

1 Kings 9:1-9:9

God as Heavenly Father Blesses & Disciplines His Children

A Time for Solomon to Reflect/Renew v1-2

After Solomon finished building the Temple, the royal palace, and several other major projects, the LORD appeared to him in the same way He had appeared to him years before at Gibeon.

Principle: From time to time, especially after important milestones...we should reflect on the LORD's presence in our lives and renew our commitment to Him as the center of our lives. Some of these times might include, birthdays, anniversaries, holidays (Christmas and Easter particularly) and specifically: before/during the celebration of the LORD's Supper

The LORD's Instruction to Solomon Teaches Us Today Three Key Lessons v3-9

1: Actively Appreciate Our Privileged Position in the LORD v3

I have answered your prayer...you made to me. I have consecrated this temple you built by making it my permanent home; I will be constantly present there.

2: Pursue with a Passion a Consistent Commitment to Honor/Obey the LORD v4-5

You must serve me with integrity and sincerity, just as your father David did. Do everything I commanded and obey my rules and regulations...

3: Remember That Spiritual Inconsistency/Sin Will Yield Bitter Fruit over Time v6-9

But if you or your sons ever turn away from me...and serve/worship other gods, I will remove Israel from the land I have given them, abandon this Temple...and Israel will be mocked and ridiculed among all the nations. This Temple will become a heap of ruins; everyone who passes by it will be shocked and will hiss out their scorn...

Take This To Heart

Proper/positive discipline is the responsibility of parents-especially fathers and a positive, teachable response to parental discipline is the responsibility of children. We see this in the LORD's relationship to OT believers specifically and to OT Israel generally, we see this in the LORD's relationship to NT believers specifically and to the NT Church generally.

This principle does not mean that all trials/tragedies that come into our lives as Christians are Divine Discipline. It does mean that at times (since we all stumble in many ways) all Christians will experience and thus should recognize and properly respond to Divine Discipline

Hebrews 12

For the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and chastises every child whom He receives. Realize that God is treating you as His children when you have to endure discipline! For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are without discipline...then you are illegitimate children and not sons/daughters! Think about it, we had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they (our fathers on Earth) disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our (eternal) good, that we may share His holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but in time it yields the peaceful fruit of +R to those who have been trained by it.