

“Labor Pains” (2)

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

Origin & End of Pain

Genesis 3:16-19 – ¹⁶“To the woman he said, ‘I will surely multiply your pain (*‘eseb’ – an earthen vessel, painful toil, hurt hardship*) in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.’ ¹⁷And to Adam he said, ‘Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Revelation 21:3-4 – ³“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.’”

Pain Pathways

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:2 – ¹⁶“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. ¹For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands,

eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling,

Psalm 147:3 – “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”

Painful Partings

Acts 20:36-38 – ³⁶“And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, ³⁸being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.”

John 16:19-22 – ¹⁹“Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, ‘Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’? ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²²So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”

Parental Pain

Genesis 27:46 – “Then Rebekah said to Isaac, ‘I loathe my life because of the Hittite women. If Jacob marries one of the Hittite women like these, one of the women of the land, what good will my life be to me?’”

Galatians 4:19-20 – ¹⁹“My little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! ²⁰I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.”

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)