

## Discipline in the Dispensation of Grace - Part One

### God's discipline for His people in the OT

a paper presented to the Grace Bible Conference by Steve Thomas 7/14/19

God disciplined Israel with the intent to get them to “hearken” - to hear, be obedient, to yield to - (Lev 26:18, 23). He wanted to reform them. *Yasar* is translated “punish” and “be reformed” here. It is also translated “chastised” and “instruct” (Lev. 26:28, Deut. 4:36).

God disciplined Israel as he would a son (Deut 8:5). However, under law a rebellious son was stoned if he did not respond to chastening (Deut 21:18, 22:18). God ultimately performed a version of this punishment on Israel, setting them aside and will allow them to be purged.

Solomon and Rehoboam chastised their workers in varying degrees to accomplish the different work projects in unified Israel (1 Kings 12:11,14).

Job is said to have used this instruction properly, strengthening weak hands, and strengthened weak knees (Job 4:3-4).

David was the recipient of this correction from Jehovah, and requested for it to be kept from him (Ps 6:1, 38:1).

David understood that it was the iniquity of man that provoked God to correct, both his people and the heathen (Ps 39:11, 94:10). He also recognized that it was a blessing to be in this position (Ps 94:12).

Solomon, and the various writers of Proverbs recognized the wisdom of using this correction properly.

- Prov 9:7 - There are those (the scorner) that will not be corrected.
- 19:18 - There is hope for a child if he is corrected early and often.
- 29:17 - Rest is the result of a properly corrected child.
- 29:19 - There are some who will not be corrected with ordinary means, stronger methods are necessary.

The prophets are full of these warnings for Israel, which they ultimately did not heed.

- Isaiah 28:26 God continues to instruct during the judgement process.
- Jer 2:19, 6:8, 30:11, 31:18, 46:28 Correction is coming for wicked Judah.
- Ezek 23:48 Lewd behavior is to be judged.
- Hosea 7:12 and 7:15 Show us the purpose of proper chastening, to strengthen the arm, so that God's will might be done. However, it does not have the desired result. Ephraim would not perceive the instruction in the right way, imagining mischief against their Lord.
- Hosea 10:10 With judgement on the way, there is still an appeal to follow righteousness. God desires obedience and humility.