to lift them up and carry them all the days of long ago. (**Isaiah 63:9**)
- God's Holy Spirit can also be **grieved**.
- Also, do not be **grieving** God's Holy Spirit, with which you have been sealed for a day of releasing by ransom. (**Ephesians 4:30**)
- Since that spirit works in God's servants toward the producing of fruits of righteousness.
- On the other hand, the fruitage of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith. (**Galatians 5:22**)
- Mildness, self-control. Against such things there is no Law. (**Galatians 5:23**)
- Moreover, those who belong to Christ Jesus impaled the flesh together with its passions and desires. (**Galatians 5:24**)
- Those who fail to appreciate this divine provision, who resist its working, and who go contrary to its leading are, in effect, **grieving** it.
- But they themselves rebelled and made his Holy Spirit feel hurt. He now was changed into an enemy of theirs, he himself warred against them. (**Isaiah 63:10**)
- Do not put out the fire of the spirit. (**1 Thessalonians 5:19**)

•• A Balanced View Of Mourning

- In the time of Jesus earthly ministry, **mourning** was still frequently carried on by the people with much outward expression and accompanying noise and confusion.
- So they came to the house of the presiding officer of the synagogue, and he beheld the noisy confusion and those weeping and letting out many wails. (**Mark 5:38**)
- And, after stepping in, he said to them; Why are you causing noisy confusion and weeping? The young child has not died, but is sleeping. (**Mark 5:39**)
- Though Jesus groaned within himself and **wept** on a number of occasions.
- Jesus, therefore, when he saw her weeping and the Jews that came with her weeping, groaned in the spirit and became troubled. (**John 11:33**)
- And he said; Where have you laid him? They said to him; Lord, come and see. (**John 11:34**)
- Jesus gave way to **tears**. (**John 11:35**)
- Hence Jesus, after groaning again within himself, came to the memorial tomb. It was, in fact, a cave, and a stone was lying against it. (**John 11:38**)
- And when he got nearby, he viewed the city and wept over it. (**Luke 19:41**)
- And he took Peter and James and John along with him, and he started to be stunned and to be sorely troubled. (**Mark 14:33**)
- And he said to them; My soul is deeply grieved, even to death. Stay here and keep on the watch. (**Mark 14:34**)
- In the days of his flesh Christ offered up supplications and also petitions to the One who was able to save him out of death, with strong outcries and tears, and he was favorably heard for his godly fear. (**Hebrews 5:7**)
- There is no record of his employing the other more ostentatious expressions already described.

- But there was following him a great multitude of the people and of women who kept beating themselves in grief and bewailing him. (**Luke 23:27**)
- Jesus turned to the women and said; Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for me. On the contrary, weep for yourselves and for your children. (**Luke 23:28**)
- His disciples likewise expressed grief and **mourning**.
- At this Jesus said to them; The friends of the bridegroom have no reason to mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, do they? But days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast. (**Matthew 9:15**)
- Most truly I say to you, you will weep and wail, but the world will rejoice; You will be grieved, but your grief will be turned into joy. (**John 16:20**)
- A woman, when she is giving birth, has grief, because her hour has arrived, but when she has brought forth the young child, she remembers the tribulation no more because of the joy that a man has been born into the world. (**John 16:21**)
- You also, therefore, are now, indeed, having grief, but I shall see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you. (**John 16:22**)
- But reverent men carried Stephen to the burial, and they made a great lamentation over him. (**Acts of Apostles 8:2**)
- At that Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they led him up into the upper chamber, and all the widows presented themselves to him weeping and exhibiting many inner garments and outer garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them. (**Acts of Apostles 9:39**)
- Indeed, quite a bit of weeping broke out among them all, and they fell upon Paul's neck and tenderly kissed him. (**Acts of Apostles 20:37**)
- Because they were especially pained at the word he had spoken that they were going to behold his face no more. So they

proceeded to conduct him to the boat. (**Acts of Apostles 20:38**)

