

Pain and Tears

Commentary for September 1, 2011 — ... They Will Cease

In this month's article "How to Be Happy" I show how we who are resurrected at Christ's return have only happiness to look forward to after death. I go into more of this information in the "[September 2011 Newsletter](#)." All of us, as children of the first Adam lead lives of varying degrees of misery leading to death. This is because of sin from Adam and the progressive corruption of our fleshly bodies. This will end in the resurrection when corruption shall put on incorruption (1 Corinthians 15:35–58), thanks to God, the savior of all men (1 Timothy 4:10; Titus 2:10–13).

Pains and Tears Will Cease

Yes, those who are resurrected to glory will have the following five experiences:

"And [1] God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and [2] there shall be no more death, [3] neither sorrow, [4] nor crying [crying out, in anguish], [5] neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things [each of the 5 things] are passed away.

And he that sat upon the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.'

• **Revelation 21:4–5**

This is a remarkable statement from Christ through the apostle John. If only one of the five things would be true, that would be a significant improvement in our lives, but all of them shall occur for you and for me. In this Commentary I will focus on the first and the last.¹

In the phrase "**neither shall there be any more pain**," the word "pain" occurs only three times in Greek in the New Testament: Revelation 16:10–11 and 21:4. It is probably better translated "misery," which includes physical pain but has a much wider range of meaning. It is almost a direct antonym of happiness.

In Revelation 21:4 a portion of Isaiah 25:8 was being referred to:

"He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord YHWH will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for YHWH has spoken it. And it shall be said in that day,

'Lo, this is our God;

we have waited for him [with tears], and he will save us: this is YHWH;

we have waited for him [with tears], we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.'"

• **Isaiah 25:8–9**

Each of us will receive the benefit of God's victory over death, so the victory will be ours also.

¹ Some may quibble that the first and the fourth are the same. However you can have tears without crying and you can cry (and cry out) without tears coming.

The Pain and Tears of Job

The patriarch Job said, **"My friends scorn me: but my eye pours out tears unto God"** (Job 16:20). Job is crying to God. He also complains, which is human and not surprising. Each of us would do the same. Each of us cries out in the same manner. Even so, Job recognized himself as the work of God's hands, as he waited in his suffering for the resurrection:

"If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. You shall call, and I will answer you: you will have a desire to the work of your hands. ...

But his flesh upon him shall have pain, and his soul within him shall mourn."

• *Job 14:14–15, 22*

The Pain and Tears of King David

Several passages deal with pain and tears from the life of King David. His life was not always happy and glorious, as we read his biography in the Bible. He remembered times of pain and tears: **"I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears"** (Psalm 6:6). **"Look upon my affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins"** (Psalm 25:18). **"My tears have been my meat day and night, while they [my tears, figuratively] continually say unto me, 'Where is your God?'"** (Psalm 42:3). **"My heart is sore pained within me: and the terrors of death are fallen upon me"** (Psalm 55:4).

The Pain and Tears of Others

An unspecified psalmist wrote these lines:

"I love YHWH, [why?] because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he has inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live. The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell [*sheol*, the grave] got hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. ...

For you [YHWH] have delivered my soul from death, [delivered] my eyes from tears, and my feet from falling."

• *Psalm 116:1–3, 8*

In one of the songs of degrees another unknown psalmist considered how the future tears and weeping of Israel would be turned into joy and rejoicing after Israel's captivity ended:

"When YHWH turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream ...

Turn again our captivity, O YHWH, as the streams in the south. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goes forth and weeps, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

• *Psalm 126:1, 4–6*

The writer of Ecclesiastes, though he was king, noted many wrongs of mankind that came to his attention:

"So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; ..."

• *Ecclesiastes 4:1*

The prophet Jeremiah suffered so much pain from enemies in his life and prophetic ministry that he accused God of being a liar:

“Why is my pain perpetual, and my wound incurable, which refuses to be healed? Will you [YHWH] be altogether unto me as a liar, and as waters that fail?”

