

# Isaiah 16:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore I will bewail with the weeping of Jazer the vine of Sibmah: I will water thee with my tears, O Heshbon, and Elealeh: for the shouting for thy summer fruits and for thy harvest is fallen.

## Analysis

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"I will bewail with the weeping of Jazer the vine of Sibmah: I will water thee with my tears, O Heshbon, and Elealeh." Despite Moab's enmity, Isaiah mourns their devastation—true prophetic compassion. "I will water thee with my tears" uses irrigation imagery ironically—tears water ruins instead of nourishing vines. Battle cries falling upon harvest indicate war destroying abundance. The prophet weeps not because judgment is unjust, but because sin's consequences are tragic. This models Christian response: unwavering in truth, yet genuinely sorrowful. Christ wept over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41) while pronouncing judgment.

## Historical Context

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These cities formed Moab's agricultural heartland. Ancient warfare timed campaigns to harvest season—capturing food supplies while denying them to enemies. Vintage shouts were ironically replaced by war cries. Isaiah's compassion for enemies reflects the prophetic tradition—Jeremiah similarly mourned Judah's judgment while proclaiming it. This differentiates true prophets from false ones who either minimize judgment or announce it gleefully.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Isaiah's grief for enemies model proper Christian response to divine judgment?
2. What does watering ruins with tears teach about sin's tragedy despite justice demanding consequences?
3. How should conviction about righteous judgment coexist with genuine sorrow?

## Interlinear Text

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|                       |                     |                         |                     |                  |               |                   |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| עַל<br>H5921          | כִּי<br>H3651       | אֶבְכֶּה<br>H1058       | בְּבִכְי<br>H1065   | יַעֲזָר<br>H3270 | גַּן<br>H1612 | שִׁבְמָה<br>H7643 |
|                       |                     | Therefore I will bewail | with the weeping    | of Jazer         | the vine      | of Sibmah         |
| אֶבְי יוֹן<br>H7301   | דִּמְעָתִי<br>H1832 | חֶשְׁבּוֹן<br>H2809     | וְאֶלְעָלֶה<br>H500 | כִּי<br>H3588    | עַל<br>H5921  |                   |
| I will water          | thee with my tears  | O Heshbon               | and Elealeh         |                  |               |                   |
| קִיץ<br>H7019         | וְעַל<br>H5921      | קִצִּיר<br>H7105        | הִידָד<br>H1959     | נָפַל<br>H5307   |               |                   |
| for thy summer fruits | and for thy harvest | and for thy harvest     | for the shouting    | is fallen        |               |                   |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 40:12** (Parallel theme): Even all the Jews returned out of all places whither they were driven, and came to the land of Judah, to Gedaliah, unto Mizpah, and gathered wine and summer fruits very much.

