



EXILES:

JOYFUL OR CYNICAL?

1 PETER





11.20.2022



“And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?’”

Job 1:8

“Then Satan answered the LORD and said,
‘Does Job fear God for no reason?’”

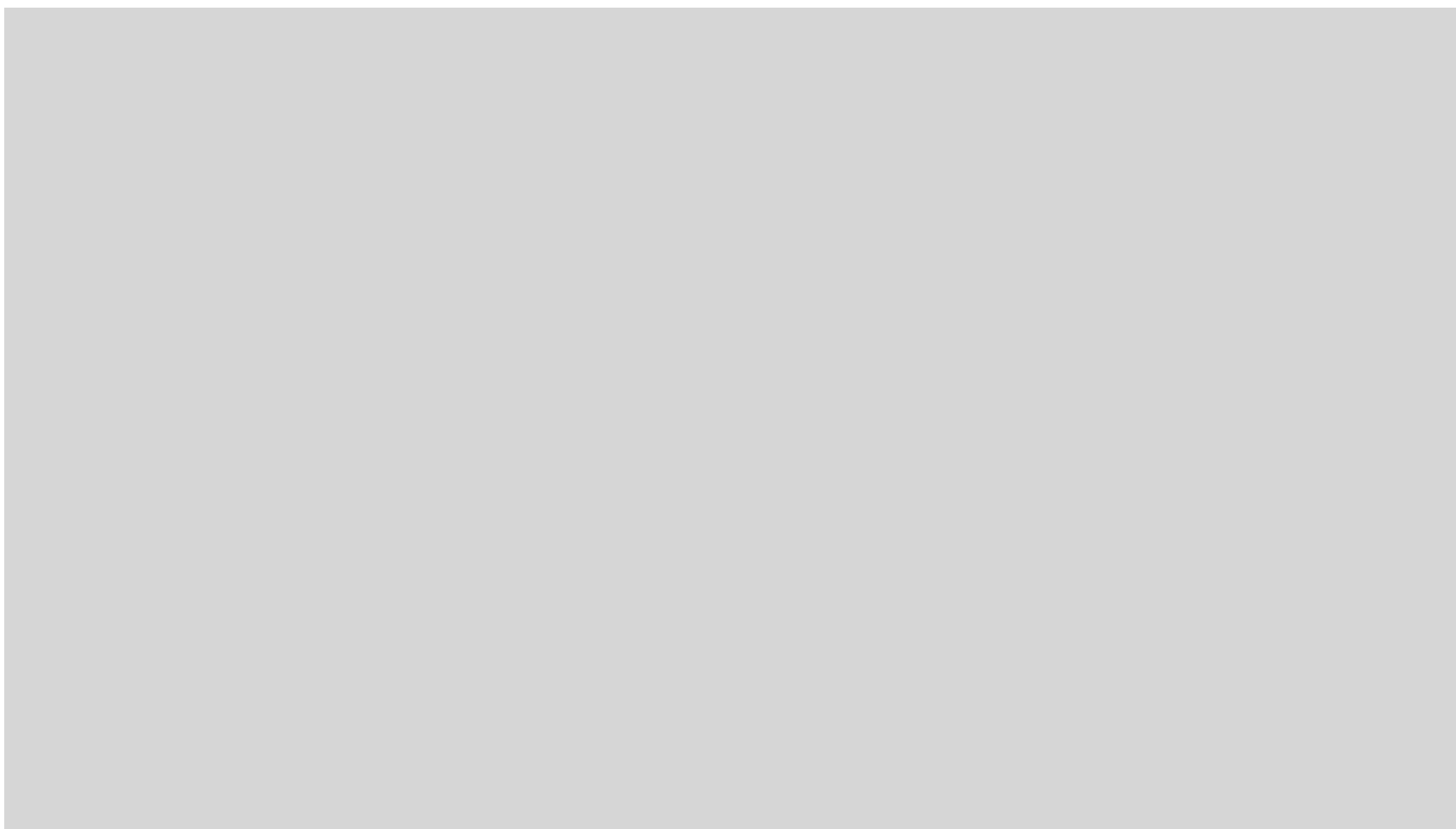
Job 1:9

“And he said, ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.’ In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.”

Job 1:21-22

“I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me, which I did not
know.”

Job 42:3



◆ **Humble** (6-7)

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“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God ...” (6a)

“Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility
toward one another.”

1 Peter 5:5

Why do we need to humble ourselves?

