

“My heart is breaking as I remember how it used to be: I walked among the crowds of worshipers, leading a great procession to the house of God, singing for joy and giving thanks amid the sound of a great celebration!” Psalms 42:4 NLT

lectio // Psalm 42

What do you do when the memories of the past are stronger than your hope for the future? David plays the highlight reel, the pictures of the past flash before his eyes as he reflects on the magnificent moments of a past kingdom. Maybe for us it's like flipping through your family album or Facebook posts, seeing the beginnings of your life as a family. Maybe it's the wedding photos with groomsmen and bridesmaids all your closest friends. Maybe it's your children's younger years when everything they did was cute and joyful (especially since you survived that season). The past can trick us. Yes, it's glorious at times, but yes we forget the hard moments because our mind edits out most of the painful times. And yes, these memories, for David, are real. We are able to read about them ourselves. However, as we get older, or the kingdom, or the church gets older we also see the effects of our very human decisions have had an enormous negative impact on the grand parties and large celebrations. Oh, they do come and go, with the times, there are highs and lows, good and bad. But the future? Who remains hopeful that God is at work and his glorious plans WILL come to pass. For David, looking forward, there was a glimpse of the messiah. For us, looking forward, it's the finality of the old earth and there will be heaven and a new earth in our future. There is the understanding of the Kingdom of God that is fully HERE. There is eternity with God and with all who believe, those we love and enjoy their company. There is also aeons of stories of all our past, our shared history and of faith journeys. Our hope does not lie in floating on clouds playing harps forever. Our hope is a eternal reunion of relationships restored to how God created us, with each other and to the Father himself. It will be life 10.0 not these beta versions we stumble around in now. So although the past can be a great memory it can never eclipse the future that God has for us!

Dad,
 Maybe I don't get the over-fascination with the past. My past has been both grand and a grind! However, I honestly look forward to seeing your work NOW in the middle of our self-inflicted chaos as well as the amazing future of the full reign of your kingdom come. I get excited to see you, have answers to a thousand questions, laugh and cry for joy at our reunion sans all my sin. I also think about all the people, throughout thousand of years of history, that I get to sit and hear there story, ask them questions. And, just to be able to share life as you intended, from the beginning, before our shackles of selfishness marred our life and blurred our knowledge of reality. I hope forward because I believe you!

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root