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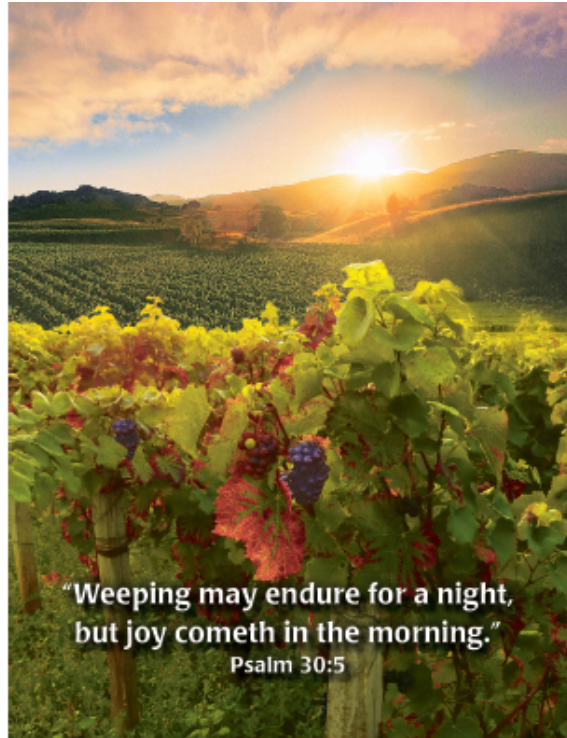


"The uncrowned of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Isaiah 35:10

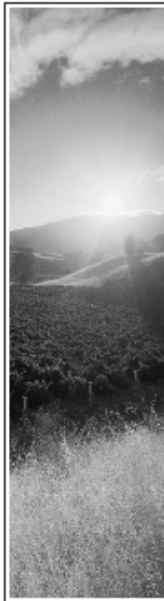
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**"Weeping may endure for a night,
but joy cometh in the morning."
Psalm 30:5**



Joy Cometh in the Morning

Many people have lost sight of the precious promises of God because of the tragedy they see in the world all around them. They say, "If God is love, why does He permit such evil to plague His children?" In answer, we could draw one of three conclusions: either God doesn't care; He doesn't exist; or perhaps we have a misconception of His plans and purposes, and we have been attributing blame to the wrong source for all of the suffering. The Apostle John answers the question emphatically: "God is love." 1 John 4:8

Although God now *permits* evil in the world, He does not *cause* it. Satan is described as the "god of this world," and it was his influence that contributed to man's fall. (2 Corinthians 4:4) By allowing this, God is teaching mankind to hate the painful results of sin, and thus, to learn to love Him and His righteousness of their own free-will.

God created man perfect and in essence gave him this choice: *If you obey my righteous laws, you will live forever, but if you disobey, you will die.* Adam failed this test of obedience, and since that time all of mankind has experienced the painful result. *"The soul that sinneth, it shall die."* Notice, he did not say burn forever. Ezekiel 18:4

Because God is love, He will not always permit Satan to reign with his evil ways. God's plans include a merciful escape from suffering and death by providing a corresponding price to offset Adam's penalty, and thus, for ALL of his descendants. "As in Adam ALL die, even so in Christ shall ALL be made alive." (1 Corinthians 15:22) "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23

But, when? Man is weary of this evil world. Jesus "gave himself a ransom for all to be testified in due time." (1 Timothy 2:5, 6) We know that the *due time* is near, for we see events prophesied which mark this time as progressing in the earth today. Daniel states, "How long shall it be to the end? . . . many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." (Daniel 12:4, 6) This prophecy is now being fulfilled as travel and the increase of knowledge are unprecedented in history! We are living on the threshold of the complete fulfillment of the "times of restitution of all things [a paradise worldwide], which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." Acts 3:21

Yes, God is Love. Satan would have us think otherwise, but in God's *due time*, all will know of His goodness, "from the least of them unto the greatest of them." (Jeremiah 31:34) Then will come the promised joy in the morning, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4

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