- Yes, indeed, he fell sick nearly to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, in fact, not only on him, but also on me, that I should not get grief upon grief. (**Philippians 2:27**)
- Paul expressed, **great grief and unceasing pain in his heart** over his **unbelieving relatives** according to the flesh.
- That I have great grief and unceasing pain in my heart. (**Romans 9:2**)
- For I could wish that I myself were separated as the cursed one from the Christ in behalf of my brothers, my relatives according to the flesh. (**Romans 9:3**)
- He feared that he might have to mourn over those in the congregation at Corinth who had sinned and had still not repented
- Perhaps, when I come again, my God might humiliate me among you, and I might mourn over many of those who formerly sinned but have not repented over their uncleanness and fornication and loose conduct that they have practiced. (**2 Corinthians 12:21**)
- And he mentioned, with **weeping**, those who had turned aside to walk as the enemies of the torture stake of the Christ.
- Unitedly become imitators of me, brothers, and keep your eye on those who are walking in a way that accords with the example you have in us. (**Philippians 3:17**)
- For there are many, I used to mention them often but now I mention them also with weeping, who are walking as the enemies of the torture stake of the Christ. (**Philippians 3:18**)
- And their finish is destruction, and their god is their belly, and their glory consists in their shame, and they have their minds upon things on the earth. (**Philippians 3:19**)
- His deep and heartfelt concern for the Christian congregation.
- For this is what I have decided for myself, not to come to you again in sadness. (**2 Corinthians 2:1**)

- For if I make you sad, who indeed is there to cheer me except the one that is made sad by me? (**2 Corinthians 2:2**)
- And so I wrote this very thing, that, when I come, I may not get sad because of those over whom I ought to rejoice, because I have confidence in all of you that the joy I have is that of all of you. (**2 Corinthians 2:3**)
- For out of much tribulation and anguish of heart I wrote you with many tears, not that you might be saddened, but that you might know the love that I have more especially for you. (**2 Corinthians 2:4**)
- Qualified him to instruct others on the need for empathy and sympathy, weeping with people who weep.
- Rejoice with people who rejoice, weep with people who weep. (**Romans 12:15**)
- However, in view of the weakening effect of **mourning** and grief.
- I have grown weary with my sighing, all night long I make my couch swim, with my tears I make my own divan overflow. (**Psalms 6:6**)
- From vexation my eye has become weak, it has grown old because of all those showing hostility to me. (**Psalms 6:7**)
- And he rose from prayer, went to the disciples and found them slumbering from grief. (**Luke 22:45**)
- Then Paul answered; What are you doing by weeping and making me weak at heart? Rest assured, I am ready not only to be bound but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. (**Acts of Apostles 21:13**)
- This rebuke given by the majority is sufficient for such a man. (**2 Corinthians 2:6**)
- So that, on the contrary now, you should kindly forgive and comfort him, that somehow such a man may not be swallowed up by his being overly sad. (**2 Corinthians 2:7**)

- Christian sorrow is shown always to be tempered, balanced, and even overshadowed by hope and strength-giving joy.
- Happy are those who **mourn**, since they will be comforted. (**Matthew 5:4**)
- Moreover, this I say; brothers, the time left is reduced. Henceforth let those who have wives be as though they had none. (**1 Corinthians 7:29**)
- And also those **who weep** be as those who do **not weep**, and those who rejoice as those who do not rejoice, and those who buy as those not possessing. (**1 Corinthians 7:30**)
- As sorrowing but ever rejoicing, as poor but making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing all things. (**2 Corinthians 6:10**)
- And Nehemiah, that is, the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest, the copyist, and the Levites who were instructing the people proceeded to say to all the people; This very day is holy to Yehowah your God. Do not **mourn** or **weep**. For all the people were weeping as they were hearing the words of the Law. (**Nehemiah 8:9**)
- And he went on to say to them; Go, eat the fatty things and drink the sweet things, and send portions to the one for whom nothing has been prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord, and do not feel hurt, for the joy of Yehowah is your stronghold. (**Nehemiah 8:10**)
- And the Levites were ordering all the people to be silent, saying; Keep quiet! For this day is holy, and do not feel hurt. (**Nehemiah 8:11**)
- So all the people went away to eat and drink and to send out portions and to carry on a great rejoicing, for they had understood the words that had been made known to them. (**Nehemiah 8:12**)
- Even in his day King David manifested a balanced, sensible, and principled viewpoint as to **mourning**, so that while the child conceived through his adulterous relationship with Bath-sheba was ill, David fasted and lay on the earth, seeking the true God in the child's behalf.