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- God is **great**.

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- God is **great**
“under the mighty hand of God” (6)

“But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand. So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go.”

Exodus 3:19-20

“... this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.”

Acts 2:23

“... for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.”

Acts 4:27-28

“And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.”

Acts 11:21

“Have mercy on me, have mercy on me, O you
my friends, for the hand of God has touched
me!”

Job 19:21

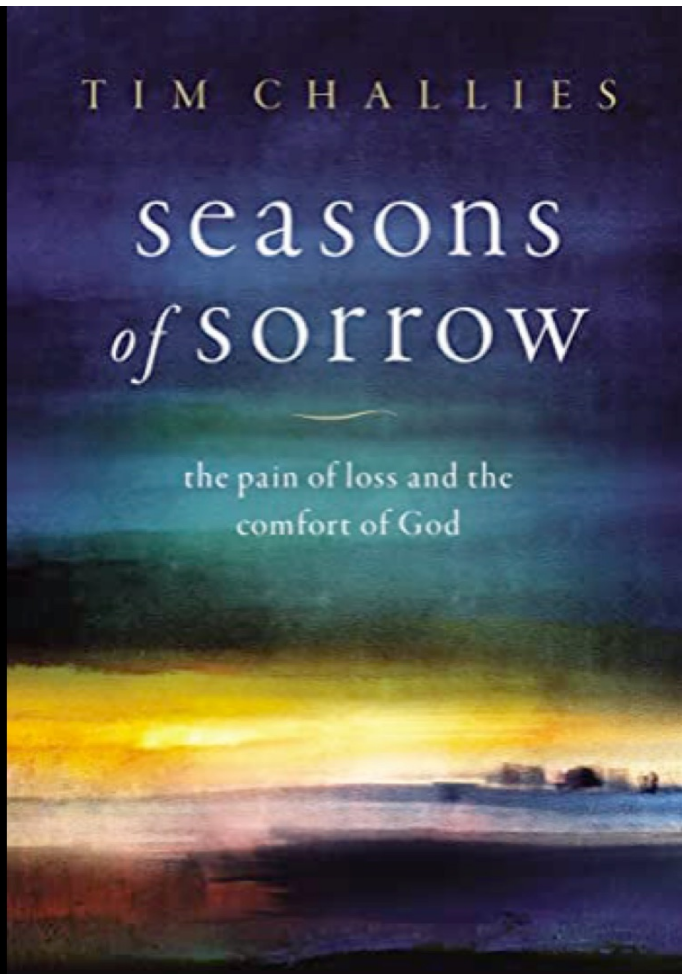
“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the
mighty hand of God ...”

1 Peter 5:6a

TIM CHALLIES

seasons *of* sorrow

the pain of loss and the
comfort of God





Tim Challies Family

“So I do fear God. But in these days I also find myself just plain afraid of God. I fear him in that sense of rightly assessing his power, his abilities, his sovereignty.

“But I’m also afraid of the ways he may exercise them. After all, just a short time ago, God exercised his sovereignty in taking my son to himself In one moment God delivered a blow that staggered me, that very nearly crushed me.

“It was God’s right to take Nick. I know that. I affirm that. The God with the ability to give is the God with the right to take.

“Willing as I was to receive Nick as a gift from God’s hand, I cannot and will not begrudge the same God for taking him back. Like Job, I blessed the name of the Lord in the giving and will bless it still in the taking.

“But it is God’s ability and willingness to take that leaves me fearful. For if Nick’s life was so very fragile that it could end in a moment without obvious cause or explanation, why not the lives of others who are precious to me?”

“If God has called me to suffer this blow, why not another? If God took my beloved son with such speed, with such ease, with such finality, what else might he take? Who else might he take? And how could I bear up under such loss?

“Before, life was easy because God’s sovereignty always seemed inclined toward the things I wanted anyway, but now life is hard because I see that God’s sovereignty may also be inclined toward the things I dread, the things I would never wish for.

“I choose to submit myself to that sovereignty, to continue to pray, ‘Thy will be done.’ But even as I pray, I cringe just a little.”

Tim Challies

“... so that at the proper time he may exalt
you.”

1 Peter 5:6b



Samuel Rutherford

“Most men measure truth by time, like young seamen setting their compass by a cloud: for now time is father and mother to truth, and the thoughts and practices of our evil time.”

Samuel Rutherford

“... so that at the proper time he may exalt
you.”

