I Will...
Joe Slater

Our God makes neither vain promises nor empty threats. When He says He will do something, rest assured He will do it. Twenty-three times in Hosea chapter two, the Lord told His people of the northern kingdom (Israel) what He was going to do. The first nine pertain to His chastening of the apostate nation, while the last fourteen deal with His plan to restore His beloved people.

Scripture teaches us that “whom the Lord loves, He chastens” (Hebrews 12:6). And Israel desperately needed chastening! Consider what God said He would do in this regard:

“I will...” not have mercy (v. 4); hedge up your way with thorns(v. 6); take away grain & wine (v. 9); take back wool & linen (v. 9); uncover her lewdness (v. 10); cause all her mirth to cease (v. 11); destroy her vines & fig trees, make them a forest (thicket, v. 12); and punish her (v. 13).

How awful! Was this to be the end? No! How awful! Was this to be the end? By no means! How awful! Was this to be the end? Not ha...

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Old habits are hard to break, and sinful habits are even harder. The Christian realizes when he’s made a mistake due to the bad habits developed during his pre-Christian years. He must wipe it out and replace it with something wholesome and good. Jefferson knew that Americans were not subjects, but it slipped in them...they lived in tents, so His tent would also be right there, with them.

When God threatened, after the golden calf incident, to remove His presence among the people, He said the hardest thing for him to give up when he became a Christian wasn’t the booze or tobacco, but the “cussing.”

I remember the late Jack Beach, an elder of the church, who told me that when he was in the Navy he smoked and drank a lot of liquor. He said the hardest thing for him to give up when he became a Christian wasn’t the booze or tobacco, but the “cussing.”

Officials at the Library of Congress believe this was a Freudian Slip by one of the Founding Fathers. Even while declaring independence from England, he had not escaped the effects of the long years of living under the Monarchy. Others speculate that he adopted it from a draft of Virginia’s constitution which uses the words “fellow subjects.”

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