• *Jeremiah 15:18*

That was very dangerous for Jeremiah to say and write that accusation. God called Jeremiah on that point and caused him to repent. It is one thing to make such an accusation to God in private, crying out to God in pain and tears. God understands and has no problem with that, even raising your fist to God in anguish. But when a person “goes public” with his misery and tears, be careful on how you phrase things. Do not dishonor God. Do not accuse Him of sin. It would be inaccurate and foolish to do so. God is not mocked, as the King James Version reads in Galatians 6:7. The Concordant Literal Version expresses it in an interesting way:

“Be not deceived, God is not to be sneered at, for whatsoever a man may be sowing, this shall he be reaping also.”

• *Galatians 6:7, Concordant Version*

Take Job as an example. He was very careful (as was Moses later) on how he addressed God in his extreme pain, tears, and anguish. Jeremiah called God a liar and he received a warning and an opportunity to repent. We should likewise be careful with our public words about God.

Our Pain Now

For me as a father and grandfather what seems to hurt most is when little children are hurt. I often got angry when one of my daughters would be careless and hurt herself. I hated to see them suffer in any way. I still do. We all cry tears on behalf of our children if they are hurt and suffer pain.

In the Gospels there is the case with the father of a spirit possessed child who came to Jesus for healing of his son (Matthew 17:14–20; Mark 9:14–29; Luke 9:37–43). The spirit caused his son to hurt himself. The passage in Mark mentions the father’s tears for his only child:

“And ofttimes it has cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if you can do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. Jesus said unto him, ‘If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes.’ And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, ‘Lord, I believe; help you my unbelief.’”

• *Mark 9:22–24*

Imagine how God our Father feels when we hurt ourselves in thought or in deed, as each human being has done since Adam. He will put a stop to all pain and tears — in His own good time (Revelation 21:4-5 above). A major step in that process occurred through Christ becoming flesh, fulfilling the Law and righteousness of God, and saving each human being. Next comes the resurrection of each one of us, eventually to spiritual life, just as Christ is now.

“For our realm is inherent in the heavens, out of which we are awaiting a Saviour also, the Lord, Jesus Christ, Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation, to

conform it to the body of His glory, in accord with the operation which enables Him even to subject all to Himself.

• *Philippians 3:20–21, Concordant Version*

Christ's Pain and Tears

Christ suffered pain throughout His life. He also suffered excruciating pain in His humiliation, scourging, and crucifixion, with tears of agony not only for Himself, but for us also.

"[Christ] **Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him [God] that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared.**"

• *Hebrews 5:7*

Death could not hold Christ. He was resurrected.

"**Whom God has raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he [Christ] should be holden of it.**"

• *Acts 2:24*

The present time for all mankind, the time for Israel, and the time for each of us who are believers in Christ, is reflected in a passage in the 26th chapter of Isaiah:

"**Like as a woman with child, that draws near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and cries out in her pangs; so have we been in your sight, O YHWH."**

• *Isaiah 26:17*

The birth pangs of God's redemption draw near, even for all creation (Romans 8:19–22). So too for us who are believers. Note what is being done on our behalf at this present moment:

"**Now, if we are expecting what we are not observing, we are awaiting it with endurance.**

Now, similarly, the spirit also is aiding our infirmity, for what we should be praying for, to accord with what must be, we are not aware, but the spirit itself is pleading for us with inarticulate groanings.

Now He Who is searching the hearts is aware what is the disposition of the spirit, for in accord with God is it pleading for [the sake of] the saints.

Now we are aware that God is working all together for the good of those who are loving God, who are called according to the purpose."

• *Romans 8:25–28, Concordant Version*

Your pains, your tears will cease — not now, but in the resurrection. They will have an end and a sequel will be accomplished for you by God through Christ. You have God's promise. It is for you and for every other human being. You are of the first Adam. You shall be like the second Adam.

In the meantime, read and reread and engage with this month's article, "How to Be Happy."

David Sielaff
david@askelm.com