1 Peter 5:6b

“Do not let us expect when we are in the trouble to perceive any immediate benefit resulting from it.

“I have tried myself when under sharp pain to see whether I have grown a bit more resigned or more earnest in prayer or more rapt in fellowship with God, but I have never been able to see the slightest trace of improvement at such times, for pain distracts and scatters the thoughts.

“The gardener takes his knife and prunes the fruit trees to make them bring forth more fruit. His little child comes trudging at his heels and cries, ‘Father, I do not see that the fruit comes on the trees after you have cut them.’

“No, dear child, it is not likely you would, but come round in a few months when the season of fruit has come, and then shall you see the golden apples which thank the knife. Graces which are meant to endure require time for their production.”

Charles Spurgeon

Why do we need to humble ourselves?

- God is great.

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- God is great.
- God is **good**.

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- God is **good**.

“... casting all your anxieties on him,
because he cares for you.” (7)

1. He chooses to take them through the storm.

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“Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

Mark 4:38

“... casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”

1 Peter 5:7

“For those who trust Christ, God’s sovereignty in suffering is not an unyielding problem but an unfailing hope.

“It means that, in the suffering of Christians neither Satan nor man nor nature nor chance is wielding decisive control.

“God is sovereign over this suffering, which means it is not meaningless. It is not wrath. It is not ultimately destructive. It is not wanton or heedless. It is purposeful. It is measured, wise, and loving.”

John Piper

- ◆ Humble (6-7)
- ◆ **Watchful** (8-9)

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“Be sober-minded; be watchful.” (8a)

- Your **foe**

- Your **foe**

“Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” (8b)

- He slanders God to us -

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“give no opportunity to the devil” Eph. 4:27

- Your foe
- Your **faith**

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“Resist him, firm in your faith ...” (9a)

Flee the wrath to come.

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Flee sexual immorality.

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Flee youthful passions.

Flee the wrath to come.

Flee idolatry.

Flee sexual immorality.

Flee youthful passions.

Flee love of money.

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

James 4:7

“Resist him, firm in your faith ...”

