



# THE RIGHTEOUS REIGN OF GOD

## THE SILENT MOMENT

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# The Silent Moment

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.”

— Psalm 45:6



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## The Righteous Reign of God

A scepter is a staff or baton held by a sovereign as a symbol of authority. In the Bible a scepter denotes ruling or reigning, as in Genesis 49:10 when Jacob said prophetically that the scepter will not depart from Judah. In the messianic Psalm 45, God's scepter—His rule and reign—is one of *justice*, also translated “uprightness” or “righteousness.”

When the nation of Israel asked Samuel to give them a king, God warned the people about what human rulers would require of them. Kings would help themselves to the people's land, crops, and livestock, and they would even take their sons and daughters to serve in various capacities (1 Samuel 8). God had intended to rule over His people and to provide blessings of protection, provision, and peace, but the people wanted to be like the nations around them who had a tangible royal presence.

It only took until the reign of Rehoboam—Solomon's son, the fourth king of Israel—for things to finally fall apart, as the kingdom of Israel split in two (1 Kings 12; 2 Chronicles 10). Then the majority of the kings who would follow made bad choices, promoted bad morals, and worshipped false gods. Thinking they were missing out on something, the people had wanted to be like the other nations. But they were self-deceived, and both the northern and southern kingdoms ended up in captivity to their enemies.

Sometimes we may feel left out when we see those around us reveling in the worldly pleasures and perks of the culture. But let's not be deceived. The apostle John wrote, “Everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever” (1 John 2:16-17).

Today God still invites us to live securely under His righteous reign. His kingdom—which will be fully revealed when Christ returns—has been established within the hearts of all who have received His gift of salvation through faith. Psalm 45 paints a beautiful picture that gives us a glimpse of what life in God’s kingdom is like. It depicts the grace, goodness, strength, justice, beauty, joy, provision, peace, and promise of it. Nothing on this earth can compare! If you’re weary of life in this world, take courage! One day soon we will enjoy the fullness of God’s righteous rule forever!

Peace to your heart.

**Christine Dallman, Editor**

## Always Remembered

**[God said of Zion,] “I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands” (Isaiah 49:15-16).**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 49:14-23

**Song:** “I Will Not Forget Thee”

Tattoos are a growing industry worldwide. According to a 2021 statistic, there were more than 20,000 tattoo salons in the US alone. Interestingly, nearly 23 percent of customers later regret at least one of their choices. A top reason for removing a tattoo is because it bears the name of someone no longer in the customer’s life.

In the Old Testament, God designed the high priest’s clothing so that he would bear the names of Israel’s tribes on his shoulders and over his heart as a memorial before the Lord (Exodus 28:9-30). Later, when God’s people were in captivity because of their persistent idolatry, they wondered whether God had forgotten them. He assured them, however, that they were permanently inscribed on His palms.

Sometimes *we* may feel that God has forgotten *us*. We may feel alone, unseen, forgotten, or rejected. Whatever the circumstance, whatever our perception, we can remember that the resurrected Christ appeared to His disciples, bearing the marks of His love for them (and for us) on His nail-pierced hands. As ones who have, by faith, received His forgiveness, we can know we are always loved, always remembered.

**Father,** thank You for Your eternal love that gives me a permanent place in Your heart and kingdom. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## Strengthened to Walk

We beseech . . . and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more (1 Thessalonians 4:1, *KJV*).

**Scripture:** 1 Thessalonians 3:11–4:8

**Song:** “Step by Step”

After major spinal surgery, I had mixed feelings about walking. I knew it was good exercise, but my walking had changed. My gait was stiff and unsteady, I had to take smaller steps, and sometimes I stumbled. I also struggled with pain, especially on uneven surfaces. Eventually, I found a physical therapist who understood what my body needed. With treatments and exercises that targeted improperly working muscles, I became able to walk more smoothly and more confidently.

