

# Deuteronomy 1:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye returned and wept before the LORD; but the LORD would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear unto you.

## Analysis

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Israel's weeping before the LORD appears as genuine remorse, yet God's refusal to hear reveals it as worldly sorrow, not godly repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10). The Hebrew 'lo-shama' (would not hearken) demonstrates that God sovereignly determines when to extend mercy. This verse illustrates the Reformed doctrine of divine sovereignty in salvation—God is not obligated to respond favorably to human emotions or religious performances. The repetition 'the LORD would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear' emphasizes God's judicial hardening following persistent rebellion. True repentance requires brokenness over sin itself, not merely its consequences.

## Historical Context

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Set at Kadesh-barnea circa 1445 BC immediately following Israel's catastrophic defeat. After suffering severe casualties in their presumptuous attack, Israel wept before the tabernacle. However, their tears stemmed from consequences (defeat, loss) rather than contrition over covenant violation. This superficial sorrow could not reverse God's declared judgment of 40 years wilderness wandering.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

1. How does God's refusal to hear Israel's weeping distinguish between worldly sorrow and godly repentance?
2. What does this passage teach about God's sovereign freedom to grant or withhold mercy according to His purposes?

## Interlinear Text

וְתַשְׁבַּח בָּם	וְתַבְכֵּחַ	לִפְנֵי יְהוָה	וְתַעֲשֵׂה בָּם	וְלֹא	שְׁמָע ע
<b>And ye returned</b>	<b>and wept</b>	<b>before</b>	<b>but the LORD</b>	H3808	<b>would not hearken</b>
H7725	H1058	H6440	H3068		H8085
<b>but the LORD</b>	<b>to your voice</b>	H3808	<b>nor give ear</b>	H413	<b>אֲלֵיכֶם:</b>
H3068	H6963		H238		אֲלֵיכֶם:

## Additional Cross-References

**Hebrews 12:17** (Parallel theme): For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

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