November 1998

"They shall mount up... I EAGLES' WINGS ... with wings

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"Thou tellest (countest) my wanderings: Put Thou my tears into Thy bottle: are they not in Thy book?" Psalm 56:8.

> "Not now, but in the coming years, It may be in the better land; We'll read the meaning of our tears, And there, sometime, we'll understand."

"We'll catch the broken thread again, And finish what we here began; Heav'n will the mysteries explain, And then, ah, then, we'll understand."

"We'll know why clouds instead of sun Were over many a cherished plan; Why song has ceased when scarce begun; "Tis there, some time we'll understand."

"God knows the way, He holds the key, He guides us with unerring hand; Sometime with tearless eyes we'll see; Yes, up there, we'll understand."

"Then trust in God thro' all the days; Fear not, for He doth hold thy hand; Though dark be thy way, still sing and praise, Some time, some time, we'll understand." —Maxwell N. Cornelius ... with wings as eagles." Isaiah 40:31



Dear Friends,

I have been recently thinking a little about tears. I'm quite sure that my reader has shed some tears. They may have been silent tears and you may have shed them when you were alone. In Psalm 56 David is faced with enemies within Israel and also with the Philistines. The very one who slew Goliath is now afraid but he knows what to do. He says, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me." Verses 3,4.

Even though he was trusting in God the deep trial he was going through had brought tears to his eyes. It is then that he asks the Lord to put his tears into His bottle. Most of us have had mothers or fathers who were concerned when they saw us crying. They tried their best to ease our pain or disappointment. They may have wiped our tears away with a handkerchief.

As I thought about this I was reminded how our loving and faithful heavenly Father takes notice of every trial or disappointment that He allows to come into our lives. He has told us to cast every care and anxiety upon Him because He cares for us. 1 Peter 5:7. How much does He care? Every tear drop that is shed is put into His bottle. But does He always see our tears? When King Hezekiah cried, God said to him, "I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears." 2 Kings 20:5.

We may have shed many tears during nights of loneliness and sorrow. David said on one occasion, "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.

Sometimes we will shed tears for loved ones and for those who have wandered away from God and are reaping the sad results of disobedience. Jeremiah is known as the weeping prophet. He often wept for God's disobedient people. "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!" Jeremiah 9:1.

The apostle Paul served the Lord with many tears. For three years he warned the Christians at Ephesus every night and day with **tears**. As we serve the Lord we are encouraged to sow in **tears** that we might reap in joy. Acts 20:19,31; Psalm 126:5.

In the midst of our tears we often may ask or at least wonder, "Why did God allow this to happen?" We may be tempted to say, "I don't see how can any good come out of this?" We usually do not have the answers to these questions. We have to remind ourselves that our God makes no mistakes. "As for God, His way is perfect." Psalm 18:30.

The day is coming when God will wipe away our tears. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4.

What a day that will be when in the presence of our Lord and Saviour we shall know and understand all the trials and disappointments that He allowed in our lives. We will see how our God used all the sad times for our good and for His glory. Our tears will be all wiped away by the One who has loved us and kept us through it all.

> "And God has fixed the happy day When the last tear shall dim our eyes; When He will wipe these tears away, And fill our hearts with glad surprise; To hear His voice, and see His face, And know the fullness of His grace."

> > –Swain

What a glorious future lies before us! *Then* we shall praise Him for all His ways with us! *Now* we can know the sympathy of the One who wept at the grave of Lazarus. "Jesus wept." John 11:35. "In the days of His flesh," the Lord Jesus "offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death, and was heard in that He feared." Hebrews 5:7.

"He in the days of feeble flesh, **Poured out His cries and tears,** And, though ascended, feels afresh What every member bears."

Yes, *now* is the time to trust Him for all that He allows and brings into our lives.

Moment By Moment

"Never a trial that He is not there, Never a burden that He doth not bear, Never a sorrow that He doth not share, Moment by moment, I'm under His care.

"Never a heartache, and never a groan, Never a tear-drop never a moan; Never a danger but there on the throne, Moment by moment He thinks of His own.

"Never a weakness that He doth not feel, Never a sickness that He cannot heal; Moment by moment, in woe or in weal, Jesus my Saviour, abides with me still."

-D.W. Whittle

In His wonderful love,

John D. McNeil

Extracts From Comments On Psalm 56

The saint's trust then is in God. But this trust in God is not without some revelation of God. Hence, when the soul can look at Him and trust, that by which He has revealed His mind, the testimony which in His love He has given to us, becomes at once the guide and confidence of the soul...God disposes of everything and has His plans, which he will certainly bring to pass.

But there is another blessing accompanies this, and a deep one. The soul is in trial, the wicked plotting against it. But God is with it in the sorrow and takes account of it all. He tells the wanderings of the saint, for he is here looked at as deprived of outward privileges with God's people and in His house; but God counts all this up, and the saint can look, as it is beautifully expressed, to His putting every tear into His bottle. Every sorrow of the saint is in His book. It is a blessed thought. So the heart confides in Him and knows that, when it cries to Him, all its enemies will be turned back. Then, as it praised His word in faith in the midst of its fears and sorrows, looking to it, sustained by it, counting on it—oh, that saints knew how to do it!—so now the soul will do it in counting on deliverance by His sure intervention. —J. N. Darby

For address correction or free new name addition please write to: Leslie L. Winters