Jesus compared the Christian life to walking a narrow road (Matthew 7:14). Walking this road with steady, strong steps requires us to be intentional about our spiritual fitness. Otherwise we might find ourselves unsteady in our devotion, stumbling in our obedience, hesitant to step out in faith, or even falling for one of Satan’s deceptions.

We have all the resources we need to help us grow stronger and more consistent in our daily walk. The Bible offers guidance to show us the right path. Through prayer, we exercise faith as we look to God for all that we need. And the Holy Spirit empowers us to keep in step with what pleases God. By God’s grace through these provisions, we can walk with confidence along this narrow path of life.

**Father,** by Your kind provisions, I’ll walk steadily on the path You’ve set before me today. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## Spiritual Decluttering

**You have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator** (Colossians 3:9-10).

**Scripture:** Colossians 3:8-17

**Song:** “I Want to Be More Like Jesus”

Marie Kondo has become known worldwide as a tidying expert. Her business, bestselling books, and popular television show all aim to help people declutter their homes and achieve a more enjoyable lifestyle. At the heart of her philosophy is being able to know what to discard and what to keep. These decisions are based primarily on whether an item sparks a sense of joy.

For the Christian, God’s Spirit produces the fruit of joy in us as we keep in step with Him (Galatians 5:22-25). But sometimes our joy can be lacking when we allow our lives to become cluttered with flesh-driven thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors of our old nature. Paul lists some of these: ungodly anger (Ephesians 4:26), rage, malice, slander, filthy language, and lies (Colossians 3:8-9).

Decluttering is a good practice in the home, but it’s even more important in our spiritual lives. As we examine our hearts and minds in light of God’s Word, we can discard what is not pleasing to Him. Then by His Spirit, He will help us live in the righteousness Jesus modeled. Keeping our lives free from the clutter of sin is a surefire way to make room for the joy God intends for us.

**Father**, search my heart and help me discard what is not Christlike so that I might live more fully in Your joy. In Jesus’ name, amen.



## Safe in the Center

**The LORD will go before you, the God of Israel will be your rear guard** (Isaiah 52:12).

**Scripture:** Isaiah 52:1-12

**Song:** “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

It wasn't a horror movie, but the hairs on the back of my neck stood up anyway, and the scene haunted me long after we turned off the television. Several frightened friends walked single-file through a narrow passage in a cave, their way lit only by the feeble torch held by the leader. I wondered which would happen first: *Would the person in front be surprised by some unseen danger? Or would someone discover that their friend at the back of the line had disappeared?*

When Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, they faced an unknown path. The book of Exodus relates how God went before them in a pillar of cloud by day and of fire at night (13:21). When Pharaoh changed his mind and chased after them with his army, the pillar of God's presence moved behind the Israelites. Their enemies saw them but could not touch them (14:19-20).

The safest place to be in this dangerous world is in the center of God's will. If we're following Him, there's no need to fear unknown dangers ahead. He will meet them Himself. We also don't need to live in dread of failures that are behind us. His forgiveness has taken care of those. Our obedience to God's leading ensures a “safe zone” where our enemies cannot harm us.

**Father,** help me live this day without fear or worry, trusting that Your loving presence surrounds me wherever I go. In Jesus' name, amen.

## The Source of Life

**“Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them” (Ezekiel 47:12).**

**Scripture:** Ezekiel 47:1-13

**Song:** “Better Is One Day”

The smell was impossible to ignore. As my friend and I approached the pond, we held our breath at the smell of decay. The problem soon became obvious. A line of belly-up fish floated near the shore line. Apparently something had poisoned the water.

By contrast, the river’s water in Ezekiel 47 was brimming with life, bringing healing wherever it flowed. It’s a beautiful picture of the redemption God can bring to broken and lifeless things. Even more important, this passage highlights the significance of God’s presence. The river brings life and healing because of its source: the temple, where God dwells (v. 1).

The fish and trees described in today’s passage flourished because their source was God, the Creator of all life. If we look to anything other than God as our source of life, our spirits will wither and we will bear little or no fruit. But when our source is the Lord and we abide in Him, we bear fruit that brings sustenance and healing to others (John 15:4-5).