- But upon learning of the child's death, David got up, washed, rubbed himself with oil, changed clothes, prayed to Yehowah, and then requested food and began to eat.

- In explaining his acts to his surprised attendants, he stated: Now that he has died, why is it I am fasting? Am I able to bring him back again? I am going to him, but, as for him, he will not return to me.

- And David began to seek the true God in behalf of the boy, and David went on a strict fast and came in and spent the night and lay down on the earth. (2 Samuel 12:16)

- When David got to see that his servants were whispering together, David began to discern that the child had died. So David said to his servants; Has the child died? To this they said; He has died. (2 Samuel 12:19)

- Then David got up from the earth and washed and rubbed himself with oil and changed his mantles and came to the house of Yehowah and prostrated himself, after which he came into his own house and asked, and they promptly set bread before him and he began to eat. (2 Samuel 12:20)

- Consequently his servants said to him; What does this thing mean that you have done? For the sake of the child while alive you fasted and kept weeping, and just as soon as the child had died you got up and began to eat bread. (2 Samuel 12:21)

- To this he said; While the child was yet alive I did fast and I kept weeping, because I said to myself; Who is there knowing whether Yehowah may show me favor, and the child will certainly live? (2 Samuel 12:22)

- Now that he has died, why is it I am fasting? Am I able to bring him back again? I am going to him, but, as for him, he will not return to me. (2 Samuel 12:23)

- Later, however, he needed help from straight-speaking Joab to pull out of his state of deep grief over the death of his son Absalom.

- Then the king became disturbed and went up to the roof chamber over the gateway and gave way to weeping, and this is what he said as he walked; My son Absalom, my son, my son

Absalom! O that I might have died, I myself, instead of you, Absalom my son, my son! (2 Samuel 18:33)

- **Later it was reported to Joab; Look! The king is weeping, and he carries on **mourning** over Absalom. (2 Samuel 19:1)**
- **So the salvation on that day came to be an occasion of **mourning** on the part of all the people, because the people heard say on that day; The king has felt hurt over his son. (2 Samuel 19:2)**
- **And the people began to steal away on that day to come into the city, just as the people would steal away when they felt disgraced because they fled in the battle. (2 Samuel 19:3)**
- **And the king himself covered up his face, and the king continued **crying** out with a **loud voice**; My son Absalom! Absalom my son, my son! (2 Samuel 19:4)**
- **Finally Joab came in to the king at the house and said; You have today put to shame the face of all your servants, the ones providing escape for your soul today and for the soul of your sons and your daughters and the soul of your wives and the soul of your concubines. (2 Samuel 19:5)**
- **By loving those hating you and by hating those loving you, for you have reported today that chiefs and servants are nothing to you, because I well know today that if only Absalom were alive and all of us others were today dead, why, in that case it would be right in your eyes. (2 Samuel 19:6)**
- **And now rise up, go out and speak straight to the heart of your servants, because, by Yehowah, I do swear that, in case you are not going out, not a man will lodge with you tonight, and this will certainly be worse for you than all the injury that has come upon you from your youth until now. (2 Samuel 19:7)**
- **Accordingly the king rose up and seated himself in the gate, and to all the people they made the report, saying; There is the king sitting in the gate. And all the people began to come before the king. As for Israel, they had fled each one to his home. (2 Samuel 19:8)**
- **Though all creation keeps on groaning, the sufferings of the Christian are minor compared with the glorious hope ahead.**

