

Prepare to Launch

Isaiah 49:1-2 (NIV) - Before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name. 2 He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver

2 Kings 13:14-17 (NLT) - 14 When Elisha was in his last illness, King Jehoash of Israel visited him and wept over him. "My father! My father! I see the chariots and charioteers of Israel!" he cried. 15 Elisha told him, "Get a bow and some arrows." And the king did as he was told. 16 Elisha told him, "Put your hand on the bow," and Elisha laid his own hands on the king's hands. 17 Then he commanded, "Open that eastern window," and he opened it. Then he said, "Shoot!" So he shot an arrow. Elisha proclaimed, "This is the Lord's arrow, an arrow of victory over Aram, for you will completely conquer the Arameans at Aphek."

I. There's Always a Hiding Before a Showing

In the shadow of his hand he hid me. Isaiah 49:2 (NIV)

Psalms 91:1 (AMP) - He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will remain secure and rest in the shadow of the Almighty [whose power no enemy can withstand].

II. I'm In the Process

...He made me into a polished arrow...Isaiah 49:2 (NIV)

A process is a series of actions or steps taken in order to achieve a particular end.

Pruning
Sanding
Polishing
Fletching
Cresting

Psalms 1:3 (AMP)...he shall be like a tree firmly planted [and tended] by the streams of water, ready to bring forth its fruit IN ITS SEASON; its leaf also shall not fade or wither; and everything he does shall prosper [and come to maturity].

III. Stay Close to God

...He.....Concealed me in HIS quiver...Isaiah 49:2 (NIV)

Conceal - to prevent from being seen or known

Matthew 20:28 (MSG) - ...Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the son of man has done: he came to serve, not be served...

Ephesians 2:10 (AMPC) - For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

IV. It's Not About Me

Psalms 127:4 (NKJV) - Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth.