

*Psalm 2:4-6 - ⁴ **He who sits in the heavens laughs**; the Lord holds them in derision.*

⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,

⁶ “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

*Psalm 59:8 - But **you, O Lord, laugh at them**; you hold all the nations in derision.*

Laughter at the promises of God

*Genesis 18:12 - So **Sarah laughed to herself**, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?”*

*Mark 5:40 - And **they laughed at him**. But he put them all outside and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was.*

*Genesis 17:16-17 - ¹⁷ Then **Abraham fell on his face and laughed** and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” ¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you!”*

Romans 4:18-21 - ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able •to do what he had promised.

Laughter with the promises of God

How?

- **Trust God to be true to His Word**

Matthew 5:18 - For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

2 Corinthians 1:20 – For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

- **Trust God to be faithful to His promises**

Genesis 17:10-12 - ¹⁰This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹²He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring,

Nehemiah 7:73-8:1 - ⁷³So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants, and all Israel, lived in their towns. And when the seventh month had come, the people of Israel were in their towns.

¹ And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel.

Nehemiah 8:2

Deuteronomy 31:12-13 - ¹²Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, ¹³and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.”

Nehemiah 8:3-6

Nehemiah 8:7-8

Nehemiah 13:24 - And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and they could not speak the language of Judah, but only the language of each people.

Nehemiah 8:9

Nehemiah 8:10

God's joy is for His people.

Deuteronomy 30:9-10 – ⁹ The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your cattle and in the fruit of your ground. **For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, as he took delight in your fathers.** ¹⁰ when you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that are written in this Book of the Law, when you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Isaiah 62:5 – For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and **as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.**

Jeremiah 32:41 – **I will rejoice in doing them good,** and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.

We find our strength in God's joy to save us, restore us, and protect us.

Luke 15:4-5, 8-9, 31-32 – ⁴ “What man of you, having a hundred **sheep**, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, **he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.**

⁸ “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses **one coin**, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, **‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’** ”

³¹ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² **It was fitting to celebrate** and be glad, for this **your brother was dead,** and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’ ”

John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Nehemiah 8:11-12

John 18:37 – Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. **For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth.** Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4