

# Wings

*"Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles."  
Isaiah 40:31*



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## When We Cry

The tears that we cry are a record of the emotional trauma we experience from the barbs that life frequently throws at us. It helps to know that God is not indifferent to our sorrow.

*"You number my wanderings; put my tears into Your bottle; are they not in Your book?" (Psa. 56:8).*



Reading the story of King David can be a depressing experience. For all the glory and prestige that we normally associate with his name, the reality is that David's life was consumed by grief. Let's take a quick tour. . . .

Early in his career, when pressure from King Saul forced him into exile, David had to bid farewell to his dear friend Jonathan. "They wept together, but David more so" (1 Sam. 20:41).

Near the end of his exile, while David and his men were away on a campaign, Amalekites raided the village in which they lived and carried off their families. David and his men wept "until they had no more power to weep" (1 Sam. 30:4).

After recovering from that disaster, David heard that Saul and Jonathan had been killed in battle against the Philistines. David and his followers "mourned and wept and fasted" over this terrible loss (2 Sam. 1:11-12).

In the civil war that followed the death of Saul, the assassination of Abner robbed David of the only man with whom he could bring peace to a divided nation. At Abner's funeral David "lifted up his voice and wept" at the loss of this "great man in Israel" (2 Sam. 3:32, 38).

All these occasions of grief were inflicted upon David by the actions of others. But his greatest pain came from the suffering he brought upon himself. Following his affair with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband, the child born from this illicit relationship was stricken with a fatal illness. David "fasted and wept for the child," begging God to spare him. His anguish was so intense that his servants hesitated to inform him when the child died, for fear that he would harm himself (2 Sam. 12:16-21).

The climax came when his own son, Absalom, was killed while leading a rebellion against his father. David saw in his son's death a mirror image of his own sins, and the loss plunged him into a melancholy so deep that his army could not celebrate their victory over the rebels (2 Sam. 18:33 - 19:4).

I have had occasions to weep in my life, but never as often and as intensely as David. How did this man of God bear up under all the depressing circumstances of his life?

David saw God as more than an abstract object of worship. His statement, "You number my wanderings; [and] put my tears into Your bottle" reflects David's confidence in God as a friend who took a personal interest in his pain. It was as though God stored each tear in a special bottle with David's name on it, and kept a ledger that recorded the time and occasion it was shed. David was sure that some day God would redeem every one of those tears with blessings that would more than make up for the anguish.

When life beats us down and we cry until we have no more tears to cry, remember the story of David. God is storing up your tears, too, in a bottle with your name on it. Some day, He will open that bottle and personally "wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Rev. 21:4). Fix your hope on that day, and you will find strength to endure.

— David King