

Favorite Phrase of Matthew ? ***“Weeping and Grinding (gnashing) of Teeth”***

Found in (Matthew 8:12; 13:42,50, 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Luke 13:28)

Keep in Mind that Matthew used to be a Tax Collector? Has he heard a lot of this?

Jesus had described Heavenly Eternal Banquet to the Faithful Centurion-Gentile (healed his servant)

Matthew 8:10-12 “When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Amen, I say to you, *in no one in Israel have I found such faith*. I say to you, many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the kingdom of heaven, but the children of the kingdom will be driven out into the outer darkness, ***where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.***”

Sometimes it says “wailing and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 13:42, 50), related to Old Testament passages describing ‘teeth on edge’.

Jeremiah 31:29 "In those days they will not say again, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, And the children's teeth are set on edge."

Ezekiel 18:1-4 “The word of the LORD came to me: Son of man, what is the meaning of this proverb you recite in the land of Israel: “Parents eat sour grapes, but the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live—oracle of the Lord GOD: I swear that none of you will ever repeat this proverb in Israel. For all life is mine: the life of the parent is like the life of the child, both are mine. Only the one who sins shall die!”

Curious Action: Gnashing would seem to be self-destructive lamentation, yet these passages below have people, “They” gnash teeth at person “they” are mocking

Psalms 35:15-16 “Yet when I stumbled they gathered with glee, gathered against me and I did not know it. They slandered me without ceasing; without respect they mocked me, gnashed their teeth against me.”

Job 16:9-10 “His wrath tears and assails me, he gnashes his teeth against me; My enemy looks daggers at me. They gape at me with their mouths;”

Acts 7:54 “When they heard this, they were infuriated, and they ground their teeth at him.”

Deep Weeping/Sorrow to Death

Matthew 2:18 “A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled,” (quote of Jeremiah 31:15)

Matthew 26:75 “Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: “Before the cock crows you will deny me three times.” He went out and began to weep bitterly.”

Revelation 5:4 “I shed many tears because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to examine it.”

Revelation 18:15-17 “Weeping and mourning, they cry out: “Alas, alas, great city, wearing fine linen, purple and scarlet, adorned in gold, precious stones, and pearls. In one hour this great wealth has been ruined.”

Psalms 42:3 “My tears have been my food day and night, While they say to me all day long, “Where is your God?”

Is teeth grinding a physical act of self-pitying, and remorseful anger?

Jonah 4:9 “But God said to Jonah, “Do you have a right to be angry over the gourd plant?” ***Jonah answered, “I have a right to be angry—angry enough to die.”***

Genesis 4:4-7 “The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry and dejected. Then the LORD said to Cain: Why are you angry? Why are you dejected? If you act rightly, you will be accepted; but if not, sin lies in wait at the door: its urge is for you, yet you can rule over it.”

1 Samuel 18:8-10 “Saul was very angry and resentful of the song, for he thought: “They give David tens of thousands, but only thousands to me. All that remains for him is the kingship.” From that day on, Saul kept a jealous eye on David. The next day an evil spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raged in his house.”

Rejection and refusal of God’s Overtures of Mercy: *Human Freedom*

Deuteronomy 30:15-18 “***See, I have today set before you life and good, death and evil.***

If you obey the commandments of the LORD, your God, which I am giving you today, loving the LORD, your God, and walking in his ways, and keeping his commandments, statutes and ordinances, you will live and grow numerous, and the LORD, your God, will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. If, however, your heart turns away and you do not obey, but are led astray and bow down to other gods and serve them, I tell you today that you will certainly perish; you will not have a long life on the land which you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.”

John 7:17 “Whoever chooses to do his will shall know whether my teaching is from God or whether I speak on my own.”

Galatians 5:1 “For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.”

“All are Welcome”, God calls all to enter the banquet, yet, lest mercy seem cheap, notice the detail of the man thrown out because of not being dressed in wedding garment: Humility before God is called for to be admitted!

Avoid the Sin of Presumption

1 Corinthians 10:9 “Let us not test Christ as some of them did, and suffered death by serpents.”

Numbers 15:30 “But anyone who acts defiantly, whether a native or an alien, reviles the LORD, and shall be cut off from among the people.”

Philippians 2:12 “work out your salvation with fear and trembling.”

2 Peter 1:10-11 “Therefore, brothers, be all the more eager to make your call and election firm, for, in doing so, you will never stumble. For, in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you.”