

No More Tears

Rev. 7:13-17

Revelation 7:13-17 - Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

Introduction:

- A. Revelation chapter 7 give us a beautiful picture of the saints in God's care and keeping. As we look at this scene we notice the marvelous picture concluding with the expression, "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." Herein are found life's two extremes - the deepest sorrow on the one hand, the supreme joy on the other.
- B. From this passage and statement we can make many observations about God's care but also about God's people. Let us observe some of these.

I. The Tears

(These are the tears of God's people. With them the pages of history are stained.)

A. Tears of Pity

- 1. Compassionate people weeping for the fearful doom of hardened sinners
- 2. Jesus weeping over Jerusalem - Lk. 19:41-42

Luke 19:41-42 - When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes."

B. Tears of Sympathy

- 1. Tenderhearted friends who share sorrows, who weep with the ones who weep
- 2. Jesus weeps over Lazarus' death - Jn 11:35

John 11:35 - Jesus wept.

C. Tears of Bereavement

- 1. A David weeping for a son - 2 Sam 18:33

2 Samuel 18:33 - The king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And thus he said as he walked, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

- 2. A Rachel weeping for her children because they are not - Matt 2:16-18

Matthew 2:16-18 - Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi. Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH, WEEPING AND GREAT MOURNING, RACHEL WEEPING FOR HER CHILDREN; AND SHE REFUSED TO BE COMFORTED, BECAUSE THEY WERE NO MORE."

D. Tears of a Penitent

- 1. Weeps over the memory of a wasted life

2. A sinful woman forgiven - Lk 7:36-38

Luke 7:36-38 - Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him, and He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. 37 And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, 38 and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume.

E. Tears of Anxiety

1. An earnest Christian who is deeply concerned with the moral and spiritual well-being of the people among whom he lives
2. Paul talking to the Ephesian elders - Acts 20:31

Acts 20:31 - "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

F. Tears of Sacrifice

1. Tears of a child of God who suffers great personal loss to the end that the church may go forward
2. That the gospel may be preached in those regions where it has not been preached - Psa. 126:5; Acts 20:19

Psalms 126:5 - Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting.

Acts 20:19 - serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews;

II. *God*

A. On the pages of history we find God, The Father

1. Every way we turn we find manifestations of Him
 - a. In the realm of Nature - Psa 19:1
 - b. In His great book
 - c. In the lives of His people - Eph 4:6

Psalms 19:1 - The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

Ephesians 4:6 - one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

B. Bible presents Him as

1. God of pity - Psa 103:13

Psalms 103:13 - Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.

2. God of love and peace - 2 Cor. 13:11

2 Corinthians 13:11 - Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

3. God of mercy and comfort - 2 Cor 1:3

2 Corinthians 1:3 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

4. God of consolation - Rom 15:5

Romans 15:5 - Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus,

III. *The Hand Of God*

- A. Though unnamed in the text it is clearly seen
 - 1. A symbol of God's power, wisdom and love
 - 2. Through ages past it has been shaping the lives and destinies of men
- B. In the Bible it is seen as
 - 1. Hand of supplication - Isa 65:2

Isaiah 65:2 - "I have spread out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk in the way which is not good, following their own thoughts,

- 2. Hand of deliverance - Exo 13:3; Col 1:3

Exodus 13:3 - Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you went out from Egypt, from the house of slavery; for by a powerful hand the LORD brought you out from this place. And nothing leavened shall be eaten.

Colossians 1:3 - We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

- 3. Hand of protection - Jn 10:28-29

John 10:28-29 - and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

- 4. Hand of guidance - Psa 23:1-2

Psalms 23:1-2 - The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

- 5. Hand of chastisement - Psa 38:1-2; Heb 12:5-8

Psalms 38:1-2 - O LORD, rebuke me not in Your wrath, And chasten me not in Your burning anger. 2 For Your arrows have sunk deep into me, And Your hand has pressed down on me.

Hebrews 12:5-8 - and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

- 6. Hand of comfort - Rev 7:13-17

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Conclusion:

- A. Life is full of great moments for us. We see sorrow and happiness; joy and pain; etc. The text shows us life with its great tribulations as past and the hand of God wipes away all the tears.
- B. He will remove the causes of sorrow from our lives. All the wants of His people are well supplied; they are beyond the reach of harm.
- C. Sin and pain and death are no more.