1 Peter 5:9a

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

“to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,

“so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

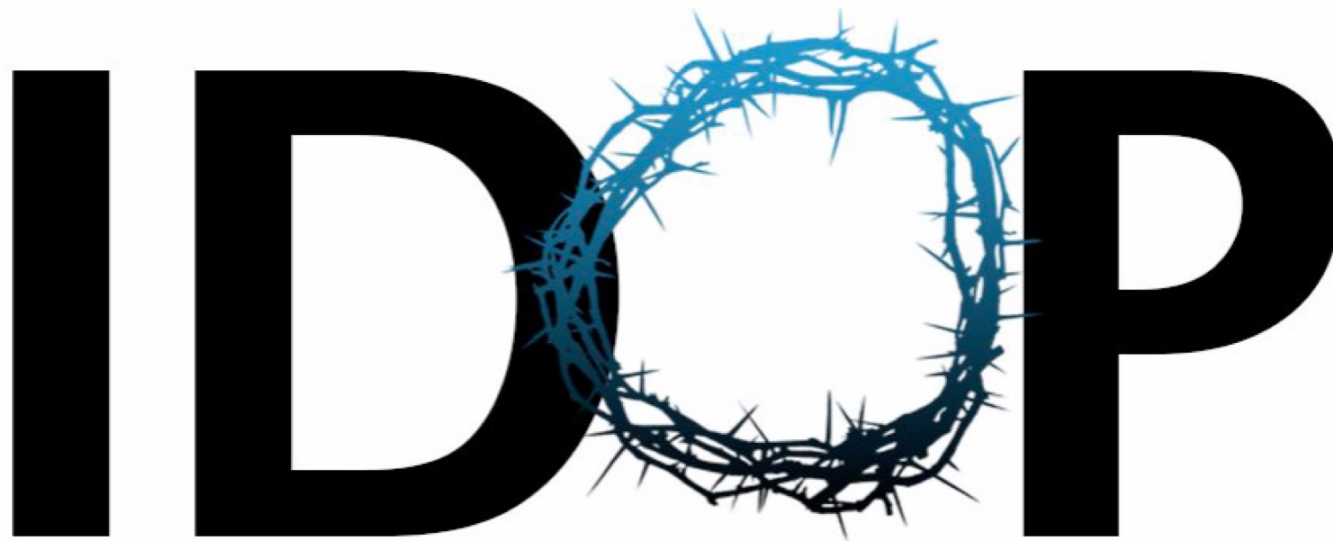
1 Peter 1:3-7

- Your foe
- Your faith
- Your **family**

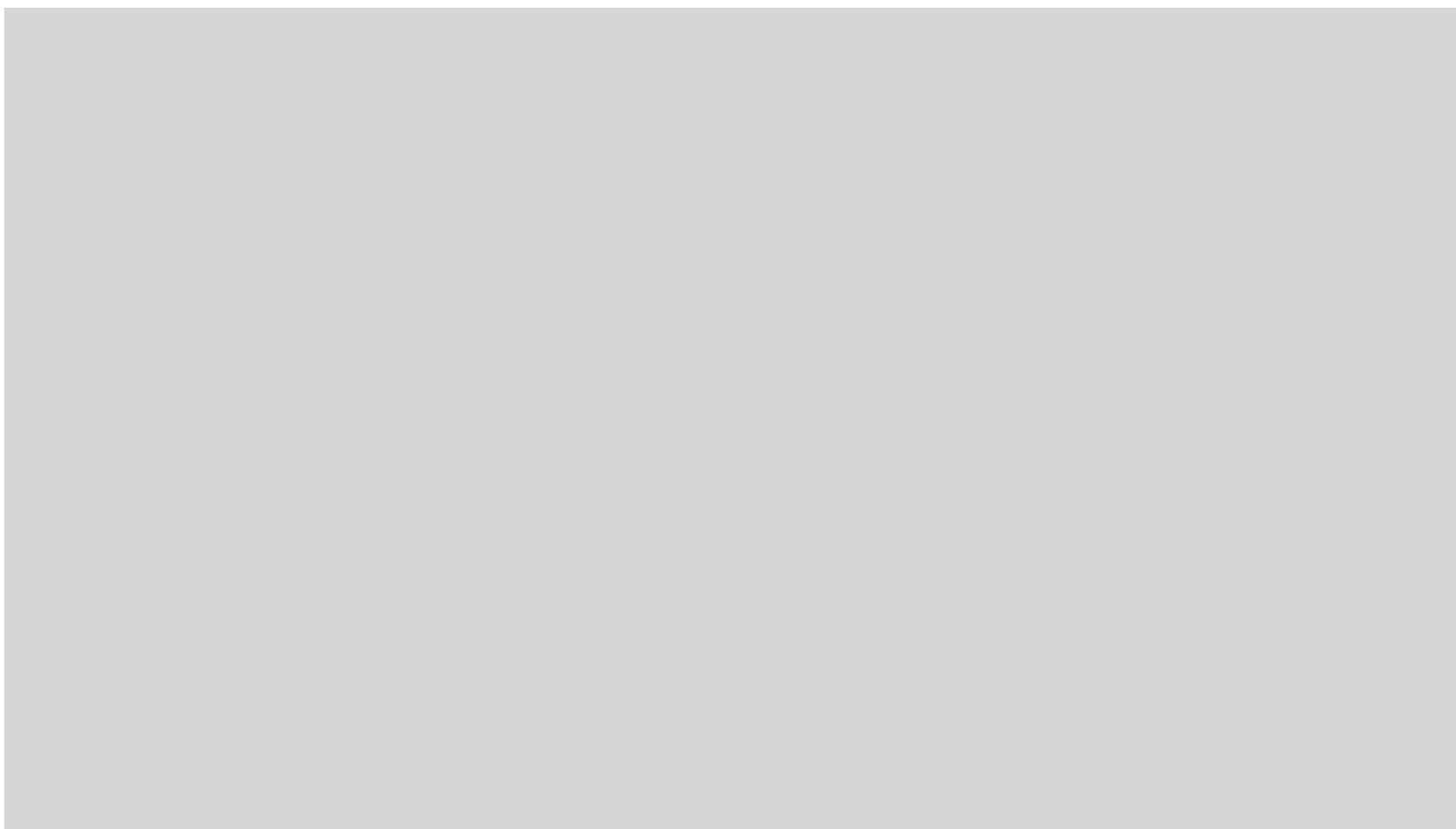
- Your foe
- Your faith
- Your **family**

“Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”

1 Peter 5:9



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
for the PERSECUTED CHURCH



- ◆ Humble (6-7)
- ◆ Watchful (8-9)
- ◆ **Hopeful** (10-11)

“And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

1 Peter 5:10-11

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1 Peter 5:10-11

“All things must work together for my
salvation.”

Heidelberg Catechism