

Isaiah  
Chapter 49

v. 24-26-- Usually a weaker one can't take the prey from the stronger, but with God it is so. Even though we are personally weaker than Satan, we can defeat him because God deals with him who deals with us, and we have the power of God in us. God's plan is to put him in the pit, unite the Body of Christ, and rule the earth through His people, so that "every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord"!!

Chapter 50

v. 1-3-- We are responsible for our failures--God is a positive God, His hand is always out for us, but it is still our choice to follow or reject.

v. 4-- The Lord God has given us a tongue of the learned. By the Holy Spirit we can speak to the weary.

v. 5-- The Lord talks to all of us, and we must be eager for Him to open our ears and not be rebellious and try to think for ourselves, and of ourselves.

v. 6-9-- Others call us fanatics, fools, we feel alone, apart from the world, because we are not of the world, but we should not listen. We have God's strength. We will always have His strength!! In Matthew 17:24-26, Jesus spoke to Peter about the tribute money, and said that the tribute is asked of strangers by the King, but the "children are free". God is the king, we are the children, and the strangers to the kingdom are the people of this world. We are free, but those will have to pay their tribute in the end. Those of this world see it the other way, and feel they are the children and we are strangers (which we are, of this world), and they feel we should pay the tribute. Sometimes we do, in the form of persecutions, but we know where our kingdom really is, and have our King's protection and power even here. Psalm 97:1 says "The Lord Reigns, let the earth rejoice..." We can rejoice even in these situations, because the Lord reigns in our hearts!!!! This is enough for us to know. Nothing else matters, and nothing can bring us down when the King reigns!!

v. 10-- We can truly love God and obey His commands and still walk in darkness, unless we open ourselves completely to His changing us --to "trust" Him for each part of our life, and "stay" on Him. Stay means to "support oneself". We must let the Holy Spirit support us, obeying and loving Him isn't enough--We'll still be in darkness.