**Father,** I want to always look to You and abide in You as my source of life. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## Joy After Pain

**[Jesus said,] “A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy” (John 16:21).**

**Scripture:** John 16:20-33

**Song:** “Be Still, My Soul”

The artist Michelangelo (1475–1564) struggled all his life with joint pain in his hands. Today’s scholars believe this may have been a form of arthritis. Regardless of his pain, he continued creating works of art until his death, and to this day we enjoy his masterpieces—*David*, *The Pietà*, and the Sistine Chapel ceiling, to name a few.

Jesus was brutally honest about the pain and anguish His disciples would suffer. Yet He also gave them hope. Like a woman who has a baby, their agony would turn to joy. Knowing what God’s Word says about the fall of humanity (Genesis 3) gives us an acute awareness of how sin and evil have introduced suffering to our lives and to the world around us. Yet in God’s redemptive plan, all our grief and pain ultimately will be redeemed because of the new birth we have in Christ.

Even though this world is full of reminders that things are not the way they ought to be, Jesus tenderly promises that our pain is not without purpose and our grief will come to an end. Although we may be suffering today, He promises we will one day rejoice in such a way that our pain will be forgotten (Revelation 19:6-7; 21:4).

**Father,** today I will trust You—regardless of my suffering—as Your redemptive plan unfolds. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## Humble Wisdom

**Wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere** (James 3:17).

**Scripture:** James 3:13-18

**Song:** “Be Thou My Vision”

By the time I became a middle-school volunteer in Miss Valera’s Sunday school class, she had been a teacher for 40-plus years. She cared deeply for the children in her classroom and had a sharp sense of what they may not yet understand. Often as she taught, she would go on a brief tangent to ask what a particular word or phrase meant. She was gentle and didn’t mind being the one to ask an obvious or seemingly silly question if it helped the kids grow in their understanding of Jesus.

We may tend to think about wisdom only in terms of age, experience, and right answers, but James reminds us that godly wisdom demonstrates humility. This kind of wisdom doesn’t feel the need to prove or exalt itself. Rather, as today’s verse describes, it is pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, impartial, sincere, and full of mercy and good fruit.

When we care deeply about a belief or conviction, we naturally want others to understand and even share our perspective. But if we are not walking in humility, our attempts to teach or give wise counsel may end up coming across as condescending, self-righteous, condemning, or perhaps even angry. Christ’s example shows us how to exercise wisdom with humility, seeking the good of others in a way that demonstrates love and respect for them.

**Father**, please lead me in the wisdom of humility as I serve others. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## Always Heard

**Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer** (Psalm 4:1).

**Scripture:** Psalm 4

**Song:** “O God of Mercy, Hear Our Plea”

When my dad was young, he and his family went camping in Colorado every summer with his grandparents. While he and his brothers hiked up a nearby mountain, his grandmother would stay behind at the camp to prepare dinner. Halfway up the mountain, my dad and his brothers would holler, “Hello!” The acoustics of the mountains carried their voices down to their grandma, and when the boys arrived back at camp, she would affirm she had heard them.

David opens Psalm 4 with a cry for God to hear him. In his call—“Answer me!”—some underlying questions seem to echo: *Will You answer me? Do You hear me, God? Are You there?* A couple of verses later, however, the psalmist reminds himself of the truth: the Lord does hear when he calls. David continues by affirming his trust in the Lord and His ability to keep David safe.

This psalm offers a helpful, two-sided reminder. First, doubt and questioning are normal. There is no shame in crying out to God with our questions and fears. But second, we don’t need to remain in that place of doubt. Like David, we can remind ourselves of the truth: God hears us when we cry to Him. And in that truth, we can safely rest.

