

When Grace Runs Out A Study of Sodom and Gomorrah

During this study we are going to explore Grace, Discipline and Destruction. The main causes that God considers before the destruction of an entity, like Sodom and Gomorrah.

1. **Grace is the unmerited favor of God. It means that we do not earn it or deserve it.**

A. Common or living grace. Extends to unbelievers. The air we breathe, food, clothing. Matt 5:44-45

"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

B. Saving Grace. There are Eternal ramifications because we are the recipient of at least 50 things. Eph 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. **Rom 5:1-2** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

C. Christian Grace. So we can grow, mature, evangelize. John 1:16-17

For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. 17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. **Col 2:6-7** Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

1. Growth. 2 Peter 3:17-18

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

2. Prayer. Heb 4:16

Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

3. Suffering. 2 Cor 12:9-10

And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with

distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

4. Gifting. Eph 4:7

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

5. Stability. 1 Pet 5:10-12

After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. 11 To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen. 12 Through Silvanus, our faithful brother(for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!

6. Produce Good. 1 Cor 15:10; Eph 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. **1 Peter 4:10** As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

7. Things. 1 Peter 3:7

You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

D. Dying Grace. Ps 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. 3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

E. Surpassing Grace. Eph 2:4-7

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

2. God is extremely gracious to His creation, for the purpose of repentance. 2 Pet 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. **2 Pet 3:14-15** Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be

found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, 15 and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

3. God accepts our prayer requests for grace, up to a point. Psalms are loaded. (He knows when we are just trying to use Him) Exo 34:6-7

Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; 7 who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

4. We are not to push His grace through flagrant and unchecked sin. Rom 6:1-2

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? **Heb 10:29-31** How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." 31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Arrogance quickly gets the Lord's attention. James 4:6

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

5. Believers, saved by grace through faith, can still function like unbelievers. It is known as:

A. "Falling from grace," indicating to "drift off course" into the realm of legalism. Gal 5:4

You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

B. "Failing to appreciate and accept grace." Heb 12:15

See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

C. "Uncircumcision of heart," referring to arrogance. Lev 26:41-42

I also was acting with hostility against them, to bring them into the land of their enemies — or if their uncircumcised heart becomes humbled so that they then make amends for their iniquity, 42 then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember also My covenant with Isaac, and My covenant with Abraham as well, and I will remember the land.

D. "Lukewarmness," referring to a general apathy toward the things of God. Rev 3:15-16

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. 16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.

E. "Being an "enemy of the cross," referring to being worldly minded. Phil 3:17-19

Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. 18 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

F. "Carnality," referring to being out of fellowship with God due to sin in one's life. 1 Cor 3:1-3

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, 3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

G. "Immaturity," referring to one who never spiritually grows up. Luke 8:11-15

"Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God. 12 "Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved. 13 "Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away. 14 "The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity. 15 "But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.

6. Believers, saved by grace through faith, are still capable of committing grievous and numerable sins. Gal 5:19-21

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **Col 3:5** Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. **1 Pet 2:1-3** Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, 2 like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, 3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

A. It will not cost eternal salvation. 2 Tim 2:13 et al

- B. It will cost eternal rewards. Gal 5:21
- C. Believers will still need God's Grace. Col 2:6

7. **Believers, saved by grace through faith, can still choose to reject God's Word.**

- A. Rejection of God's Word through refusal to learn it.
John 14:15,22,23
- B. Rejection of God's Word through selfishly distorting it.
Acts 20:28-32

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. 32 "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

C. **Rejection of God's Word through refusal to live it. Jas 1:21-25**

Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. 22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; 24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. 25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

8. **Believers can actually descend into evil when they begin seeking the wrong goals. Rev 2:18-29**

"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this: 19 'I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first. 20 'But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 'I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. 22 'Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. 23 'And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. 24 'But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not

known the deep things of Satan, as they call them — I place no other burden on you. 25 'Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come. 26 ' He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; 27 AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father; 28 and I will give him the morning star. 29 ' He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

A. Sinful Reaction to Circumstances. Gal 5:19-21

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

B. Sinful Search for Happiness. 1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever. **Jas 4:3-4** You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

C. The Circumstances Intensify. (The momentary gratification is not producing the long-term desired results). Jas 1:13-15

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

D. The Soul Emotionally Revolts. (Driven by lusts.) Rom 1:22-25

Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them. 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

E. Widespread Rejection of God. Matt 6:19-24

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there

will your heart be also. 22 "The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. 23 "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

F. Scar Tissue Develops. 1 Tim 4:1-5

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, 3 men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods, which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth. 4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with gratitude; 5 for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.

