

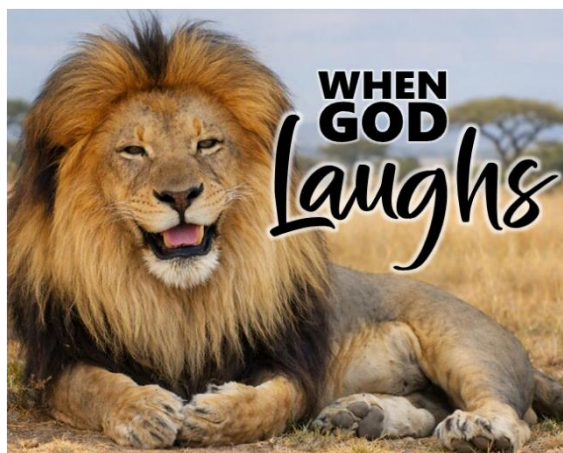
When God Laughs

God Laughs at Human Pride

(Psalm 2:1–4) Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? {2} The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One. {3} “Let us break their chains,” they say, “and throw off their fetters.” {4} The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

God Humbles the Proud through Irony

God Loves Delightful Surprises



(Genesis 18:9–15) “Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him. “There, in the tent,” he said. {10} Then the LORD said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.” Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. {11} Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. {12} So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?” {13} Then the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ {14} Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son.” {15} Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, “I did not laugh.” But he said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

(Genesis 21:1–6) Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. {2} Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. {3} Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. {4} When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. {5} Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. {6} Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.”

(1 Corinthians 1:27–29) But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. {28} He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, {29} so that no one may boast before him.

God Uses a Donkey to Humble a Prophet

(Numbers 22:28–30) Then the LORD opened the donkey’s mouth, and she said to Balaam, “What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?” {29} Balaam answered the donkey, “You have made a fool of me! If I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now.” {30} The donkey said to Balaam, “Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?” “No,” he said.

(Numbers 22:32) The angel of the LORD asked him, “Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? I have come here to oppose you because your path is a reckless one before me.”

(Numbers 22:33) The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If she had not turned away, I would certainly have killed you by now, but I would have spared her.”

God Lets His Prophet Trash-Talk False Gods

(1 Kings 18:27) At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!” he said. “Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.”

God Writes Comedy Into a Reluctant Missionary's Story

God Causes the Fall of the Dagon Idol

Jesus Turns Water Into Wine at a Party

Jesus Used Comic Exaggeration on Purpose

(Matthew 19:24) Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

(Matthew 7:3–5) “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? {4} How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? {5} You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

(Matthew 23:24) You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

God’s Joyful Humor Brings us Healing and Joy

(Proverbs 17:22a) A cheerful heart is good medicine...

(Psalm 126:2) Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”

(Nehemiah 8:10) Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

The Christian Life Should Reflect God's Joy

(Philippians 4:4) Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Four Practical Applications

- 1. Don't take yourself too seriously.*
- 2. Expect God to surprise you.*
- 3. Rejoice in God's reversals.*
- 4. Share joyful faith.*