**Father,** thank You for always hearing me. Help me to trust You even in seasons of doubt. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## Stillness in the Storm

**“Be still, and know that I am God”** (Psalm 46:10).

**Scripture:** Psalm 46

**Song:** “In the Garden”

A “whispering gallery” is created by a combination of acoustics and architectural design that allows a whisper spoken on one side of a room to be distinctly heard on the other side. The size of the room and whatever else might be going on in the space between don’t prevent the phenomenon. Grand Central Station in New York has a whispering gallery, as do the United States Capitol Building and St. Paul’s Cathedral in London. Many others can be found throughout the world, places where a friend’s whisper can be clearly heard from far away . . . if you’re listening.

Psalm 46 describes a cacophony of chaos and noise: the earth is crumbling, waves roar, and mountains fall into the sea. The noise continues as nations are in upheaval and kingdoms totter. Then in verse 10, God brings everything to a halt: “Be still.” He is strong, a constant in the chaos. He’s a refuge, an ever-present help. But perceiving this requires us to stop, to be still, to pay attention.

Sometimes we can be so frantic in our attempts to deal with the chaos of our lives that it takes a strong reminder from God for us to “Be still!” It’s when we finally slow down and listen that He whispers from His Word, reminding us of His steady presence and readiness to help us.

**Father,** I will be still right now, acknowledging that You are mighty and in control, my refuge in every storm. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## A Path to Peace

**His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility (Ephesians 2:15-16).**

**Scripture:** Ephesians 2:11-22

**Song:** “Lord, Make Us Instruments of Your Peace”

In the 1850s, a decade-long, brutal conflict over whether Kansas should enter the Union as a slave or a free state became known as “Bleeding Kansas.” Pro-slavery “border ruffians” burned and looted homes as anti-slavery “Free-Soilers” killed in retaliation. An all-out brawl broke out on the floor of the US House of Representatives over the issue. Kansas entered the Union as a free state, but peace was not forged until after the Civil War.

When Jesus came, Jews and Gentiles were similarly—seemingly hopelessly—divided. More than that, *everyone* was separated from God because of sin. The reconciliation that was needed for peace would require bloodshed. But it was Christ who took upon Himself the price of our peace, paying with His own life. By His death, burial, and resurrection, He blazed a path to peace.

Jesus’ sacrifice allows us to be reconciled to God. It also brings us into the fellowship of His family of the redeemed from every tongue, tribe, and nation. With such a tremendous provision, let’s walk gratefully in this reconciliation and make it known to others.

**Father,** thank You for all You did to bring me close to You and to other believers through Jesus. Help me to love others the way that You have loved all of us. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## Full Restoration

**[God said,] “See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind” (Isaiah 65:17).**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 65:17-25

**Song:** “What a Day That Will Be”

When the pine tree blew over in the storm, my family thought it was done for. Its trunk had cracked almost in half. But my great-grandpa hauled it upright with a tractor and strapped it back in place. Within a season, the broken parts had grown back together, and now 15 years later, it still stands, healthy and growing.

In Isaiah 65, God promises a renewal—a wonderful redemption of creation from every part of the curse that resulted from Adam’s and Eve’s fall into sin. There will be no more fruitless labor, no more enmity between animals, no more premature deaths, no more sorrow, and no more separation from God. The restoration will be so complete that the former things—pain, sorrow, death—will no longer even come to mind.

In seasons of difficulty, it can be hard to imagine this. But God’s Word is true and trustworthy. He will bring about every ounce of restoration that He promises. In the meantime, through flowers that bloom again each spring, forests that grow back stronger after a fire, and a broken tree that heals after a storm, He offers us glimpses of what will be. Let’s take note of these reminders and wait in hope for the restoration yet to come.

**Father**, please help me notice Your redemptive work in the present as I wait patiently for Your future restoration. In Jesus’ name, amen.



## Vital Communication

**Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame** (Isaiah 50:7).

**Scripture:** Isaiah 50:4-9

**Song:** “Victory in Jesus”

At the height of the Vietnam War, US ground troops could expect their radio operators to survive in combat for somewhere between 5 and 30 seconds. Weighed down with heavy equipment and often outfitted with a 10-foot antenna, these soldiers were both vulnerable and valuable targets. Enemy soldiers knew that if they could disrupt vital communication, they could prevail.

