

Proverbs 3:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

Analysis

Divine discipline proves sonship and covenant relationship (Hebrews 12:6-8). The Hebrew 'yakah' (corrects) implies not vindictive punishment but pedagogical reproof aimed at restoration. God's fatherly love is demonstrated precisely through discipline that conforms us to Christ's image, evidencing His commitment to our sanctification.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern fathers held absolute authority over households, including corporal discipline. Yet Israel's God transcends human fatherhood by disciplining in perfect wisdom and love, always for the child's ultimate good.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when circumstances seem to indicate God's corrective hand?
2. Can you identify times when God's discipline has produced godly growth in your life?

Interlinear Text

בְּאָתָה	בְּאָשָׁר	בְּאָבִיךְ	יְהִי הָרָקֶת	יְהִי יְמִינְךָ	בְּאָבִיךְ
H3588	H853	H834	loveth	For whom the LORD	he correcteth
			H157	H3068	H3198

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 8:5 (References Lord): Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee.

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

Proverbs 29:17 (Light): Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

Proverbs 13:24 (Love): He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

Psalms 103:13 (References Lord): Like as a father pitith his children, so the LORD pitith them that fear him.