



out of DUST

Beyond All
Comparison

Easter 2022

Romans 8:18-25

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 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.



Romans 8:18-25

²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 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. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.



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Eternal Life is...

1. Eternal



Eternal Life is...

1. Eternal
2. Perfect relationship with God

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (John 17:3)



Eternal Life is...

1. Eternal
2. Perfect relationship with God
3. Freedom from pain and death

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)



Romans 8:18-25

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are **not worth comparing** with the glory that is to be revealed to us.



2 Corinthians 4:16-18

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.
¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory **beyond all comparison**, ¹⁸ 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.



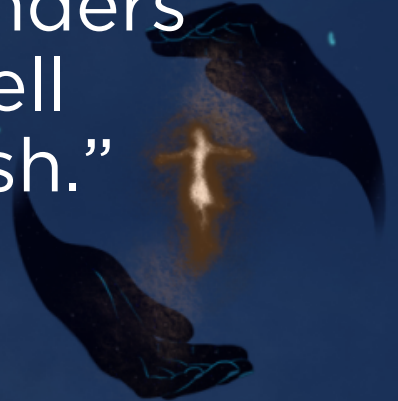
In our pain...

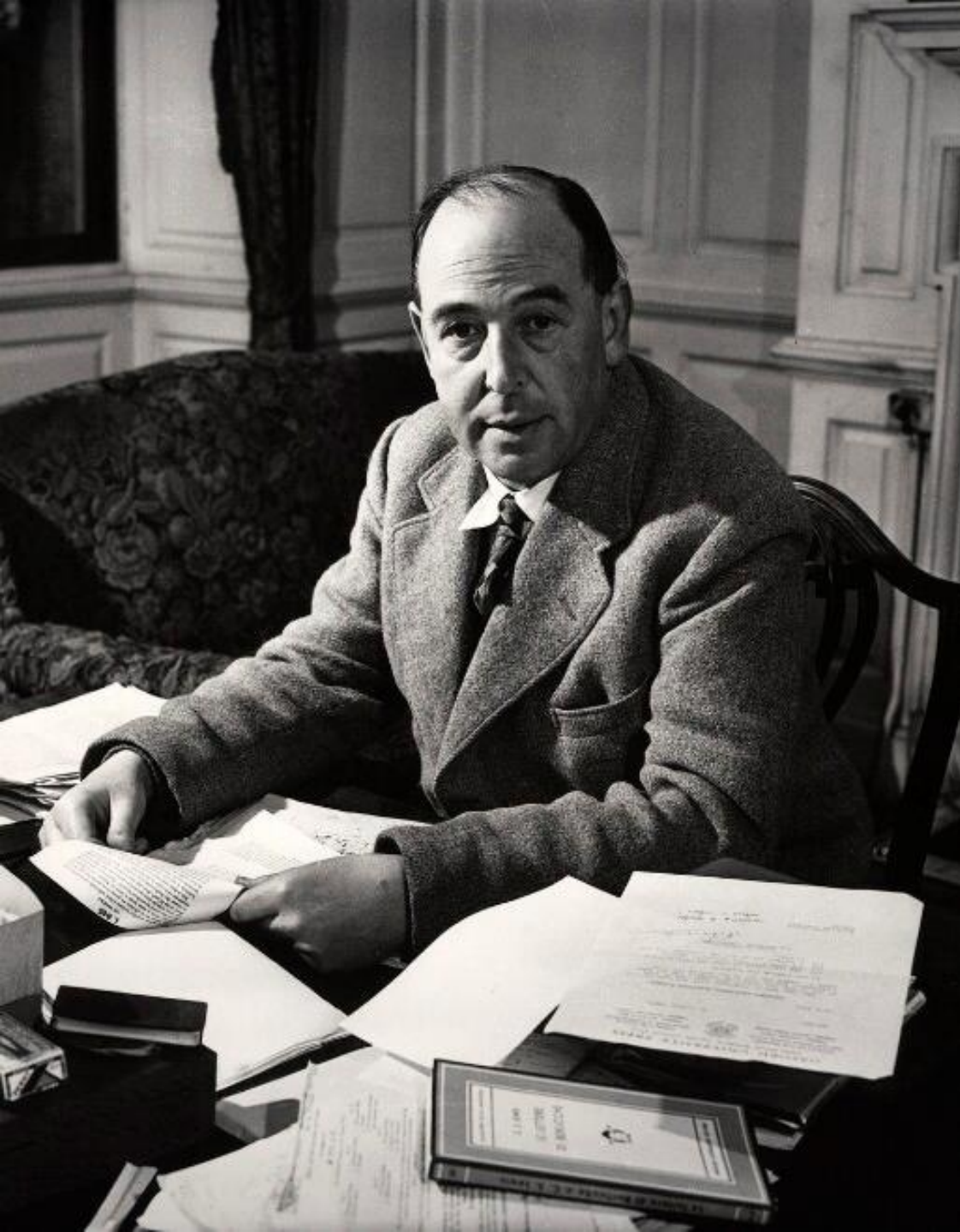
1. God gets our attention



Luke 13:1-5

¹ There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”





C.S. Lewis

“But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”



In our pain...