Isaiah was sent by God to deliver an important message to His people, as their communication with God had become dangerously disrupted. Israel had stopped listening to God, and Isaiah was calling them to reconnect their hearts to God’s vital truth and love. To carry out his mission, Isaiah relied on prayer—his spiritual radio, so to speak—in the battle at hand.

When it seems as though the enemy is prevailing in our lives, it may seem difficult to *remain* steadfast in prayer. With challenges like work demands, medical issues, and difficult relationships, our problems may begin to overwhelm us. In such stressful times, it’s important to remember that prayer is essential to our spiritual survival and vital to our victory.

**Father,** I will remain prayerful, seeking Your presence even when it feels like I’m being overwhelmed. I will trust that You are bigger than my burdens. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## Grateful Heirs

**He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed (Isaiah 53:5).**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 52:13–53:12

**Song:** “Blessed Assurance”

A very wealthy man once sought legal advice regarding how to best pass on his legacy to his heirs. The result was a trust document full of contingencies, the purpose of which was to ensure that the children would always remember the price that was paid for their inheritance. This man labored diligently to build his fortunes and wanted his children to be grateful for all that they would receive upon his death.

Jesus gave His life on the cross so that we could become co-heirs of Heaven. As children so situated and blessed, we may be tempted to take for granted all that He has provided for us. We may even find ourselves behaving ungratefully toward the Lord and in response to His sacrifice. However, if we keep Him and His generous mercy as our focal point, we won't squander our lives in selfish pursuits. Instead we'll live to give honor and tribute to Him.

God longs to be our lifelong provider. Like a good father, He has planned out our inheritance carefully, and with the blood of Jesus, He has “signed the paperwork.” There are no loopholes or strings attached to receive His gift of forgiveness by way of grace through faith. We need only gratefully receive it.

**Father**, thank You for Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Help me never to take for granted this gift of life I've been given. In Jesus' name, amen.

## True Love

**Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me” (Mark 10:21).**

**Scripture:** Mark 10:17-27

**Song:** “O How He Loves You and Me”

One of my daughter’s favorite books is a fairytale. The storyline describes a young woman longing to meet her perfect match. Many nights before bed we can be found reading, as my daughter eagerly awaits the highlight of the story: the moment a wealthy and honorable prince meets the young woman and they fall in love.

Love is a powerful force. We all have the ability to love others, but sometimes our love is self-seeking and misdirected. Jesus’ love, however, is perfect. The love He has for us is best described, not in words, but in what He has done. God revealed the greatness of His love by holding nothing back from rescuing us, sending Jesus Himself to provide for our salvation.

Faithfully, the Lord will show us what prevents us from living wholly in His love. He will indicate changes we need to make, revealing selfish loves that get in the way of true love. At first, we may not like what He shows us, but to love God with our whole heart we must stand ready to turn away from anything that challenges our full devotion to Him.

**Father,** thank You for loving me enough to be honest with me, even when it hurts. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## A Heart to Serve

**[Jesus said,] “Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).**

**Scripture:** Mark 10:35-45

**Song:** “I Surrender All”

Before COVID-19 slowed things down, North Americans were some of the busiest people on the planet! Between work, recreational activities, household chores, and errands, there was little time left to spend on anything else. In fact, according to a survey published in 2019, the average American had less than 30 minutes of free time available each week! As God’s people, the danger of being too pre-occupied with our own calendars is that we may miss some of the opportunities for service that God has planned for us.

Leaving the glories of Heaven, Jesus came to earth with a heart set on doing His Father’s will. During His three years of ministry, Jesus preached, performed miracles, taught and trained His disciples, and also fielded continual harassment, ridicule, and detraction from His opponents. Yet with everything going on around Him, Jesus did not allow the things that did not matter in life to take precedence over His call to serve, which included giving His life as a ransom for us.

