

Deuteronomy 8:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee.

Analysis

The verse commands: 'Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee.' The Hebrew *yasar* (chasten/discipline) combines correction and instruction—not mere punishment but formative training. The father-son metaphor reveals God's purpose in discipline: love-motivated character formation, not vindictive retribution. This establishes the framework for understanding suffering—it can be divine discipline for covenant children. Hebrews 12:5-11 explicitly applies this verse to Christian experience, demonstrating its enduring relevance.

Historical Context

Israel's wilderness discipline included judgments (the rebellious generation dying), provisions (manna, water, protection), and teaching (law, tabernacle worship, priestly mediation). The combination of discipline and provision reveals a Father training His son for inheritance. Ancient Near Eastern cultures valued paternal discipline, but Israel's understanding was distinctive—God Himself acts as Father, personally involved in His people's formation.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does viewing God's discipline as fatherly training change your response to difficulty?
2. What character qualities is God forming in you through current challenges?

Interlinear Text

וְיִדְעַתָּה	עִם	לִבְּךָ	כִּי	רָאָשׁ	מִסְרָבְךָ:
Thou shalt also consider	in	thine heart	H3588	H834	chasteneth
H3045	H5973	H3824			H3256
אִישׁ	אֶת	בְּנוֹ	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	מִסְרָבְךָ:
that as a man	H853	his son	so the LORD	thy God	chasteneth
H376		H1121	H3068	H430	H3256

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 3:19 (Parallel theme): As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

2 Samuel 7:14 (Parallel theme): I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

Proverbs 3:12 (References Lord): For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

Psalms 94:12 (References Lord): Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;

1 Corinthians 11:32 (References Lord): But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

Ezekiel 18:28 (Parallel theme): Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Psalms 89:32 (Parallel theme): Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes.

Deuteronomy 4:9 (Parallel theme): Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

Deuteronomy 4:23 (References God): Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee.

Ezekiel 12:3 (Parallel theme): Therefore, thou son of man, prepare thee stuff for removing, and remove by day in their sight; and thou shalt remove from thy place to another place in their sight: it may be they will consider, though they be a rebellious house.