



Before the THRONE

The Devotional

Volume 3

The Prophetic Books

Isaiah 1:19 – 20

“If you will be willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land. But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured with the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken it.” Isaiah 1:19 – 20

Elihu, the young protagonist in the book of Job said the same thing this way, “If they obey and serve Him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures. But if they obey not, they shall perish by the sword, and they shall die without knowledge.” (Job 36:11 – 12)

Listen carefully – here is a principle of life that once learned, will make all of life’s living better. It is not enough to obey. To obey is good – very good! But with your obedience you must also bring an attitude of heart that delights in your obeying! Everyone has felt the tension of underlying anger and resentment from someone who, even though they may be explicitly obedient, still resented what they were doing! Remember the proverbial story of the little boy who consistently liked to stand up in his high chair during dinner? At their wits end, his parents, finally for his own safety strapped him into the chair. That is when he quickly and defiantly announced, “I may be sitting down on the outside, but I’m still standing up on the inside!”

God’s plans for you are for your good! They are for your benefit. His requirements are intended, not to restrict you but to protect you and bless you. Because the “judgment of the Lord begins in the heart of man”, it is of the utmost importance that we honour the Lord with not only our actions, but also with our hearts.

If Isaiah’s words and Elihu’s words are not warning enough, shall we then listen to Moses? “Because you did not serve the Lord with joyfulness and gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things, therefore will you serve your enemies...” (Deuteronomy 28:47 – 48).

Paul’s New Testament admonition calls us yet higher and focuses ever clearer upon our motivations... “And whatever you do in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.” (Colossians 3:17)

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