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You gave me health and heritage when I was born, food when I was hungry, a tin roof over my head, a small rickety house in the country, a radio and an old used car; and yet, when I saw a nicer house, a TV and a newer car, I wanted those.

You allowed me only one eye; and yet, you have granted me to see beyond the natural.

Early on you allowed rejection to train me; and yet, you gave me the woods.

I wanted a father; and yet, you gave me three surrogates to make me a man.

I wanted big and tall; and yet, you gave me thin and wiry.

I wanted money, and yet, you gave me work.

I wanted a wife; and yet, you gave me years of loneliness. <u>Then</u> you gave me the crown jewel of my life.

I wanted success; and yet, you gave me failure.

I asked for knowledge; and yet, you filled me with what you had said.

I asked for the ability to surrender; and yet, you took me to the brink of destruction.

I asked for the work of my hands to bear fruit; and yet, the bulk of it was aborted.

I asked to be your mouth; and yet, you sent me to angry, haughty, unrepentant men.

We asked for friends; and yet, you removed people from our lives.

You gave me an old man, a prophet; and yet, I was afraid of him at first.

I wanted a mentor to guide me; and yet, you left me alone with you.

I asked to be like your Son, and yet, I am accused and contemned.

I asked for your Presence; and yet, people shun me like the plague; but some cry.

I never asked; and yet, you gave me Godly offspring, and other sons and daughters.

The price of you is high; and yet, the joy is worth every shekel, the gain every loss, and the peace every pain.

Ben-Issachar July 10, 2011