G. Values Reverse. Isa 5:18-23

Woe to those who drag iniquity with the cords of falsehood, And sin as if with cart ropes; 19 Who say, "Let Him make speed, let Him hasten His work, that we may see it; And let the purpose of the Holy One of Israel draw near And come to pass, that we may know it!" 20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! 21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And clever in their own sight! 22 Woe to those who are heroes in drinking wine, And valiant men in mixing strong drink; 23 Who justify the wicked for a bribe, And take away the rights of the ones who are in the right!

9. Discipline: Judgment is due all sin. Rom 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

When Grace Runs Out: The Rule(s). The Rebellion. The Rebuke. The Response. The Removal.

Discipline can refer to either (1) punishment, (2) instruction, or (3) self-control. Here we are considering the punishment aspect that include suffering, pain, or loss that serves as retribution; a penalty inflicted on an offender through judicial procedure; or severe, rough, or disastrous treatment.

A. Sin is sin and demands punishment. Rom 2:11-13

For there is no partiality with God. 12 For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law; 13 for it is not the hearers of the Law who are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified.

B. All mankind are sinners facing punishment. Rom 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

C. If only for the inherited sin of Adam. Rom 5:12-14

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned — 13 for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over

those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

D. Jesus Christ was the Substitute for mankind to bear their deserved punishment. John 1:29

The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

E. Those who do not accept the Substitute have chosen the penalty. John 3:36

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

F. Unbelievers who never accept Jesus Christ can expect punishment as a warning. If there is no repentance the warnings will be intensified which will be followed by a final physical destruction only to enter eternal discipline in the Lake of Fire. Rev 20:11-15 (Physical death is when grace runs out for the unbeliever.)

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. **2 Pet 2:9** then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

G. Believers can also face punishment as a warning which can intensify and lead to the "Sin Unto Death" if not corrected. 1 John 5:16-17

If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this. 17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not leading to death.

H. God's desire is that all come to Him without the need of punishment. 1 Tim 2:1-4

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. **2 Pet 3:7-9** But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of

ungodly men. 8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

I. God's discipline comes from His love. Prov 3:5-12

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and turn away from evil. 8 It will be healing to your body, And refreshment to your bones. 9 Honor the Lord from your wealth, And from the first of all your produce; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine. 11 My son, do not reject the discipline of the Lord, Or loathe His reproof, 12 For whom the Lord loves He reproveth, Even as a father, the son in whom he delights. **Rev 3:18-21** I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see. 19 'Those whom I love, I reprove and **discipline**; be zealous therefore, and repent. 20 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.

J. Discipline actually directs life. Prov 6:20-24

My son, observe the commandment of your father, And do not forsake the teaching of your mother; 21 Bind them continually on your heart; Tie them around your neck. 22 When you walk about, they will guide you; When you sleep, they will watch over you; And when you awake, they will talk to you. 23 For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light; And reproofs for **discipline** are the way of life, 24 To keep you from the evil woman, From the smooth tongue of the adulteress.

K. Those who want true knowledge desire discipline to guide them. Prov 12:1

Whoever loves **discipline** loves knowledge, But he who hates reproof is stupid. **Psa 7**

O Lord my God, in You I have taken refuge; Save me from all those who pursue me, and deliver me, 2 Or he will tear my soul like a lion, Dragging me away, while there is none to deliver. 3 O Lord my God, if I have done this, If there is injustice in my hands, 4 If I have rewarded evil to my friend, Or have plundered him who without cause was my adversary, 5 Let the enemy pursue my soul and overtake it; And let him trample my life down to the ground And lay my glory in the dust. Selah.

6 Arise, O Lord, in Your anger; Lift up Yourself against the rage of my adversaries, And arouse Yourself for me; You have appointed judgment. 7 Let the assembly of the peoples encompass You, And over them return on high. 8 The Lord judges the peoples; Vindicate me, O Lord, according to my righteousness and my integrity that is in me. 9 O let the evil of the

wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous; For the righteous God tries the hearts and minds.

