

Isaiah 48:17-19

Then our well-being will be like a river

Thus says the Lord your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; "I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go. If only you had paid attention to My commandments! Then your well-being would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea. Your descendants would have been like the sand, and your offspring like its grains; their name would never be cut off or destroyed from My presence."

Where do you stand right now? Are you looking at your life and saying to yourself, "Where did I go wrong"? Then these words are for you. Very often we are tempted to walk off onto our own path thinking that there are nothing but challenges and discouragements as we seek the Lord. So we compromise our standards to seek after fulfillment from the things of this world instead of holding fast to the Lord and waiting for the fulfillment of His promises. We pray for something and when it doesn't come from God's hand fast enough we seek our own way to fulfill it. These verses are words of rebuke for our unfaithfulness towards our Heavenly Father. He says, "If you had paid attention to My commandments," these things would have followed. The interesting thing is that Jesus had to endure the same trial of complete trust in the Father. Chapter 49 is all about Jesus. Verse 4: Jesus speaks - *But I said, "I have toiled in vain, I have spent My strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely the justice due to Me is with the Lord, and My reward with My God."* and verse 7: *Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, and of its Holy One, to the despised One, to the One abhorred by the nation, to the Servant of rulers, "Kings shall see and arise, princes shall bow down; because of the Lord who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who has chosen You."* Jesus had to endure the hardships by absolute trust in our Heavenly Father so if we have given up now we will lose the promised blessings that will follow.

I often think about king Saul in the old testament. He would have been the blessed lineage and Jesus would have been in his line if he had waited for Samuel to arrive and offer the sacrifices to God. Such was the test God had given to him that if he had overcome and trusted in the Lord with all his heart he would have been where David is now. Strong and convicting words to hold fast because we do not know what God is planning upon the outcome of the trials He sends us.

Let us take heed of these words and know that with every compromise of God's commandments we are bringing this rebuke upon our own heads. There is only one thing for us to do. Turn from our compromises and repent so that the blessings would be returned to us. "Then our well-being will be like a river!" Let us turn and repent and not forfeit our inheritance by impatience and the deceitfulness of our adversary.

Do not be fooled by the subtlety of our adversary. He hates us with a passion and will do anything to destroy us. One night recently we had to deal with casting demons out of someone and I will never forget the violent hatred that was yelling and screaming at us and calling for blood. Our adversary is not like the battles of old between France and England where it was understood that you didn't kill the opposing commander so that there would be no chaos on the field. Our adversary does not have an off mode or say to himself, "Well I think I attacked enough for today perhaps I will come back some other time." He is not a gentleman nor does he play by our rules or even have an ounce of sympathy towards us. The only thing he has is hate and anger. And most of all, don't expect to step into his territory, blow up a few things and leave - expecting no retaliation. Do not wonder why he is mad at you. If you have engaged him you are in battle. There is nothing except victory on our side to stop him. When we step over the line we must finish with a complete victory or there will be no peace for us. Just like when the allies bombed Berlin they had an angry enemy. We have to finish what we started or else be captured.

May we press forward in Christ for the victory! God bless you all!