

# Jeremiah 6:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O daughter of my people, gird thee with sackcloth, and wallow thyself in ashes: make thee mourning, as for an only son, most bitter lamentation: for the spoiler shall suddenly come upon us.

## Analysis

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The call to 'gird thee with sackcloth' and 'wallow thyself in ashes' prescribes extreme mourning practices. The reason: 'the spoiler shall suddenly come upon us.' The description of the expected mourning—'as for an only son, most bitter lamentation'—evokes the deepest grief. Loss of an only son meant the end of family line and inheritance, representing total loss. This intensity of mourning reflects the severity of coming judgment. The command to mourn in advance demonstrates that repentance must include genuine grief over sin and its consequences. Reformed theology emphasizes that true repentance involves godly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:10).

## Historical Context

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Sackcloth (coarse goat hair) and ashes were traditional Ancient Near Eastern mourning practices. The comparison to losing an only son would resonate deeply in a culture where sons secured family inheritance and name.

## Related Passages

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

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

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. What role does grief and lament play in genuine repentance?
2. How does the loss of an 'only son' as a metaphor help us understand the severity of God's judgment?
3. Why does God call people to mourn before judgment arrives rather than only after?

## Interlinear Text

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בַּת	עַמִּי	חֲגֹרִי	שָׁק	וְהִתְפַּלֵּשׁ	בָּא פָר
<b>O daughter</b>	<b>of my people</b>	<b>gird</b>	<b>thee with sackcloth</b>	<b>and wallow</b>	<b>thyself in ashes</b>
H1323	H5971	H2296	H8242	H6428	H665
א בֵּל	יְחִיד	עָשׂ	לָהּ	מִסֵּפֶד	תִּמְרוֹרִים
<b>thee mourning</b>	<b>as for an only son</b>	<b>make</b>	H0	<b>lamentation</b>	<b>most bitter</b>
H60	H3173	H6213		H4553	H3588
פְּתָא	יָבֹא	הַשֹּׂדֵד	עָלֵינוּ:		
<b>shall suddenly</b>	<b>come</b>	<b>for the spoiler</b>	H5921		
H6597	H935	H7703			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 4:8** (Parallel theme): For this gird you with sackcloth, lament and howl: for the fierce anger of the LORD is not turned back from us.

**Zechariah 12:10** (Parallel theme): And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as

one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

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