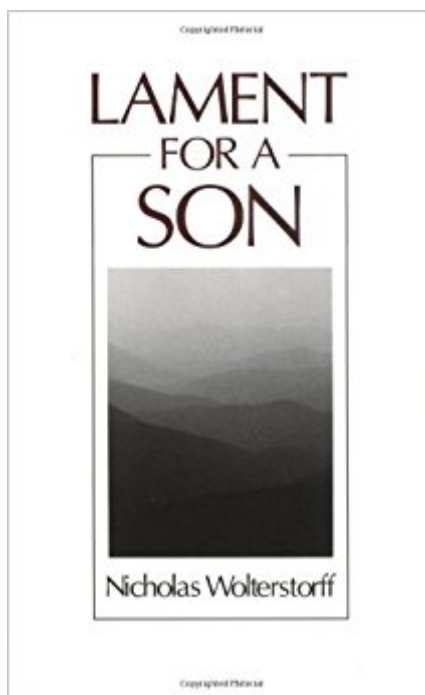


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Lament For A Son



Synopsis

The author describes the progress of his grief from the shock of learning of his son's accidental death to his final resignation a year later.

Book Information

Paperback: 111 pages

Publisher: Eerdmans Pub Co; 1 edition (July 1987)

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Customer Reviews

Wolterstorff, a well-known Christian philosopher, lost his 25-year-old son to a mountain climbing accident. His reflections in the wake of that tragedy are at times deeply personal, but always he expresses a prayerful anguish with which most bereaved parents will identify. Above all he refuses to turn from the "demonic awfulness" of death and, as he moves faithfully through grief, discovers new meaning in the Beatitudes, together with a new understanding of a suffering God. Spiritually enriching and theologically substantive. ECCopyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Nicholas Wolterstorff is Noah Porter Professor Emeritus of Philosophical Theology at Yale University and Senior Fellow in the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia. He is the author of several publications, including *Divine Discourse* (Cambridge University Press, 1995), *John Locke and the Ethics of Belief* (Cambridge University Press, 1996), *Practices of Belief*, Volumes 1 and 2 (edited with Terence Cuneo, Cambridge University Press, 2010) and *Justice: Rights and Wrongs* (2010).

If you have lost a child to death this book will help you enormously. My wife and I lost our youngest

son 07-18-15 while he was working as missionary in Accra, Ghana. Read this book and suffer with the father...

I have had a hard time expressing to friends my grief since my son's death in a traffic accident. This book touched me greatly and has helped put words to my own feelings. I purchased multiple copies for family and close friends who have been concerned for me. I too have found moments of peace amongst my sorrow. I too have come to accept while still questioning.

Like most of the reviewers here, I'm a member of that exclusive club who lost a child. I was given partial solace by leaders of the local chapter of Compassionate Friends which specializes in grief counselling. All the leaders and participants have paid a huge price to join, but nothing monetary. The glue holding it together is the loss of a child. This author must have received comfort in writing while passing the time...time in the short term is your enemy. When enough time passes, the pain eases, although it never goes away. In the early months it's hard to concentrate because the grief keeps popping up without permission. I took solace in learning a few pieces on the piano which were way over my head, and doing an extensive photograph editing project about my lost child - a way for me to spend months making the time pass. Our author grieved by writing down his thoughts. My wife read lots of books on grief, but most of them were not my cup of tea. I found an isolated book or passage now and then which connected with me, and I actively looked for them. The usual grief counsellor doesn't have a clue, not from lack of sympathy or effort. It's been 8 years now since my loss, so I'm not needy for solace, but I'm always ready to hear another man's story...and what a story this is. This book is a day by day pouring out of expressions of grief done in an effort to heal that which can never be entirely healed. I count it amongst those few books that would have been of benefit to me in the first year of my loss. My sympathies go to the author and his family, and my sincere appreciation goes to him for the sharing of his story.

For 16 months now, my grief/lament for a daughter has been brutal. Losing a child is devastating. I have read many books on grief, heaven, near death experiences/the afterlife - the only subjects I am interested in and need desperately for the past 16 months. Many of them have been helpful in some way. A few, like this Lament for a Son, have touched me deeply. I had started reading "If God is Good" by Randy Alcorn because his "Heaven" book was wonderful and helped me but since my extreme grief began, I have been unable to focus well on anything most of the time. I had bought this Lament book a year ago but it sat in my grief books stack. While cleaning one day, I picked it up

and noticed that it is a compilation of short, 1-3 page thoughts/laments. I opened it in the middle, read one and was hooked. Because they are so short, I was able to focus on each and read the entire book within a few days. The laments are connected yet stand on their own. Most gave confirmation of my own suffering. There were many ah-ha moments where Nicholas puts together reasoning for the way we feel and things we do and think. The biblical basis/truths are most helpful too. This alleviates some of the stress grievers feel when we do not understand why and get so confused because our brains are in such a heavy fog. I'm buying more copies of it to give to grieving friends. One of his enlightening moments for me was his one on the thought that grief isolates. Though I think often about a friend who lost a child since my loss, and at times we will say we must get together for lunch, but we never do. It was bothering me that we are both so paralyzed by it that we do not get together. We occasionally text each other or find ourselves at a 'mom/parent's who've lost children' support meeting that we do not coordinate to meet at. Nicholas concludes that we are not only isolated from the happy people, but we are isolated from each other. Though our grief is similar in that our children were childhood friends and close in age, it is also so individual/different that it isolates us. From Lament, if I am allowed to quote a tiny bit: "I must struggle so hard to regain life...it's when people are happy that they say, 'Lets get together'." That is only one of them. There are many that helped immensely, sometimes more than the all day grief seminar did!

My deepest regard for the author. His sharing of the depths of his grief and his faith are intensely moving. The authors faith journey during his pain is profoundly descriptive and is perhaps a pathway for us all to journey along to better understand our own grief and it's connection to love and suffering.

I was searching for something on the loss of a child. This book touches the depth of your soul and articulates how a parents spirit is ripped apart at the death of a child. Nicholas contrasts our loss with that of God when he experienced the death of his son Christ. I had never thought of loss from that vantage point until now. Very enlighten read.

I lost my 26 year old son 18 months ago. This book so effectively expressed the things I have struggled to articulate, especially his struggle with faith. If you have list someone or know someone that has, this is a must read.

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