

# 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 שָׁׁאֹל (shē'ôl, 'Sheol/grave'), nature itself mourned. **I caused a mourning: I covered the deep for him—** God made תֵהּוּם (tēhôm, '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—** לְבָנָן (Lēbānôn, Lebanon) famous for cedars, mourns; all trees עַלְפָה ('ullēpeh, '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

## **Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds**

## **Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment**

## Study Questions

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

בָּהּ	אָמֵר	אָדָן	הַיְהוּ	וּמָ	בַּיִם	רְדָת	וְ	שָׁא	וְלָהּ
H3541	Thus saith	the Lord	H3068	In the day	when he went down	to the grave			
H559		H136		H3117		H3381			H7585
	בָּאָבְּ לְתִי	כִּסְתִּי	שְׁלִי	אָתְּ	וּמָ	תְּהִ וּמָ	לְאָמְנִי		
I caused a mourning	I covered	H3680	H5921	H853	the deep	for him and I restrained			
H56					H8415		H4513		
	עַלְיוֹ	רְאַקְדָּה	יְהִ	בְּבִים	מִים	וְנַפְלָא	וְנַבְרָות	יְהִ	
the floods	were stayed	waters	thereof and the great	to mourn					H5921
H5104	H3607	H4325	H7227	H6937					
	עַלְיוֹ	הַשְׁדָּךְ	הַ	וְ	עַלְיוֹ	גַּלְפָּהּ			
and I caused Lebanon	H3605	for him and all the trees	of the field	H5921					
H3844		H6086	H7704	H5969					

