[9]Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, [10]declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, "My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all My purpose."

—Isaiah 46:9-10 ESV

-.001.tiff

"My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?

-.002.tiff

If the whole show was bad and senseless from A to Z, so to speak, why did I, who was supposed to be part of the show, find myself in such violent reaction against it? A man feels wet when he falls into water, because man is not a water animal: a fish would not feel wet."

—C.S. Lewis

-.003.tiff

"Consequently atheism turns out to be too simple. If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning: just as, if there were no light in the universe and therefore no creatures with eyes, we should never know it was dark. Dark would be a word without meaning." —C.S. Lewis

-.004.tiff

"Time doesn't heal anything… it teaches us how to live with the pain."

"The marks humans leave are too often scars." —John Green

"Life is pain, highness. Anyone who says differently is selling something."
—William Goldman

-.005.tiff

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

—Genesis 50:20 ESV

-.006.tiff

I. The Problem With Pain

-.007.tiff

- Pain is rooted in the curse of the Fall and the presence of sin in the human.

-.008.tiff

[20]For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope [21]that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. [22]For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

-.009.tiff

[23]And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

—Romans 8:20-23 ESV

-.010.tiff

- Pain is often the result of our own stubbornness, self-deception and disobedience.

-.011.tiff

- Pain is our struggle to embrace the mystery of God's love and rule in a messy world.

-.012.tiff

"The problem of reconciling human suffering with the existence of a God who loves, is only insoluble so long as we attach a trivial meaning to the word 'love,' and look on things as if man were the center of them. Man is not the center. God does not exist for the sake of man. Man does not exist for his own sake.

-.013.tiff

'Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created.' We were made not primarily that we may love God (though we were made for that too), but that God may love us, that we may become the objects in which the divine love may rest 'well pleased.'" —C.S. Lewis

-.014.tiff

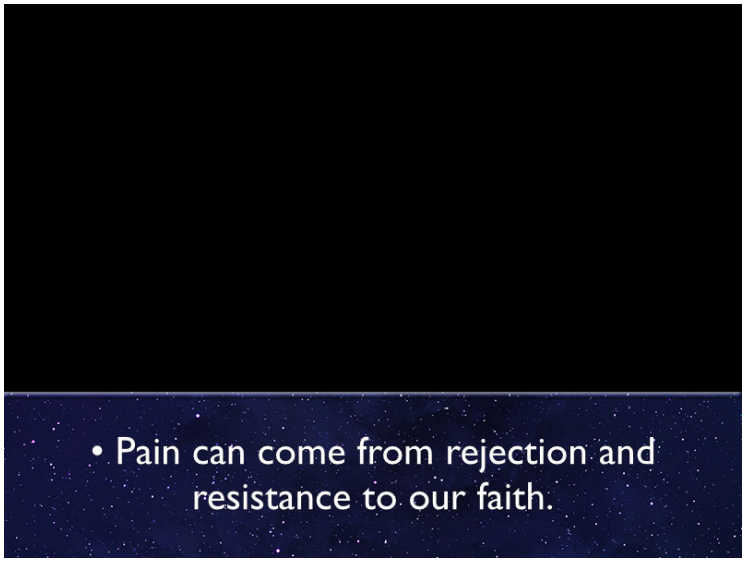
• Pain is a partner in the progress in our faith.

-.015.tiff

"We all know people who have been made much meaner and more irritable and more intolerable to live with by suffering: it is not right to say that all suffering perfects. It only perfects one type of person—the one who accepts the call of God in Christ Jesus."

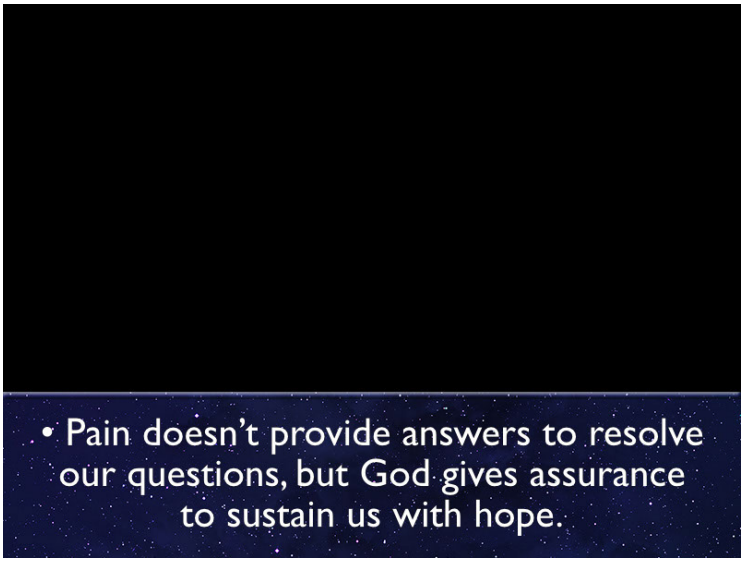
—Oswald Chambers

-.016.tiff



• Pain can come from rejection and resistance to our faith.

-.017.tiff



• Pain doesn't provide answers to resolve our questions, but God gives assurance to sustain us with hope.

-.018.tiff

"the LORD was with Joseph"
Genesis 39:2-3, 5, 9, 21, 23
Genesis 41:16, 28, 32

-.019.tiff

2. The Peace of Providence

-.020.tiff

You "Meant" = Evil
God "Meant" = Good

-.021.tiff

"Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

—C.S. Lewis

-.022.tiff

Providence Offers Peace Through…

Dependency	Ephesians 6:10
Sympathy	2 Corinthians 1:3-7
Humility	2 Corinthians 12:7-9
Security	Romans 8:28

-.023.tiff

He 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."

—Revelation 21:4 ESV

-.024.tiff