

# Ezekiel 24:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Son of man, behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke: yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down.

## Analysis

"Son of man, behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke: yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down." God announces Ezekiel's wife's death as a sign to Israel. The prohibition on mourning symbolizes shock so great that normal grief responses fail. This foreshadows Jerusalem's destruction producing numbness rather than catharsis. The prophet's personal tragedy serves didactic purposes—demonstrating God's sovereignty even over human affections. This difficult passage reveals that God's purposes sometimes require severe personal sacrifice from His servants.

## Historical Context

Ezekiel's wife died suddenly (588 BC) as a sign to exiles. Ancient Near Eastern mourning rituals were elaborate and extended. God prohibiting normal grief rituals demonstrated that Jerusalem's fall would produce shock transcending normal mourning. The prophet embodied the message physically, demonstrating total commitment to prophetic calling. This parallels Hosea's marriage to Gomer—personal life becoming parable. The principle teaches that God's servants sometimes bear extraordinary sacrifices for ministry, trusting divine purposes transcend personal comfort.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does Ezekiel's sacrifice of normal grief rituals demonstrate total consecration to prophetic calling?
2. What does this passage teach about God's sovereignty extending even over our deepest affections?

## Interlinear Text

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בָּן	בָּן	אֵל	בָּנֶה	וְ	לְקַרְבָּן	אַתָּה	מִמְּבָבָן	מִמְּבָבָן	מִמְּבָבָן
Son	of man		H2005		behold I take away		H4480	H853	from thee the desire
H1121	H120				H3947				H4261
בְּמִגְפָּה	הַ	אֵל	תִּסְפַּד			אֵל	תִּבְכֶּה		
of thine eyes	with a stroke	H3808	yet neither shalt thou mourn		H5594	H3808	nor weep		
H5869	H4046						H1058		
רַמְעַתָּבָה:									
run down	neither shall thy tears	H1832							
H3808	H935								

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 22:10** (Parallel theme): Weep ye not for the dead, neither bemoan him: but weep sore for him that goeth away: for he shall return no more, nor see his native country.

**Jeremiah 13:17** (Parallel theme): But if ye will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride; and mine eye shall weep sore, and run down with tears, because the LORD'S flock is carried away captive.

**Ezekiel 24:18** (Parallel theme): So I spake unto the people in the morning: and at even my wife died; and I did in the morning as I was commanded.

**Song of Solomon 7:10:** I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me.

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