



A Time to Laugh



Old Testament

- Gen. 18:9-15
- Gen. 17:17 - “Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”
- Prov. 31:25 - “Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.”

Old Testament

- Psalm 30:5 - “For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.”
- Ecc. 3:1, 4 - “To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven... 4 A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance”

New Testament

- Luke 6:21 - “Blessed are you who weep now, For you shall laugh.”
- John 16:33 - “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”
- John 15:11 - “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”

A Time to Laugh

- The word laugh, in its various forms, is used 38 times in the Bible.
- Sometimes laughter is right and sometimes it's wrong.
- Sometimes it is a fool who is laughing. Sometimes it is God Himself.

A Time to Laugh

- “A time to laugh” means more than merely appropriate.
 - Ecc. 3:11 - “He has made everything beautiful in its time.”
 - It is beautiful and healthy in its time; therefore, in a season of laughter, to refrain from laughter is not beautiful or healthy
 - We were created in the image of God; those noble and healthy emotions we experience are part of the nature given to us by God

A Time to Laugh

- How do you think God reacts to the innocent expressions of children?
- God who is so wise that from His perspective there is little difference between the endearingly amusing words of children and the things adults think and say... don't you think He is equally amused by us?
- Don't you think He would rather be amused by our humanness than be grieved by our sinfulness?
- We tend to judge Sarah (but not Abraham) for laughing. It wasn't derisive, or scoffing, or evil. It was a surprised reaction of someone who for the moment forgot that God can do anything

Laughter Is A Good Thing

- Laughing is an involuntary reaction to external or internal stimuli. It can arise from activities like being tickled, or from humorous stories or thoughts. Most commonly, it is considered a visual expression of a number of positive emotional states, such as joy, mirth, happiness, relief, etc. Laughter is a part of human behavior regulated by the brain, helping humans clarify their intentions in social interaction and providing an emotional context to conversations. Laughter is used as a signal for being part of a group; it signals acceptance and positive interactions with others. (Wikipedia)

Laughter Is A Good Thing

- Laughing helps us not to take ourselves too seriously. It can keep us honest about ourselves.
- Laughter helps promote health.
- Laughter helps us maintain balance in a world that is overly earnest, overtly brutal, and often vindictive.
- Laughter helps individuals and communities stay sane.

Four Kinds Of Laughter

- The laughter of unbelief
 - Luke 8:50-56
 - 2Peter 3:3-4 - “Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”
- Making fun of the faith is like whistling past the graveyard.

Four Kinds Of Laughter

- The laughter of a fool
 - Ecc. 7:6 - “For like the crackling of thorns under a pot, So is the laughter of the fool.”
 - Prov. 14:13 - “Even in laughter the heart may sorrow, And the end of mirth may be grief.”
 - Luke 6:25 - “Woe to you who are full, For you shall hunger. Woe to you who laugh now, For you shall mourn and weep.”
- The laughter of a fool is one of the saddest sounds I know.

Four Kinds Of Laughter

- The laughter of God
 - Psalm 2:1-4 - “Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, 3 Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us. 4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.”

Four Kinds Of Laughter

- The greater a man thinks himself to be, the more ridiculous his follies are to the Almighty
 - Prov. 1:24-26 - “Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, 25 Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke, 26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes”
 - Psalm 37:12-13 - “The wicked plots against the just, And gnashes at him with his teeth. 13 The Lord laughs at him, For He sees that his day is coming.”

Four Kinds Of Laughter

- Matthew Henry comments, “Sinners' follies are just the sport of God's infinite wisdom and power; and those attempts of the kingdom of Satan, which in our eyes are formidable, in His are despicable” (*quoted in Spurgeon, C. H., The Treasury of David, Pasadena, Texas: Pilgrim Publications, n.d., volume 1, p. 16*).

Four Kinds Of Laughter

- The laughter of God's children
 - Luke 6:21 - "Blessed are you who hunger now, For you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, For you shall laugh."
 - Deut. 33:29 - "Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, The shield of your help And the sword of your majesty!"
 - Psalm 126:1-3 - "When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream. 2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, The LORD has done great things for them. 3 The LORD has done great things for us, And we are glad."

Four Kinds Of Laughter

- God promises His children seasons of laughter
 - Job 8:20-21 - “Behold, God will not cast away the blameless, Nor will He uphold the evildoers. 21 He will yet fill your mouth with laughing, And your lips with rejoicing.”

Texts That Amuse

- Prov. 27:14-16 - “He who blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, It will be counted a curse to him. 15 A continual dripping on a very rainy day And a contentious woman are alike; 16 Whoever restrains her restrains the wind, And grasps oil with his right hand.”
- Prov. 29:20 - “Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him”

Texts That Amuse

- Num. 22:21-29
- Num. 11:18-20 - “Then you shall say to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept in the hearing of the LORD, saying, Who will give us meat to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt. Therefore the LORD will give you meat, and you shall eat. 19 'You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, 20 'but for a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have despised the LORD who is among you, and have wept before Him, saying, Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?’”

Texts That Amuse

- Job 13:5 - “Oh, that you would be silent, And it would be your wisdom!”
- 1Kings 22:2-18

A Time to Laugh

- God ordained that there be balance; a time to laugh and a time to weep
- Men are not permitted to take away the time to laugh
- Nor are men permitted to casually treat worship and reverence of God
- Enjoy the blessing of laughter in season; and then put it aside out of season