Worshiping God in the Hard Times

“By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our lyres. For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, ‘Sing us one of the songs of Zion!’”

(Psalm 137:1-3)

“How shall we sing the LORD’s song in a foreign land?”

(Psalm 137:4)

Before the Babylonian Captivity: Habakkuk

“Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.”

(Habakkuk 3:17-18)
[Job] fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, “...The L ORD gave, and the L ORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the L ORD.”

(Job 1:20-21)

How to worship God in the hard times

Recognize that God and His grace are the source for all we do

“Apart from me you can do nothing.”

(John 15:5)

Recognize that difficulties are a normal part of life
Understand true, biblical joy

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds...”
(James 1:2)

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”
(Romans 14:17)

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.
(Philippians 3:1)

Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice!
(Philippians 4:4)

Keep your eyes on the goal
If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.  

*(1 Corinthians 15:19)*

But our citizenship is in heaven…  

*(Philippians 3:20)*

“Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”  

*(Luke 10:20)*

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.  

*(Colossians 3:2)*