

Isaiah 48:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:

Analysis

The lament 'O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments!' expresses God's genuine grief over Israel's disobedience and lost blessings. The conditional 'then had thy peace been as a river' shows that covenant blessings required responsive faith, not automatic ethnic privilege. This refutes both presumption (thinking blessings are unconditional) and despair (thinking disobedience is irremediable).

Historical Context

This explains why Israel's history included judgment rather than continuous blessing - not divine unfaithfulness but human disobedience. The 'might have been' tone shows God's sincere desire for obedient relationship (Deuteronomy 5:29).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What blessings have you forfeited through disobedience to God's clear commands?

2. How does God's lament over lost blessing demonstrate His genuine desire for your flourishing?

Interlinear Text

ל	אָ	הָקַשְׁ	בְּ	לִמְצֹותִ	י	יְהֹוָה	כְּנָהָר
O that	thou hadst hearkened	to my commandments			H1961	been as a river	
H3863	H7181		H4687			H5104	
שָׁלוֹם	בָּ	אִצְדָּקָתְךָ	בְּ	כָּלְ	בְּ	פְּ	
then had thy peace	and thy righteousness	as the waves	of the sea				
H7965	H6666	H1530	H3220				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 66:12 (Peace): For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees.

Deuteronomy 5:29 (Word): O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!

Psalms 119:165 (Word): Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Deuteronomy 32:29 (Parallel theme): O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!

Psalms 36:8 (Parallel theme): They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

Isaiah 45:8 (Righteousness): Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it.

Amos 5:24 (Righteousness): But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

Matthew 23:37 (Parallel theme): O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

Romans 14:17 (Righteousness): For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

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