10 My shield is with God, Who saves the upright in heart. 11 God is a righteous judge, And a God who has indignation every day. 12 If a man does not repent, He will sharpen His sword; He has bent His bow and made it ready. 13 He has also prepared for Himself deadly weapons; He makes His arrows fiery shafts. 14 Behold, he travails with wickedness, And he conceives mischief and brings forth falsehood. 15 He has dug a pit and hollowed it out, And has fallen into the hole which he made. 16 His mischief will return upon his own head, And his violence will descend upon his own pate. 17 I will give thanks to the Lord according to His righteousness And will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High.

L. To hate correction from the Lord is to detest His promises. Psa 50:16-21

But to the wicked God says, "What right have you to tell of My statutes, And to take My covenant in your mouth? 17 "For you hate **discipline**, And you cast My words behind you. 18 "When you see a thief, you are pleased with him, And you associate with adulterers. 19 "You let your mouth loose in evil, And your tongue frames deceit. 20 "You sit and speak against your brother; You slander your own mother's son. 21 "These things you have done, and I kept silence; You thought that I was just like you; I will reprove you, and state the case in order before your eyes.

M. Believers receive discipline for sin(s) to train them in order to grow up spiritually. 2 Tim 3:16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. **Heb 5:12-14** For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

N. Discipline is needed to win the race of life. Heb 12:1-17

Book of Hebrews outline point 3.

Final Plea For Persevering Faith. (11:1-12:29)

A. Examples Of Past Heroes Of The Faith. (11:1-40)

B. Encouragement For Persevering Faith. (12:1-11)

Heb 12:1 = The Exhortation to Run the Race.

C.T. = Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Heb 12:2 = How to Win.

C.T. = fixing our eyes into Jesus, the author and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, thinking lightly of the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of the God.

Heb 12:3 = How to Persevere.

C.T. = For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and your souls faint.

Heb 12:4 = The Personal Enemy.

C.T. = you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;

Heb 12:5 = The Divine Assistance.

And you have forgotten (**Perf Pas Ind EKLANTHANW = 1x; to totally escape notice; usually looks at a willful choice to forget**) the exhortation (**PARAKL8SIS**) which is addressed (**Pres Mid Ind DIALEGW**) to you as sons,

"My son, do not regard lightly (**M8 + Pres Act Imp OLIGWREW = 1x; to regard as little, despise**) the discipline (**PAIDEIA = 6x; to train children, instruction, correction, discipline, looks at the whole learning process;4 of 6x in this context**) of the Lord, nor faint (**Pres Mid Imp EKL UW = 6x**) when you are reprov'd (**Pres Pas Ptc ELEGCHW = 17x; reprove, convict, rebuke, "expose" a fault**) by Him;

C.T. = and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "My son, do not regard lightly the training of the Lord, nor faint when you are reprov'd (exposed) by Him;

The writer pulls the importance of Proverbs into the letter (Prov 3:1-12) to teach us things that we should not forget. In view is a word of encouragement and a warning against viewing what the Lord has in store for us lightly. (see of no value-blow it off) An important part of the training is spiritual exercise. (Heb 5:14) Because scripture is "God-breathed" it is necessary for this training. (2 Tim 3:16)

Characteristics of Discipline/Training

Heb 12:6 = Training is a Function of Love.

C.T. = for those whom the Lord loves He trains, and He disciplines every son whom He receives."

Heb 12:7 = Training Teaches Endurance.

C.T. = it is for training that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not train?

Heb 12:8 = God is Consistent.

C.T. = but if you are without training, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

Heb 12:9 = Training is the Road To Life.

C.T. = Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to train us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the father of spirits and live?

Heb 12:10 = Training is for Spiritual Profit.

C.T. = for they trained us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He trains us for our profit, that we may share His holiness.

Heb 12:11 = Training Leads to True Peace.

C.T. = all training for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been exercised by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Heb 12:12 = Applications.

C.T. = Therefore, lift up the hands that are hanging down and the knees that are feeble,

Heb 12:13 = Seek Healing.

C.T. = and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put of joint, but rather be cured.

Heb 12:14 = Evangelize.

C.T. = pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

Heb 12:15 = Focus on Grace.

C.T. = seeing to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no growing root of bitterness may affect a crowd, and by it many be defiled.

Heb 12:16 = Deal With Immorality and Godlessness.

C.T. = that there be no immoral or profane person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.

