**R940 (99)\_Rumination for Jan. 29, 2023 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **Tears in a Bottle and Thoughts in a Book** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: *Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou* ***my tears into Thy******bottle****: are they not* ***in Thy book****?* Psa. 56:8

 *A* ***book*** *of remembrance was written before Him for them …* ***that thought upon His name****.* Mal. 3:16

The **T**hots:

Intro. : Mourners in ancient cultures were known to collect their tears in tiny bottles

 to leave them at the **G**raves of their loved ones as a record of their **G**rief.

 **G**od too knows and records our **S**orrows and **S**ufferings,

 not only in **B**ottles but also in **B**ooks – *are they not in Thy book*?

 He even **T**allies our **T**ears just as He numbers the **H**airs on our **H**eads Mt. 10:20

 Note: *tellest* is *caphar* in Hebrew andliterally means to score with a mark as a tally or record.

 Cf. *list my tears* (NIV)

1. **A Bottle for the Tears. Psa. 56:8**
2. As it relates to **C**hrist.
	1. Jesus shed tears for His **F**riend, Lazarus – *Jesus wept.* Jn. 11:35
	2. Jesus shed tears over the coming **F**all of Jerusalem – *He beheld the city, and wept over it.* Lk. 19:41, 42-44
	3. Jesus shed tears in the days of His **F**lesh. Heb. 5:7

*Who in the days of His flesh, when He had 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.*

* + - Would not the Father **T**ally His Son’s **Tears** in a **B**ottle?
1. As it relates to **C**hristians
	1. The woman shed **tears** and **W**ashed the feet of the Lord with them. Lk. 7:38

*…began to wash His feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head.*

* 1. Paul shed **tears** to **W**arn the elders of the church in Ephesus. Acts 20:17, 19, 31

 *By the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.*

* 1. One day God will **W**ipe all **tears** away from the eyes of His people. Rev. 7:17; 21:4

 *God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.*

* + - Until then, won’t God **T**ally His people’s **Tears** in His **B**ottle and in His **B**ook?
1. **A Book for the thoughts Mal. 3:16**

*A* ***book*** *of remembrance was written before* ***H****im for them that feared the LORD, and* ***that thought*** *upon His name.*

1. **As it relates to Christ’s Person:**
2. His **Thoughts,** when **A**nimal offerings and sacrifices could not please God, were to offer Himself. Heb. 10:7

 *Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do Thy will, O God.*

1. His **Thoughts** in the final days of His **A**nguish and **A**gony were to do His Father’s Will. Lk. 22:42, 44

 *Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me: nevertheless not My will, but Thine, be done.*

Cf. *Being in an agony…His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

 He constantly thought of God, the Father and His Name to fear Him and obey His Will.

* Would not the Father write His **Thoughts** in His **B**ook of remembrance?
1. **As it relates to God’s People:**
	1. Joseph asked the chief butler to ***Think on him*** when he was **F**ree, but he **F**orgot. Gen. 40:14, 23

But **think on** me when it shall be well with thee…and make mention of me unto Pharaoh…

Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgat him.

* 1. God’s People were to **F**ear the Lord and **F**ocus (***Think***) upon His Name: Mal. 3:16

A book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon His name.

Cf. Christ: *Who in the days of his flesh…was heard in that He feared.* Heb. 5:7

 *[feared = reverent submission* (NIV)*]*

* 1. We are to ***Think*** of Jesus in the **B**reaking of **B**read and to **R**emember Him. I Cor. 11:24

 *Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.*

* + - When God’s people *Think* on Him and *Fear* Him in **R**everent Worship,

 would not He write their **Thoughts** in His Book of **R**emembrance?

*God counts the sorrows of His saints, Their groans affect His ears;
Thou hast a book for my complaints, A bottle for my tears.*

 Isaac Watts

# Reflections for the Week R. 940

* + - 1. **KJV** translates **Psa. 56:8** as:

 *Thou tellest my wanderings: put Thou my tears into Thy bottle: are they not in Thy book?*

 **NIV** translates it: *Record my lament; list my tears on Your scroll –*

*are they not in Your record?*

 **NRSV** has this: *You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in Your bottle.*

*Are they not in Your record?*

Putting them all together, they translate into God knowing all our tears that result from our griefs, sorrows, laments, tossings, and with Him keeping count of them, tallying each shed tear of ours as He puts it into His bottle one by one and also recording it in His book of remembrance.

It is indeed a very solemn thought that God can be doing all this when He sees His children suffer and yet not easing that suffering for them in order to achieve their ultimate good, but giving them sustaining grace to help them through the suffering. Cf. II Cor. 12:9 – *He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness.*

*Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.* **REFLECT**

* + - 1. If you happen to be honoured by God to suffer for Him

(*For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him,*

*but also to suffer for His sake*; Phil. 1:29),

how does Psalm 56:8 (MSG) affect you?
*You've kept track of my every toss and turn through the sleepless nights,*

*Each tear entered in Your ledger, each ache written in Your book.* **REFLECT**

* + - 1. Christ suffered in order that He might succour us. Heb. 2:17, 18

Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren,

that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God,

to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

 *For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted,*

 *He is able to succour them that are tempted.*

We have a Merciful and Faithful High Priest in the heavens at the Mercy Seat of God.

**REFLECT** on how this fact can help you…

* overcome your fears of the future,
* sustain you in your present suffering
* and assure you of an atonement of past and present sins

 should you happen to find yourself in any of these three situations.

**Points To Ponder:** *Our LORD* ***R****ecognises our every* ***T****rial; He* ***R****ecords our every* ***T****ear!* **Psalm 121:1-8 (NKJV)**
*1  I will lift up my eyes to the hills-- From whence comes my help?
2  My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.
3  He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.
4  Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep.
5  The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade at your right hand.
6  The sun shall not strike you by day, Nor the moon by night.
7  The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul.
8  The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth,*

*and even forevermore.*