

# Jeremiah 13:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

This verse reveals Jeremiah's grief: 'But if ye will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride.' Conditional 'if you will not hear' (im lo tishme'aha) indicates their choice remains. 'My soul shall weep' (tivkeh nafshi) reveals the prophet's emotional investment—he genuinely grieves their stubborn refusal. 'In secret places' (bemistarim) suggests private weeping, hidden tears. 'And mine eye shall weep sore, and run down with tears, because the LORD'S flock is carried away captive.' The Hebrew yarad dim'ah (running tears) describes continuous weeping. 'LORD's flock' (eder YHWH) presents Israel as God's sheep led away captive. The weeping prophet's grief authenticates his love despite the severe message.

## Historical Context

Jeremiah's emotional identification with his people appears throughout his 'confessions' (11:18-12:6, 15:10-21, 17:14-18, 18:18-23, 20:7-18). Unlike false prophets who delivered comfortable lies, Jeremiah suffered with the truth he proclaimed. His tears for the 'flock carried captive' reveal pastoral heart behind prophetic severity. This verse establishes him as the 'weeping prophet.'

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

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

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. What does Jeremiah's private weeping reveal about authentic prophetic ministry?
2. How does grieving for those under judgment differ from harsh or vindictive pronouncement?

## Interlinear Text

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ל	א	וְאָם	תִּשְׁמַע	וְהַ	בָּמִסְתָּר	יְמִ	תְּבַקֵּה	נֶפֶשׁ	וְ	יְמִ
H518	H3808	<b>But if ye will not hear</b>	H8085		<b>in secret places</b>	H4565	<b>shall weep</b>	<b>it my soul</b>		H5315
עִינִי	וְתַבְכֵה	תְּדַמֵּעַ	תְּדַמֵּעַ	תְּדַמֵּעַ	וְתַבְכֵה	מִפְנֵי				
for	your pride	<b>shall weep</b>	<b>shall weep</b>	<b>and run down</b>	<b>and run down</b>	<b>and mine eye</b>				
H6440	H1466	H1830	H1830	H3381		H5869				
בְּ	דְּמַעַת	הַ	נִשְׁבַּת	כִּי	עַד	הַ	הַ			
with tears	H3588	<b>is carried away captive</b>	H7617		<b>flock</b>		<b>because the LORD'S</b>			
H1832					H5739		H3068			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Malachi 2:2** (References Lord): If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon

you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart.

**Jeremiah 9:1** (Parallel theme): Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

**Jeremiah 14:17** (Parallel theme): Therefore thou shalt say this word unto them; Let mine eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease: for the virgin daughter of my people is broken with a great breach, with a very grievous blow.

**Psalms 80:1** (Parallel theme): Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth.

**Psalms 119:136** (Parallel theme): Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.

**Ezekiel 34:31** (References Lord): And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord GOD.

**Lamentations 1:16** (Parallel theme): For these things I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water, because the comforter that should relieve my soul is far from me: my children are desolate, because the enemy prevailed.

**Lamentations 2:18** (References Lord): Their heart cried unto the Lord, O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a river day and night: give thyself no rest; let not the apple of thine eye cease.

**1 Samuel 15:35** (References Lord): And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.