Heb 12:17 = The Importance Of Repentance.

C.T. = for you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

10. Not even God's people are immune from destruction. Deut 29:22-28

"Now the generation to come, your sons who rise up after you and the foreigner who comes from a distant land, when they see the plagues of the land and the diseases with which the Lord has afflicted it, will say, 23 'All its land is brimstone and salt, a burning waste, unsown and unproductive, and no grass grows in it, like the **overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah**, Admah and Zeboiim, which the Lord overthrew in His anger and in His wrath.' 24 "And all the nations shall say, 'Why has the Lord done thus to this land? Why this great outburst of anger?' 25 "Then men shall say, 'Because they forsook the covenant of the Lord, the God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt. 26 'And they went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they have not known and whom He had not allotted to them. 27 'Therefore, the anger of the Lord burned against that land, to bring upon it every curse which is written in this book; 28 and the Lord uprooted them from their land in anger and in fury and in great wrath, and cast them into another land, as it is this day.'

- A. Sodom pictures the root of the problem and Gomorrah pictures the fruit of the problem, for any nation. Deut 32:28-33**
 "For they are a nation lacking in counsel, And there is no understanding in them. 29 "Would that they were wise, that they understood this, That they would discern their future! 30 "How could one chase a thousand, And two put ten thousand to flight, Unless their Rock had sold them, And the Lord had given them up? 31 "Indeed their rock is not like our Rock, Even our enemies themselves judge this. 32 "For their vine is from the vine of **Sodom**, And from the fields of **Gomorrah**; Their grapes are grapes of poison, Their clusters, bitter. 33 "Their wine is the venom of serpents, And the deadly poison of cobras.
- B. Five Cycles of Discipline are prescribed for God's Chosen People. Lev 26**
- 1. Promises of Blessing. Lev 26:1-13**
(Condition 1=No Idolatry.) You shall not make for yourselves idols, nor shall you set up for yourselves an image or a sacred pillar, nor shall you place a figured stone in your land to bow down to it; for I am the Lord your God. 2 **(Condition 2= Reverence)** 'You shall keep My sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary; I am the Lord. 3 **(Condition 3= obedience to all commands)** 'If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments so as to carry them out, 4 **then (blessing 1 = good food)** I shall give you rains in their season, so that the land will yield its produce and the trees of the field will bear their fruit. 5 'Indeed, your threshing will last for you until grape gathering, and grape gathering will last until sowing time. You will thus eat your food to the full and live securely in your land. 6 **(blessing 2 = internal peace)** 'I shall also grant peace in the land, so that you may lie down with no one making you tremble. I shall also eliminate harmful beasts from the land, and no sword will pass through your land. 7 **(blessing 3 = military victory)** 'But you will chase your enemies and they will fall before you by the sword; 8 five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall before you by the sword. 9 **(blessing 4 = more blessing)** 'So I will turn toward you and make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will confirm My covenant with you. 10 'You will eat the old supply and clear out the old because of the new. 11 **(blessing 5 = divine fellowship)** 'Moreover, I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you. 12 'I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people. 13 **(Divine credentials)** 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so that you would not be their slaves, and I broke the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.
- 2. First Cycle of Discipline. Lev 26:14-20**
(Disease, agricultural decline, fear)

14 'But **if** you **do not obey Me and do not carry out all these commandments**, 15 if, instead, you reject My statutes, and if your soul abhors My ordinances so as not to carry out all My commandments, and so break My covenant, 16 I, in turn, will do this to you: (**implied “then”**) I will appoint over you a sudden terror, consumption and fever that will waste away the eyes and cause the soul to pine away; also, you will sow your seed uselessly, for your enemies will eat it up. 17 'I will set My face against you so that you will be struck down before your enemies; and those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee when no one is pursuing you.

3. Second Cycle of Discipline. Lev 26:18-20
(Intensification, loss of reputation, famine, further agricultural decline.)

'If also after these things you **do not obey Me**, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. 19 'I will also break down your pride of power; I will also make your sky like iron and your earth like bronze. 20 'Your strength will be spent uselessly, for your land will not yield its produce and the trees of the land will not yield their fruit.

