

Crying Never, or Crying Forever?

By Jason Hilburn

Crying is something that we have all done. It is usually the first thing every person does after birth, and after we are born we continue to have “crying spells” on a regular basis until we get a few years older. According to statistics, the average person sheds well over 100 pints of tears throughout his lifetime. For an adult, shedding tears of sorrow or frustration may be something that has not happened in years, or it may be something that occurs on a regular basis.

There are many people mentioned in the Scriptures who had shed many tears. David spoke of the tears he had shed: *“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). Jeremiah has been called “the weeping prophet” because of all the tears he shed (Jeremiah 9:1; 13:17; 48:32; Lamentations 1:16). Paul had also shed many tears (Acts 20:19, 31; 2 Cor. 2:4). There are many others who have their tears recorded in the Scriptures, including our Lord Jesus (John 11:35; Luke 19:41).

We have all experienced feelings of hopelessness, sorrow, and pain, and no sane person would want to linger in such a state. With all this in mind, surely one of the greatest promises in the entire Bible is that those who go to Heaven will never shed another tear! *“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; cf. 7:16, 17).

When Jesus spoke of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), He said that Lazarus had received *“evil things”* while he had been on earth (v25). Lazarus was a very poor man with sores and many sorrows. Surely he had shed many tears in his lifetime. However, immediately upon his death, the angels carried him to Abraham in a place of great comfort, which is apparently the same place Jesus called *“Paradise”* (Luke 16:22, 25; 23:43). The Scriptures teach us that after the Judgment Day, the righteous will receive eternal life in Heaven, with blessings and joy beyond our present ability to fathom (Revelation 20:12—21:7). What wonderful hope there is for us if we are faithful children of God!

However, the wonders of Heaven with its complete absence of tears stand in stark contrast with the Biblical description of Hell. Hell will be full of

tears! In the midst of fire and eternal agony, lost souls will weep and wail forever: *“And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth”* (Matthew 25:30; cf. Matthew 13:49, 50; Rev. 14:11; 21:8).

If you had the choice to never cry again, or to cry in horrible agony and sorrow forever, which would you choose? That decision is now before us all. We are making one of these two choices by the way we live our lives every day. May we all serve God in loving, faithful obedience so that we may rejoice forever rather than weep.