

The Cry of Four Biblical Mothers: How to Transform Tears Into Triumph

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Synopsis: *Seldom does the Bible describe mothers crying. But when it does, we ought to pay attention.*

Join us on a four-step journey as we explore, and learn life-lessons from the unique cries of four biblical mothers: Hagar, Rachel, Hannah, and Sisera's Mother.

<p><u>Genesis 21:16</u> And she [Hagar] went, and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bow-shot; for she said: 'Let me not look upon the death of the child.' And she sat over against him, and lifted up her voice, and wept.</p>	<p><u>בראשית פרק כא</u> וּתְלַךְ וּתֵשֶׁב לָהּ מִנְּגַד, הֲרֹחַק כְּמִטְחֹוֹי קֶשֶׁת, כִּי אָמְרָה, אֵל-אֲרָאָה בְּמוֹת הַיֶּלֶד; וּתֵשֶׁב מִנְּגַד, וּתִשָּׂא אֶת-קִלְעָהּ וּתִבְךְ.</p>
<p><u>Judges, 5: 28-31</u> Through the window peered Sisera's mother; behind the lattice she cried out, 'Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why is the clatter of his chariots delayed?' 29 The wisest of her ladies answer her; indeed, she keeps saying to herself, 30 'Are they not finding and dividing the spoils: a woman or two for each man, colorful garments as plunder for Sisera, colorful garments embroidered, highly embroidered garments for my neck—all this as plunder?' 31 "So may all your enemies perish, Lord! But may all who love you be like the sun when it rises in its strength." Then the land had peace forty years.</p>	<p><u>שופטים פרק ה: כח</u> בְּעַד הַחֲלוֹן נִשְׁקָפָה וּתִיַבֵּב אִם סִיסְרָא, בְּעַד הָאֵשֶׁנֶב: מִדּוֹעַ, בְּשֵׁשׁ רִכְבוֹ לְבוֹא מִדּוֹעַ אַחֲרוֹ, פְּעָמֵי מַרְכָּבוֹתָיו. כַּט חֲכָמוֹת שְׂרוֹתֶיהָ, תַּעֲנִינָהּ; אִף-הִיא, תֵּשֵׁב אֶמְרֶיהָ לָהּ. הֲלֹא יִמְצְאוּ יַחֲלָקוּ שְׁלָל רַחֵם רַחֲמָתִים לְרֹאשׁ גְּבוֹר שְׁלָל צַבָּעִים לְסִיסְרָא, שְׁלָל צַבָּעִים רִקְמָה: צַבֵּעַ רִקְמָתִים, לְצֹאֲרֵי שְׁלָל לֹא כֹן יֵאבְדוּ כָל-אוֹיְבֶיךָ, יְהוָה, וְאֶהְיֶה, כְּצֹאת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ בְּגִבְרָתוֹ; וּתִשְׁקֹט הָאָרֶץ, אַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה.</p>
<p><u>Babylonian Talmud, Rosh Hashanah 32b</u> Said Abaya: About this they do indeed differ, for it is written "It is a day of blowing the shofar," which in the (Aramaic) translation it is, "It is a day of sounding the alarm (Yabba). Now it is written concerning the mother of Sisera "The mother of Sisera... moaned" (VAT'YABEB); this word, one explains to mean a protracted groan (shevarim), and another to mean a short wail.</p>	<p><u>ראש השנה לג, ב</u> אמר אביי: בהא דדאי פליגי, דכתיב (במדבר כט) יום תרועה יהיה לכם, ומתרגמינן: יום יבבא יהא לכוון. וכתוב באימיה דסיסרא בעד החלון נשקפה ותיבב אם סיסרא. מר סבר: גנוחי גנח, ומר סבר: ילולי יליל.</p>

<p><u>Jeremiah 31:16-17</u> A voice is heard on high, lamentation, bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, she refuses to be comforted for her children, for they are not. So says the Lord: Refrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for there is reward for your work, says the Lord, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. And there is hope for your future, says G-d, and the children shall return to their own border.</p>	<p><u>ירמיהו פרק לא: טז-יז</u> קול בְּרָמָה נִשְׁמָע נְהִי בְּכִי תִמְרוּרִים--רָחֵל, מִבְּכָה עַל-בְּנֵיהָ; מֵאֲנָה לְהִנָּחֵם עַל-בְּנֵיהָ, כִּי אֵינָנוּ. כֹּה אָמַר ה', מִנְעִי קוֹלְךָ מִבְּכִי, וְעֵינֶיךָ, מִדְּמָעָה: כִּי יֵשׁ שָׂכָר לְפַעֲלֹתֶיךָ נְאֻם ה' וְשָׁבוּ מֵאֶרֶץ אֹיִב. וְיֵשׁ-תִּקְוָה לְאַחֲרֵיתֶךָ, נְאֻם ה' וְשָׁבוּ בָנִים, לְגִבּוֹלָם</p>
<p><u>1 Samuel 1:10-11</u> Crushed in soul, Hannah prayed to G-d and cried and cried—inconsolably. Then she made a vow: Oh, G-d-of-the-Angel-Armies, If you'll take a good, hard look at my pain, If you'll quit neglecting me and go into action for me By giving me a son, I'll give him completely, unreservedly to you. I'll set him apart for a life of holy discipline.</p>	<p><u>שְׁמוּאֵל א פֶּרֶק א</u> י וְהִיא, מָרַת נַפְשׁ; וַתִּתְפַּלֵּל עַל-יְהוָה, וּבְכָה תִבְכֶּה. יֵא וַתְּדַר נֶדֶר וַתֹּאמֶר, יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת אֱ-מִן תִּרְאֶה תִרְאֶה בְּעֵינֵי אִמְתֶּךָ זִכְרֹתַי וְלֹא-תִשְׁכַּח אֶת-אִמְתֶּךָ, וְנִתְתָּה לְאִמְתֶּךָ, זֹרַע אֲנָשִׁים--וְנִתְתִּיו לַיהוָה כָּל-יְמֵי חַיָּיו, וּמִזְבֵּחַ לֹא-יַעֲלֶה עַל-רֵאשׁוֹ</p>
<p><u>Exodus 2:6</u> And she opened it, and saw it, even the child; and behold a boy that wept. And she had compassion on him, and said: 'This is one of the Hebrews' children.</p>	<p><u>שְׁמוֹת פֶּרֶק ב</u> וַתִּפְתַּח וַתִּרְאֶהוּ אֶת-הַיֶּלֶד, וְהִנֵּה-נֹעַר בֶּכֶה; וַתַּחֲמַל עָלָיו--וַתֹּאמֶר, מִיֶּלְדֵי הָעִבְרִים זֶה</p>