- **Consequently I reckon that the sufferings of the present season do not amount to anything in comparison with the glory that is going to be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18)**
- **For the eager expectation of the creation is waiting for the revealing of the sons of God. (Romans 8:19)**
- **For the creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will but through him that subjected it, on the basis of hope. (Romans 8:20)**
- **That the creation itself also will be set free from enslavement to corruption and have the glorious freedom of the children of God. (Romans 8:21)**
- **For we know that all creation keeps on groaning together and being in pain together until now. (Romans 8:22)**
- **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for according to his great mercy he gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)**
- **To an incorruptible and undefiled and unfading inheritance. It is reserved in the heavens for you. (1 Peter 1:4)**
- **Who are being safeguarded by God's power through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last period of time. (1 Peter 1:5)**
- **In this fact you are greatly rejoicing, though for a little while at present, if it must be, you have been grieved by various trials. (1 Peter 1:6)**
- **In order, that the tested quality of your faith, of much greater value than gold that perishes despite its being proved by fire, may be found a cause for praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:7)**
- **And the promise of the resurrection enables him not to sorrow just as the rest also do who have no hope.**
- **Moreover, brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant**

- concerning those who are sleeping in death, that you may not **sorrow** just as the rest also do who have no hope. (**1 Thessalonians 4:13**)
- For if our faith is that Jesus died and rose again, so, too, those who have fallen asleep in death through Jesus God will bring with him. (**1 Thessalonians 4:14**)
 - **Mourning** and fasting without obedience to Yehowah's word are of no benefit.
 - And Bethel proceeded to send Sharezer and Regem-melech and his men to soften the face of Yehowah. (**Zechariah 7:2**)
 - Saying to the priests who belonged to the house of Yehowah of armies, and to the prophets, even saying; Shall I weep in the fifth month, practicing an abstinence, the way I have done these O how many years? (**Zechariah 7:3**)
 - And the word of Yehowah of armies continued to occur to me, saying; (**Zechariah 7:4**)
 - Say to all the people of the land and to the priests, When you fasted and there was a wailing in the fifth month and in the seventh month, and this for seventy years, did you really fast to me, even me? (**Zechariah 7:5**)
 - And when you would eat and when you would drink, were not you the ones doing the eating, and were not you the ones doing the drinking? (**Zechariah 7:6**)
 - Should you not obey the words that Yehowah called out by means of the former prophets, while Jerusalem happened to be inhabited, and at ease, with her cities all around her, and while the Negeb and the Shephelah were inhabited? (**Zechariah 7:7**)
 - However, **sadness** in a godly way makes for repentance to salvation. Such sadness is the result of a person's seeing a wrongdoing as a sin against God.
 - It moves him to seek God's forgiveness and to turn around from his wrong course. But the sadness of the world produces death. Although a person may be sad that his wrong was exposed and that this has meant loss to him, he has no desire to gain God's forgiveness.

- For sadness in a godly way makes for repentance to salvation that is not to be regretted, but the sadness of the world produces death. (**2 Corinthians 7:10**)
- For, look! This very thing, your being saddened in a godly way, what a great earnestness it produced in you, yes, clearing of yourselves, yes, indignation, yes, fear, yes, longing, yes, zeal, yes, righting of the wrong! In every respect you demonstrated yourselves to be chaste in this matter. (**2 Corinthians 7:11**)
- For example, Esau's tears shed selfishly in hope of regaining his forfeited birthright had no effect on Isaac or on God.
- That there may be no fornicator nor anyone not appreciating sacred things, like Esau, who in exchange for one meal gave away his rights as firstborn. (**Hebrews 12:16**)
- For you know that afterward also when he wanted to inherit the blessing he was rejected, for, although he earnestly sought a change of mind with tears, he found no place for it. (**Hebrews 12:17**)

