

## Has God Seen Your Tears?

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by Bill Crews

Has God seen your tears? What is the point? Have you mourned, grieved, shed tears **when such was called for**? If you did, certainly God observed it — He misses nothing, but He does not see what is not there.

*“Turn back, and say to Hezekiah the prince of my people, Thus saith Jehovah, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee; on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of Jehovah. And I will add unto thy days fifteen years”* (2 Kings 20:5-6). Hezekiah, king of Judah, had become, as we put it, “terminally ill.” God’s prophet Isaiah had been sent unto the king to speak these somber words, *“Thus saith Jehovah, Set thy house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live”* (v. 1). Hezekiah had not been an evil man. He turned his face to the wall, prayed unto God, and wept. In response, Isaiah had been sent back to the king with the above words. God had heard his prayer, and God had seen his tears.

Look up the word “tears” in a dictionary, and you will find technical definitions that are far removed from what I think of when I think of tears. I am more interested in the significance and causes of tears, and of the effect of tears. Tears can be caused by a variety of situations; tears can be deceptive (“crocodile tears”; some preachers and actors and actresses can “cry” on cue; impenitent people can shed tears solely for effect) or genuine, real or for show; tears can be restrained (“men don’t cry” — pity for them) or unrestrained (“he” or “she cries all the time”); tears can be appropriate (or called for) or out of place; tears can be prescribed (James 4:9) or forbidden (Lev. 10:6; Ezek. 24:16); tears can have an effect upon God; tears can produce compassion and result in help; tears can be in vain; tears can be brought on by sorrow and pain or by joy and happiness.

Has God seen your tears? Have there been tears when there should not have been? Have there been no tears when there should have been?

### Let Us Look At Why Tears Were Shed On Various Occasions In The Bible:

Tears were shed by Hezekiah when he was sick unto death and told by the prophet Isaiah: *“Set thy house in order, for thou shalt die and not live.”* But he prayed (other than his asking God to remember his righteous and obedient life, we are not told of any request that he made), and he “wept sore.” Then he was told that God had heard his prayer and seen his tears and would heal him and add fifteen years to his life. **Here we have tears over the prospect of dying.**

Tears were shed by Hannah because she was taunted or ridiculed by Peninah over her being childless and was hurting. The story is found in 1 Samuel 1:1-11. God saw her tears and heard and answered her prayer for a son, a son for which she was so desperate that she was willing to give him up to the service of God after having him for such a short time. **Here we have tears over being childless and being hurt by others.**

Tears were shed by David because he lost a son (Absalom, who had stolen the hearts of the people, usurped the throne, and led his followers in a war against his own father and his loyal supporters). Read 2 Samuel 18:5, 14-15, 29, 32-33. David had given the unreasonable command, *“Deal gently with the young man for my sake.”* When David became extreme in his grief, Joab brought him to his senses by reminding him that his actions indicated that he would have been more relieved to hear that his men had lost the battle and many of them had been killed. **Tears over the death of a pampered, vain and rebellious son.**

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