

THE CHASTENING HAND OF GOD

TEXT: 1 Kings 11:1-11 ¹ But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, *and* Hittites— ² from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, “You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love. ³ And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. ⁴ For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David. ⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. ⁶ Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as *did* his father David. ⁷ Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that *is* east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. ⁸ And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

⁹ So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, ¹⁰ and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the LORD had commanded. ¹¹ Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, “Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant.

INTRODUCTION: Last week we looked at decline in the kingdom. This week we examine the Lord's response: the chastening hand of God.

I. THE PROMISE OF CHASTENING

A. The warning in the law

Deuteronomy 8:5 You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the LORD your God chastens you.

B. The warning to Solomon

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C. The warning to Christians

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.

Popular false teaching in Christian circles that because Christ washed away our sins by His blood on the cross, that there are no consequences to sin in the Christian's life. They say God does not discipline the Christian for He is only a God of love. They say that the God of the N.T. does not chasten his children as did the God of the O.T.

Listen, my friend.

The God of the N.T. is the God of the O.T. and He did not, has not, and will not change. The bible says He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Heb 13:8)

God is a God of love, but He is also a God of holiness and of justice.

God's love is not superficial or shallow. Therefore He loves His children too much to let them continually wander in sin to their own detriment and destruction.

Therefore God chastens those whom He loves. God chastens the Christian when he wanders in sin.

II. THE METHODS OF CHASTENING

A. Trouble from the outside (11:14-25)

1. God raised up Hadad the Edomite to wage war.
2. God raised up Rezon to continually raid Israel.

Lev. 26 contains the Lord's instruction to Israel concerning His blessing and chastisement. Vss. 1-13 talk about the blessings God will send if Israel obeys. Vs. 14 ff tells them some of the methods God will use if they sin against Him.

Leviticus 26:17 I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you.

Leviticus 26:22 I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate.

Leviticus 26:31 I will lay your cities waste and bring your sanctuaries to desolation, and I will not smell the fragrance of your sweet aromas.

3. God sends similar outside attackers upon the lives of His children when they are wandering from Him in sin.

- a. Strife with people
- b. Financial setbacks
- c. Illness
- d. Various unexpected problems

B. Trouble from the inside (11:26-40)

1. Lev. warns of this kind of chastisement also.

Leviticus 26:16 I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

Leviticus 26:20 And your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit.

Leviticus 26:36 And as for those of you who are left, I will send faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies; the sound of a shaken leaf shall cause them to flee; they shall flee as though fleeing from a sword, and they shall fall when no one pursues.

2. God sends similar inside attackers upon the lives of His children when they are wandering from Him in sin.

a. Loss of fellowship with God

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

b. Ineffective prayers

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

c. Loss of joy

Psalm 51:12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

- d. Loss of peace
- e. Loss of love for both God and man

3. How do you know if trouble is chastening?

a. Not all trouble is a result of chastening from God.

(Jesus and the man born blind.)

Therefore, just because someone is having an abundance of trouble, do not conclude they are in sin and must be experiencing the chastisement of God.

b. If you are living in sin, especially willful, deliberate, and habitual sin; and trouble comes, you probably are being chastened by God. You better listen very carefully to the last 2 points of this message.

If you are not aware of sin that could bring on chastening from God but you are experiencing trouble that makes you wonder, then go to God and ask Him to reveal to you any waywardness that would prompt His chastisement in your life. You ask that in sincerity and the Lord will show you if sin is the problem. If so, you also need the last 2 points of this message.

III. THE PURPOSE OF CHASTENING

- A. The purpose is not punishment. God does not need to get even. It does not result from a lessening of God's love.
- B. To bring the child of God back into a faithful walk with the Lord for their good and His glory.

IV. THE REMEDY FOR CHASTENING

Letting God's purpose for the chastening be accomplished: get back into a faithful walk with the Lord.

Steps:

Repent

Confess 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

to God

to others sinned against (in the circle of the offended)

Begin to faithfully do what is right before God.**CONCLUSION:**

Many years ago, a man was visiting a floral shop when he suddenly heard the sound of an electric bell. "Frost!" exclaimed the proprietor as he rushed to the greenhouses. When he returned, he explained that the fires had nearly gone out because the watchman had fallen asleep. Then he said, "If it hadn't been for my 'frost bell,' I'd have lost hundreds of plants. This device detects when the mercury drops below a certain point, and immediately a warning is sounded. Many crops of fruit and flowers have been saved in the past years by this useful invention."

God's chastisement is the "frost bell" in your life that rings before the cold fingers of sin can complete their chilling and killing work in your soul.

Is God's bell ringing in your life?