

He Loves Life

“Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die. But God does not take away life” 14:14

The Biggest Reason to Let God out of the Box: He is the Life-Giver!

*“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”
Romans 05:08, NIV*

Jesus Loves to Tell a Good Story: *Luke 15:11-24*

God is Active; He does not sit idly by.

Are you a part of God’s Creativity?

How about this for a Resolution for 2009:

Be Blown Away By God’s Creativity!

Other Notes or Observations You Have:



Boxing with God

02 Samuel 13:37-39;
14:01-14

37Absalom fled and went to Talmai son of Ahihud, the king of Geshur. But King David mourned for his son every day. **38**After Absalom fled and went to Geshur, he stayed there three years. **39**And the spirit of the king longed to go to Absalom...

1Joab son of Zeruiah knew that the king's heart longed for Absalom. **2**So Joab sent someone to Tekoa and had a wise woman brought from there. He said to her, “Pretend you are in mourning... **3**Then go to the king and speak these words to him.” And Joab put the words in her mouth.

4When the woman from Tekoa went to the king, she fell with her face to the ground to pay him honor, and she said, “Help me, O king!” **5**The king asked her, “What is troubling you?”

She said, “I am indeed a widow; my husband is dead. **6**I your servant had two sons. They got into a fight with each other in the field, and no one was there to separate them. One struck the other and killed him. **7**Now the whole clan has risen up against your servant; they say, ‘Hand over the one who struck his brother down, so that we may put him to death for the life of his brother whom he killed; then we will get rid of the heir as well.’ They would put out the only burning coal I have left, leaving my husband neither name nor descendant on the face of the earth.”

8The king said to the woman, “Go home, and I will issue an order in your behalf... **10**If anyone says anything to you, bring him to me, and he will not bother you again.”

11She said, “Then let the king invoke YAHWEH his God to prevent the avenger of blood from adding to the destruction, so that my son will not be destroyed.”

“As surely as YAHWEH lives,” he said, “not one hair of your son’s head will fall to the ground.”

12Then the woman said, “Let your servant speak a word to my lord the king.” “Speak,” he replied.

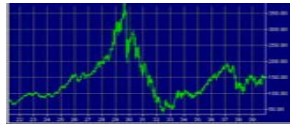
13The woman said, “Why then have you devised a thing like this against the people of God? When the king says this, does he not convict himself, for the king has not brought back his banished son? **14**Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die. **But God does not take away life; instead, He devises ways so that a banished person may not remain estranged from Him.**

02 Samuel 13:37-39a; 14:01-14 NIV

World of Regret

“But King David mourned for his son every day...And the spirit of the king longed to go to Absalom” (13:37, 39)

A Quick Look at David’s Life



As one reads 02 Samuel, you can't help but notice that David's life goes through an amazing change:

>David's Successes (chpt. 1-10)

Who would have ever thought this shepherd-boy would become such an amazing King?

>David's Tragic Decision (chpt. 11)

Who would have ever thought that one tragic decision would have so many consequences?

>David's Difficulties (rest of the book)

Who would have thought that David would still cling to God through it all?

How has regret affected your life?

Are you living in a world of regret?

Knock It Off *“Joab knew that the king's heart longed for Absalom.” 14:01*

Regret has an incredible way of preventing us from seeing the bigger picture of life.

In essence:

Regret saps the life from us.

Joab was close enough to the situation to see that something needed to be done.

Joab was far from perfect. (02 Samuel 18:14-33)

Joab is resourceful to fix the situation.

Is there a situation in your life, or a friend's life currently that needs some adjusting? What resources are available to you to help?

Let Him Out!

*“...He devises ways so that a banished person may not remain estranged from Him”
V. 14*



Quick Question:

Why do we feel this incredible need to put God in a Box?

It seems to work this way:

Many people want to have their lives under control, therefore they desire to place God under their control.

God works through various means to get things right!

*“A god who let us prove His existence would be an idol”
Dietrich Bonhoeffer*