A servant’s heart is an open heart, one that turns away from being self-centered and is, instead, ready to follow Jesus’ example. When we approach each day prayerfully asking, *How would You have me serve You, Lord?*, God will lead us into the work He has for us.

**Father,** I want to lay down my own agenda today to be of service in Your kingdom. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## The One Who Lifts Us

**He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap (Psalm 113:7).**

**Scripture:** Psalm 113

**Song:** “Cornerstone”

Charles Spurgeon (1834–1892) said, “I have learned to kiss the waves that throw me up against the Rock of Ages.” All of humanity is prone to being tossed about and beaten up by life’s storms, but only those who belong to God can ever know the blessed truth of Spurgeon’s words. It is through our trials that we come to know the character of God—to understand that He sees and cares for us when we’re crushed and needy, that He will be with us and lift us up again.

In the midst of trials, it can be tempting to believe God has abandoned us, but His Word tells us otherwise (Hebrews 13:5). In all circumstances, God is with His people; He is never absent in times of trouble. The same God who is with us on the mountaintop of joy is also present in the valley of sorrow.

Today it may seem as though you’re in the teeth of a terrible storm. Or you may see a storm rising in the distance. Or perhaps you’re enjoying a time of calm after a storm. In any circumstance, tether yourself to God. He is the one who sees you, knows you, loves you, will never leave you, and will lift you up again.

**Father**, in the wind and the waves of life, I will entrust myself to Your care and wait for You to lift me up. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## A Ministry of Giving

**[Jesus said,] “Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her” (Mark 14:9).**

**Scripture:** Mark 14:1-9

**Song:** “We Are an Offering”

Years ago, amid the holiday season, three anonymous donors paid off nearly \$500,000 worth of layaway items at a well-known department store. Many of the families impacted by this act of generosity had multiple children and were overjoyed to find out that their items had been paid for. While the identity of the donors still remains unknown, their kindness was not soon forgotten.

The woman who anointed Jesus with perfume saw an opportunity to bless Jesus. As the clock wound down on His earthly ministry, she made the decision to be profoundly generous. To her, it wasn't about the money, the publicity, or bragging rights. Her motives were to honor Jesus with her very best. While her name is not mentioned in Scripture, her sacrificial gift serves as a reminder of full-hearted love.

When we give of our time, resources, or abilities, we break free from the bondage of selfishness. Our fleshly impulses tempt us to acquire and keep what we have for ourselves, even to the point of hoarding, but Jesus tells us there is greater joy found in giving than receiving. Living with a godly perspective of our resources allows us to identify opportunities to serve others and show kindness to those who need it most.

**Father,** thank You for giving Your Son, Jesus. Help me to be generous on all occasions with the blessings You have given me. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Restoration

**“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am going to take the stick of Joseph—which is in Ephraim’s hand—and of the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah’s stick. I will make them into a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand’” (Ezekiel 37:19).**

**Scripture:** Ezekiel 37:15-28

**Song:** “Sweetly Broken”

One year I played the part of the Grinch in my church’s Christmas production. As a thank-you for participating, I received a Grinch-themed tree ornament. While decorating our tree a couple of years ago, I noticed that a piece of the ornament had broken off. Although I wasn’t able to reattach it, I decided this small defect gave the Grinch some character and added depth to the ornament’s meaning.

Israel had been broken. Split into two kingdoms and removed from their homeland, God’s people longed for rescue. While it seemed as though all hope was lost, God was still in control. Even while the people were in exile, God used their situation to demonstrate His power and His devotion to them.

Our brokenness does not have to defeat us; it can become part of our redemptive story. God may not have repaired a difficult situation yet, but that does not mean He won’t. As we look to God, He will revive our hope and provide a “second wind” while we wait for Him. We may not see how it will turn out, but He is working to heal us and bring us into a place of restoration.

**Father,** thank You for Your love and restorative power at work in my life. In Jesus’ name, amen.