

Gen 50:1, “Then Joseph fell on his father’s face, and wept over him, and kissed him.

Gen 50:2, “And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel.

Gen 50:3, “Forty days were required for him, for such are the days required for those who are embalmed; and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.

Gen 50:4, “And when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, ‘If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the hearing of Pharaoh, saying’,”

Gen 50:3, “Forty days were required for him, for such are the days required for those who are embalmed; and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.

Gen 50:4, “And when the days of his **mourning** were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, ‘If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the hearing of Pharaoh, saying’,”

בְּכִיַּת *b^ek_iyt* “weeping” in mourning

Doctrine of Grief and Mourning

1. Key words for grief and mourning

טָפַד *sāpaḏ* 29× “to wail, lament, mourn.” Used of mourning at the time of death, hired mourners, to sing a lament for someone at death.

אָבֵל *'ābēl* “mourning, sorrowing.” Describes
Jacob’s mourning for Joseph’s supposed
death (Gen. 37:35).

Isa 53:10, “Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to **grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.”**

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חַלָּה *ḥālāh* Indicates the weakness, physical sickness that often accompanies sorrow.

Lam 3:31, “For the Lord will not cast off forever.

Lam 3:32, “Though He causes grief, yet He will show compassion according to the multitude of His mercies.

Lam 3:33, “For He does not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men.”

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נָאָגַח *yāgāh* “to suffer, to afflict, to be pained, to grieve.” It refers to the emotion and despair brought about by some act or condition, such as Jerusalem’s misfortunes. However, the solution is always found in the grace provision of God.

Psa 31:8, “And have not shut me up into the hand of the enemy; You have set my feet in a wide place.

Psa 31:9, “Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye wastes away with grief, Yes, my soul and my body!

Psa 31:10, “For my life is spent with **grief** [**yagon “sorrow”**], and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones waste away.

Psa 31:11, “I am a reproach among all my enemies, but especially among my neighbors, and am repulsive to my acquaintances; those who see me outside flee from me.

Psa 31:12, “I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; I am like a broken vessel.”

ΟΥΔ *ka'as* “anger, provocation, vexation, grief,
sorrow”

ΛΥΠΈΩ *lypéō* “to grieve, afflict with sorrow;
mid. or pass., to be grieved, sad, sorrowful”

λύπη *lype* “regret, sadness, be overcome
with grief”

Rom 9:1, “I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit,

Rom 9:2, “that I have great sorrow [*lupe*] and continual grief in my heart.

Rom 9:3, “For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,”

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ὀδύνη *odúnē* “Sorrow, torment, grief, pain, distress of body or mind”

“πενθέω *penthéō*

πένθος *rénthos*

“to mourn, lament”

περίλυπος *perílupos*

“profound sorrow and grief”

συλλυπέω *sullupéō*

“to afflict, grieve, grieve together”

2. Grief and mourning are legitimate realities in a fallen world.

Gen 23:2, “So Sarah died in Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.”

Gen 37:34, “Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days.”

Deu 34:8, “And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. So the days of weeping and mourning for Moses ended.”

3. Different people grieve in different ways. The believer should never get trapped into the pagan mentality of the five stages of grief based on Elizabeth Kubler-Ross' studies *On Death and Dying*. Many Christians have been deceived into accepting the five stages of grief myth.

“Now an examination of about 500 studies on grief and bereavement, led by social worker Janice Genevro, concludes that there is no one-size-fits-all model for grieving, that grief therapy doesn’t shorten grieving, and that it doesn’t significantly alleviate the intensity or side effects of grief” (excerpt from *Psychotherapy Networker*, Vol. 28, No. 3, pp. 21, 22). [The 182-page report discussing Genevro’s work is issued by the Center for the Advancement for Health and is available free at the Center’s web site: www.cfah.org/programs/grief_research.cfm.]

Exo 33:4, “And when the people heard this bad news, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments.”

Num 14:39, “Then Moses told these words to all the children of Israel, and the people mourned greatly.”

Mat 26:37, “And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be **sorrowful and deeply distressed.**

Mat 26:38, “Then He said to them, ‘My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me’.”

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ἀδημονέω *adēmonéō* “to faint, be distressed, troubled; overwhelmed with sorrow”

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λύπη *lype* “regret, sorrow
with grief”

ἀδημονέω *adēmonéō*
troubled; overwhelmed with sorrow

περίλυπος *perilypos*
“Surrounded with
grief, severely grieved,
very sorrowful”

Mar 3:5, “And when He had looked around at them with anger, being **grieved** by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.”

συλλυπέω *sullupéō*; “to afflict, grieve; to grieve together; pass., to be grieved or afflicted for another (Mark 3:5).”

**Psa 6:7, “My eye wastes away because of grief;
it grows old because of all my enemies.”**

Psa 31:9, “Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye wastes away with grief, Yes, my soul and my body!

Psa 31:10, “For my life is spent with grief, and my years with sighing: my strength faileth because of mine iniquity, and my bones are consumed.”

2 Corinthians 1:3–4

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our tribulation,

“that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.”

1 Thes 4:13, “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.”