

# Ezekiel 31:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day when he went down to the grave I caused a mourning: I covered the deep for him, and I restrained the floods thereof, and the great waters were stayed: and I caused Lebanon to mourn for him, and all the trees of the field fainted for him.

## Analysis

**Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day when he went down to the grave—**When Assyria descended to שְׁאוֹל (shě'ôl, 'Sheol/grave'), nature itself mourned. **I caused a mourning: I covered the deep for him—**God made תְּהוֹם (těhôm, 'the deep/primordial waters') mourn. This cosmic imagery suggests creation itself responds to great empires' falls.

**And I restrained the floods thereof, and the great waters were stayed—**Rivers stopped flowing in mourning. **And I caused Lebanon to mourn for him, and all the trees of the field fainted for him—**לְבָנוֹן (Lěbānôn, Lebanon) famous for cedars, mourns; all trees גִּלְפָּה ('ullěpeh, 'faint/languish'). This hyperbolic poetic imagery depicts Assyria's fall as cosmically significant—creation itself grieves. Yet this 'mourning' is ironic: not honor but horror. The same creation that 'mourns' empires' fall will rejoice at God's kingdom (Psalm 96:11-13).

## Historical Context

Assyria's fall in 612 BC did shock the known world. Nahum prophesied it; when it occurred, the speed and completeness stunned observers. Nations that suffered under Assyrian brutality celebrated (Nahum 3:19). The 'cosmic mourning' imagery

reflects the magnitude of Assyria's collapse—reorganizing the entire geopolitical landscape. Egypt would similarly shock the world by falling.

## Related Passages

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. What does cosmic imagery (creation mourning) teach about empires' significance?
2. How is this 'mourning' ironic—horror rather than honor?
3. What does the contrast between creation mourning empires but rejoicing in God's kingdom reveal?

## Interlinear Text

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כֹּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	אֲדֹנָי	בִּי	וּמִן	רָדַת וְ	שָׂא וּלְהָ
H3541	Thus saith	the Lord	H3068	In the day	when he went down	to the grave	
H559		H136		H3117		H3381	H7585

הָאֵבָר לְתִי	כִסֹּתִי	עַלִיו	אֶת	וְהָ	וּמִן	אֶמְנֶעַ
I caused a mourning	I covered	H5921	H853	the deep	for him and I restrained	
H56	H3680		H8415		H4513	

נִהְרֹתַי	וְנִלָּא וְ	מֵי	כִבֵּי	וְהָ	וּמִן	עַלִיו
the floods	were stayed	waters	thereof and the great	to mourn		H5921
H5104	H3607	H4325	H7227	H6937		

לְבָנוֹן	וְכָל	עֵצֵי	הַשָּׂדֶה	עַל יוֹ	עָלְפָה:
and I caused Lebanon	for him and all the trees	of the field			fainted
H3844	H3605	H6086	H7704	H5921	H5969

