

*“For the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the earth . . . but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.”*

(Genesis 2:5-6 NKJV)

This statement occurs in Genesis immediately before God creates man. In the very next verse, God will take some of the dust from the ground (*adamah*) that had been watered by the mysterious mist and form Adam. For the rest of his life, Adam will continue to live in a world with no rain. Rain won't occur until after the fall with the flood (Gen. 6).

If you're wondering, "Where could he possibly be going with all this?" the conclusion is simply this:

*There were teardrops long before there were raindrops.*

Human tears are older than the rain. Which is to say weeping is an older and more fundamental part of life on earth than the falling rain.

Rain occurs when clouds become oversaturated. Usually this is associated with a pressure change in the atmosphere. Tears occur when we become "oversaturated" by pain or emotion, when something brushes against our souls. Somewhere, inwardly, a pressure builds up that is only released when the tears start to flow.

Those small salty drops that burn our eyes are as fundamental to life and living as food and air. But tears are a mystery. They cannot be explained away.

Most of us do our best not to cry. We fight the compulsion to do so. Jesus seems to have never done this. His tears come freely when He arrives on the scene of the death of a close friend. He weeps when He sees the city He knows will soon be destroyed by the Roman legions. He weeps with sorrow in the garden, telling His disciples that He is so sorrowful that it is about to kill Him.

Jesus Christ, the only fully human man, was no stranger to the mystery of tears. He seems to have never once hidden His face when it

was wet with them. If He was to be fully man, then tears had to be a fundamental part of His life. Which means that for us to become complete, we must take tears seriously. Following Jesus, the Man of Sorrows, will frequently mean tears.

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, Man of Sorrows, see the tears on our faces. Come, You who are familiar with our suffering, and join us in the mystery of tears.*