•• Figurative And Prophetic Use

- Figuratively, even the land is represented as **mourning** because of devastations caused by invading armies or by a plague.
- For this is what Yehowah has said; A desolate waste is what the whole land will become, and shall I not carry out a sheer extermination? (**Jeremiah 4:27**)
- On this account the land will **mourn**, and the heavens above will certainly become dark. It is because I have spoken, I have considered, and I have not felt regret, nor shall I turn back from it. (**Jeremiah 4:28**)
- The field has been despoiled, the ground has gone to **mourning**, for the grain has been despoiled, the new wine has been dried up, the oil has faded away. (**Joel 1:10**)
- Farmers have felt shame, vinedressers have howled, on account of wheat and on account of barley, for the harvest of the field has perished. (**Joel 1:11**)

- The vine itself has shown dryness, and even the fig tree has faded away. As for the pomegranate tree, also the palm tree and the apple tree, all the trees of the field, they have dried up, for exultation has gone ashamed away from the sons of mankind. (Joel 1:12)
- Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be joyful. Let the sea thunder and that which fills it. (Psalms 96:11)
- Let the open field exult and all that is in it. At the same time let all the trees of the forest break out joyfully (Psalms 96:12)
- Before Yehowah. For he has come, for he has come to judge the earth. He will judge the productive land with righteousness and the peoples with his faithfulness. (Psalms 96:13)
- In its desolation, the land would grow up in weeds and develop a neglected, uncared-for appearance, like that of a person who has not attended to his face, hair, or clothing while in **mourning**. Similarly, land devastated by a plague upon the crops presents a mournful sight.
- The sign of the Son of man and Christ's revelation are to cause all the tribes of the earth to beat themselves in **lamentation**, or in **grief**.
- And then the sign of the Son of man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in **lamentation**, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (Matthew 24:30)
- Look! He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, and those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in grief because of him. Yes, Amen. (Revelation 1:7)
- Upon symbolic Babylon the Great plagues death, **mourning**, and famine are foretold to come in one day, causing those who have benefited from her to **weep** and **mourn**.
- And he cried out with a strong voice, saying; She has fallen! Babylon the Great has fallen, and she has become a dwelling place of demons and a lurking place of every unclean exhalation and a lurking place of every unclean and hated bird! (Revelation 18:2)

- Because in one hour such great riches have been devastated! And every ship captain and every man that voyages anywhere, and sailors and all those who make a living by the sea, stood at a distance (**Revelation 18:17**)
- And cried out as they looked at the smoke from the burning of her and said; What city is like the great city? (**Revelation 18:18**)
- And they threw dust upon their heads and cried out, weeping and **mourning**, and said; Too bad, too bad, the great city, in which all those having boats at sea became rich by reason of her costliness, because in one hour she has been devastated! (**Revelation 18:19**)
- To the extent that she glorified herself and lived in shameless luxury, to that extent give her torment and **mourning**. For in her heart she keeps saying; I sit a queen, and I am no widow, and I shall never see mourning. (**Revelation 18:7**)
- That is why in one day her plagues will come, death and **mourning** and famine, and she will be completely burned with fire, because Yehowah God, who judged her, is strong. (**Revelation 18:8**)
- And the kings of the earth who committed fornication with her and lived in shameless luxury will weep and beat themselves in grief over her, when they look at the smoke from the burning of her. (**Revelation 18:9**)
- While they stand at a distance because of their fear of her torment and say; Too bad, too bad, you great city, Babylon you strong city, because in one hour your judgment has arrived! (**Revelation 18:10**)
- Also, the traveling merchants of the earth are weeping and **mourning** over her, because there is no one to buy their full stock anymore. (**Revelation 18:11**)
- By contrast, the New Jerusalem brings in conditions upon earth in which tears, death, **mourning**, outcry, and pain pass away for all time.
- I saw also the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of

heaven from God and prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (**Revelation 21:2**)

- With that I heard a loud voice from the throne say; Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his peoples. And God himself will be with them. (**Revelation 21:3**)
- And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will **mourning** nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away. (**Revelation 21:4**)