

# Beyond the Pain

This light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as 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.

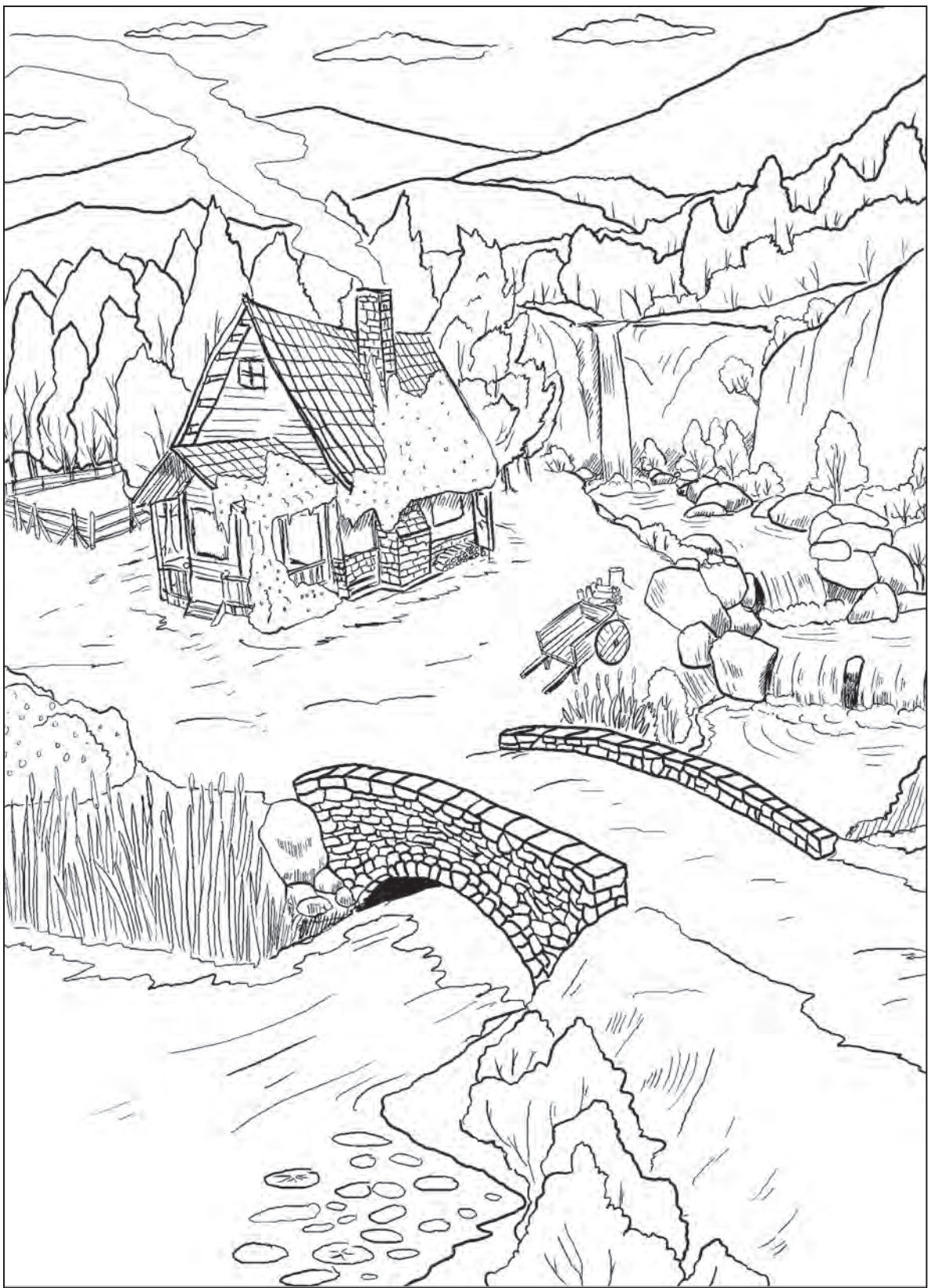
2 CORINTHIANS 4:17-18 ESV

*Light and momentary? These troubles feel anything but that!* you might be thinking. This verse was written by a man who had been in prison, shipwrecked, beaten, starved, robbed, stoned, whipped, and more. If there was someone who knew about affliction, Paul could for sure qualify as an expert!

The unseen, eternal glory that is to come is unimaginably good. Incomprehensibly splendid. And on top of that, it's solid. It's not going anywhere. It's more real than any reality you've experienced. It's designed by a good Father who loves you deeply. When things feel hopeless, maybe your hope is in the wrong place. Turn your hope to the unshakeable age that is to come, to your eternal glory with Jesus Christ. That is a sustaining hope that will not disappoint and will afford you much joy in the here and now.

Remembering that your time on earth is the journey and not the destination, and that your eternal home awaits you, will help you keep your priorities aligned with Jesus.

***God, help me to keep an eternal perspective when it comes to the troubles I face in this life. What is coming in the future is far better than I could ever imagine.***



# Called His Own

For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own.

1 SAMUEL 12:22 NIV

The Israelites have an extensive history, laid out for us in the Old Testament. It is often seen as back and forth: the Israelites disobeying God and God consistently redeeming them to himself. If you can think of it, it's been done by this group of people God called his own—idolatry, complaining, disobedience, murder, lying, sexual immorality, the list goes on over thousands of years. It makes you wonder if they would ever get it right, or if God would ever give up on his people. The answer to both of those is no; they would never get it right, and God would never give up.

If you find yourself shaking your head at all their shortcomings, it is wise to remember you are never going to get it right either. The good news is you don't have to! You can be secure in Jesus, no matter how right or wrong you get it. Faith in him means you are called his own.

People usually swing one of two ways, either trying to work harder for their salvation or giving up completely and accepting the title of unforgivable. The truth is that none of us have to work harder, and none of us are unforgivable. The grace of God is perfect. This status of being God's own is a free gift, and it comes with the richest of rewards.

***God thank you for your grace. Thank you for calling me your own.***

