

# Lamentations 2:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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Call to lament: "Their heart cried unto the Lord, O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a river day and night" (tsa'ak libam el-Adonai chomot bat-Tsiyon horidi kha-nachal dim'ah yomam va-laylah). The personified walls are called to weep—as if even inanimate stones should mourn. "Give thyself no rest; let not the apple of thine eye cease" (al-titeni fugat lakh al-tidom bat-eineikh). The "apple of the eye" (bat-ayin, literally "daughter of the eye") refers to the pupil—the most precious, protected part. The command: don't let your tears cease, don't rest from mourning. This intensity of grief demonstrates appropriate response to covenant breaking and judgment. Superficial remorse isn't enough; deep, sustained repentance is required. Joel 2:12-13 similarly calls for rending hearts, not just garments. The verse shows that genuine grief over sin and its consequences honors God rather than offends Him.

## Historical Context

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The call for walls to cry out employs hyperbole to express comprehensive grief. Habakkuk 2:11 similarly speaks of stones and beams crying out. The command to weep day and night, giving no rest, describes intense mourning practices. 2 Samuel 12:16-17 shows David fasting and lying on the ground for seven days when his child was dying. Nehemiah 1:4 records days of fasting and prayer upon hearing Jerusalem's ruined state. Ancient mourning could last extended periods—7 days (Genesis 50:10, 1 Samuel 31:13), 30 days (Numbers 20:29, Deuteronomy 34:8),

even 70 days (Genesis 50:3). The intensity matched the loss's severity. For Jerusalem's destruction—end of temple, monarchy, and national existence—prolonged, intense mourning was fitting. This contrasts with modern tendency toward brief, controlled grief. Scripture validates deep, extended expression of pain as appropriate response to genuine tragedy.

## 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 the command to 'give thyself no rest' from weeping teach about the appropriate intensity of grief over sin and judgment?
2. How do we balance prolonged mourning (as Scripture validates) with inappropriate wallowing or refusing comfort?
3. In what ways does our culture's discomfort with sustained grief reflect unbiblical attitudes toward sin's seriousness and consequences?

## Interlinear Text

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צָעַק	לִבָּם	אֶל	אֲדֹנָי	חוֹמַת	בֵּית	צִיּוֹן
cried	Their heart	H413	unto the Lord	O wall	let not the apple	of Zion
H6817	H3820		H136	H2346	H1323	H6726
הוֹרֵד	כִּנְחָל	דְּמָעָה	יוֹם	וַלַּיְלָה	אֶל	תִּתֵּן י
run down	like a river	let tears	day	and night	H408	give
H3381	H5158	H1832	H3119	H3915		H5414
פֹּגַת	לָךְ	אֶל	תִּדֹם	בֵּית	עֵינֶיךָ:	
thyself no rest	H0	H408	cease	let not the apple	of thine eye	
H6314			H1826	H1323	H5869	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 119:145** (References Lord): I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O LORD: I will keep thy statutes.

**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!

**Lamentations 2:8** (References Lord): The LORD hath purposed to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zion: he hath stretched out a line, he hath not withdrawn his hand from destroying: therefore he made the rampart and the wall to lament; they languished together.

**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.

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

**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.

**Jeremiah 13:17** (References Lord): 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.

**Habakkuk 2:11** (Parallel theme): For the stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it.

**Hosea 7:14** (Parallel theme): And they have not cried unto me with their heart, when they howled upon their beds: they assemble themselves for corn and wine, and they rebel against me.

**Lamentations 1:2** (Parallel theme): She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks: among all her lovers she hath none to comfort her: all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies.