1. God gets our attention
2. God preserves our character



2 Corinthians 12:7

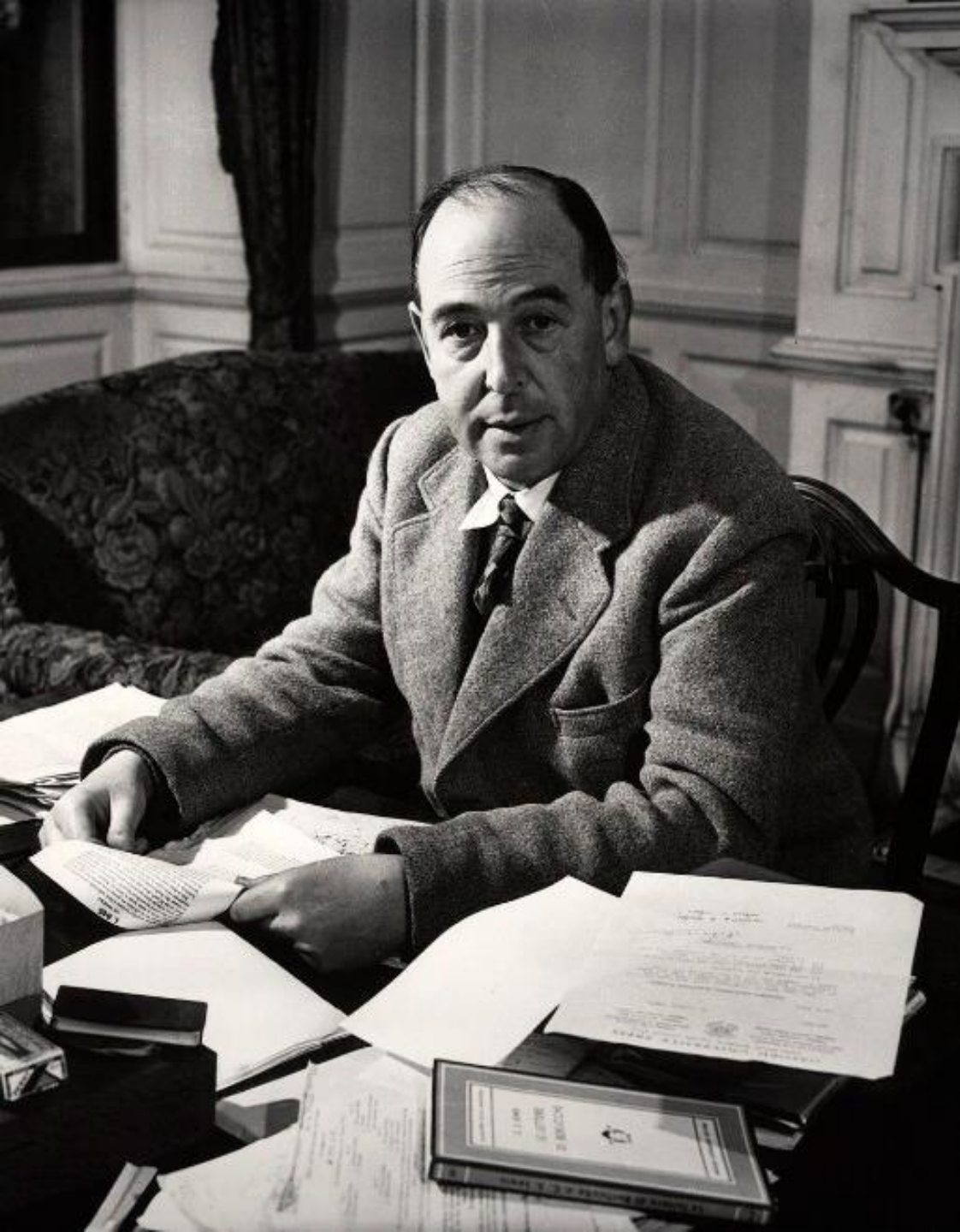
So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.



In our pain...

1. God gets our attention
2. God preserves our character
3. God creates longing





C.S. Lewis

“If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world.”



Romans 5:1-5

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.



In an effort to direct your heart towards
eternity, God sometimes uses blessing, and
sometimes uses pain...



In an effort to direct your heart towards eternity, God sometimes uses blessing, and sometimes uses pain...

...and he can be trusted with the right proportions!



Two Responses to Pain

1. “It is unfair that I am experiencing pain and limitations. I deserve better. It must mean that God is absent or unjust. Therefore, as I am the one that is most able to see what is best for me, I will take matters into my own hands. I will create a world that limits my pain and enhances my pleasure as much as possible.”



Two Responses to Pain

2. “I am part of the problem. My sin has contributed to a broken world that results in pain. Because of my sin, I deserve death, and my pain should actually be much worse than it is. Nevertheless, God paid my death penalty himself and offers to bring me into eternal life with a redeemed body that is free from pain and decay. I humbly accept that gift and wait patiently for the day of my full redemption.”



1 Peter 1:3-7

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.



1 Peter 1:3-7

⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

