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God Moves in Mysterious Ways

I love history, and I love stories. But there's an awkward thing about the stories of the past: The good guys don't always win. Quite often they lose, sometimes in nasty, seemingly senseless ways. There's nothing like a study of history to show God always works, but not always in ways we understand. In *Preacher on the Run*, hero Robert Boothe struggles to trust God regardless of the outcome. While I've never gone through some of the things Robert went through (or even close), I've had my share of doubts and fears—and still do, which proves I haven't figured this out. But here's something I've begun to learn: I don't have to figure it out.

Scripture is full of examples of people who wrestled with the “mysterious way” in which God works. In the Psalms, David repeatedly laments the evil around him. Asaph, also a psalmist, demands how long it will be before God delivers His people. The prophet Jeremiah wonders why God told him to buy property in a land that was going into captivity. John the Baptist becomes so discouraged by his imprisonment, he questions if Jesus is really the Messiah. The Bible clearly shows it's nothing new for evil to apparently triumph over good, yet in all these instances, God's people clung to His perfect character even while they wrestled with life in a fallen world. David reminds himself, “Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.” Asaph calls the Lord, “O God of our salvation.” Jeremiah says, “There is nothing too hard for thee.”

We are such finite creatures. How can we possibly comprehend the purposes of an Almighty God? If we could, He would no longer be God. But even in His majesty and power, He “remembereth that we are dust,” and reassures us as He did John the Baptist: “The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached unto them.” In other words, He is still working! And His work speaks for itself. The many ways in which He's already proved Himself to us give us the evidence we need to keep believing when we're in the dark. Jesus promised us, “In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” That ultimately is our hope. One of my favorite gospel songs says, “I've read the back of the book, and we win!” Until then, we can say with Abraham, “Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

The answer, of course, is yes. It is His job to direct the course of history. It is our job to believe Him—even though we may never understand, this side of heaven.