4. Third Cycle of Discipline. Lev 26:21-22
(intensification of plague, wild animal attacks)

'If then, you **act with hostility against Me** and are **unwilling to obey Me**, I will increase the plague on you seven times according to your sins. 22 'I will let loose among you the beasts of the field, which will bereave you of your children and destroy your cattle and reduce your number so that your roads lie deserted.

5. Fourth Cycle of Discipline. Lev 26:23-26
(intensification, military losses, disease, enemy occupation, agricultural destruction)

'And **if by these things you are not turned to Me**, but **act with hostility against Me**, 24 then I will act with hostility against you; and I, even I, will strike you seven times for your sins. 25 'I will also bring upon you a sword which will execute vengeance for the covenant; and when you gather together into your cities, I will send pestilence among you, so that you shall be delivered into enemy hands. 26 'When I break your staff of bread, ten women will bake your bread in one oven, and they will bring back your bread in rationed amounts, so that you will eat and not be satisfied.

6. Fifth Cycle of Discipline. Lev 26:27-33
(more intensification, 4x7, cannibalism, destruction of idols, death, destruction of cities, stop listening to prayers, desolation, occupation by enemy, dispersion)

'Yet if in spite of this you **do not obey Me, but act with hostility against Me**, 28 then I will act with wrathful hostility against you, and I, even I, will punish you seven times for your sins. 29 'Further, you will eat the flesh of your sons and the flesh of your daughters you

will eat. 30 'I then will destroy your high places, and cut down your incense **altars**, and heap your remains on the remains of your idols, for My soul shall abhor you. 31 'I will lay waste your cities as well and will make your sanctuaries desolate, and I will not smell your soothing aromas. 32 'I will make the land desolate so that your enemies who settle in it will be appalled over it. 33 'You, however, I will scatter among the nations and will draw out a sword after you, as your land becomes desolate and your cities become waste.

7. Reason and Extent of the Discipline. Lev 26:34-39

'Then the land will enjoy its sabbaths all the days of the desolation, while you are in your enemies' land; then the land will rest and enjoy its sabbaths. **(happened to Israel 586-516 B.C.)** 35 'All the days of its desolation it will observe the rest which it did not observe on your sabbaths, while you were living on it. 36 'As for those of you who may be left, I will also bring weakness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies. **(an enforced humility instead of voluntary)** And the sound of a driven leaf will chase them, and even when no one is pursuing they will flee as though from the sword, and they will fall. **(Rampant and unbridled fear)** 37 'They will therefore stumble over each other as if running from the sword, although no one is pursuing; and you will have no strength to stand up before your enemies. **(no love for one another nor courage)** 38 'But you will perish among the nations, and your enemies' land will consume you. **(those who didn't repent)** 39 ' So those of you who may be left will rot away because of their iniquity in the lands of your enemies; and also because of the iniquities of their forefathers they will rot away with them. **(this is national discipline meted out individually. There is a remnant of the righteous.)**

8. Yet, grace. Lev 26:40-45

If they **confess** their iniquity **and** the iniquity of their forefathers, in their unfaithfulness which they committed against Me, and also in their acting with hostility against Me — 41 I also was acting with hostility against them, to bring them into the land of their enemies — or if their uncircumcised heart becomes humbled so that they then make amends for their iniquity, 42 then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember also My covenant with Isaac, and My covenant with Abraham as well, and I will remember the land. 43 'For the land will be abandoned by them, and will make up for its sabbaths while it is made desolate without them. They, meanwhile, will be making amends for their iniquity, because they rejected My ordinances and their soul abhorred My statutes. 44 'Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them, nor will I so abhor them as to destroy them, breaking My covenant with them; for I am the Lord their God. 45 'But I will remember for them the covenant with their ancestors, whom I

brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God. I am the Lord."

(Sounds impossible. It is. Time to plead for grace and mercy.)

11. The Pattern of Destruction.

A. Rule(s). Rom 4:15-16

(Albert Einstein once said, "You have to learn the rules of the game and then learn to play better than anyone else." The Godmade ones are the supreme law, the manmade ones are subordinate.)

for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there violation. **Rom 5:12-14** Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned 13 for until the Law sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

B. Rebellion. Rom 2:5-14

(Mental-Overt. Can be active or passive. From not putting energy into obedience and the law of spiritual entropy setting in. The penalties are swifter and more destructive for active rebellion. Rebellion is in all people, either rebellion against righteousness or rebellion against the Sin Nature. Alice Cooper, "Drinking beer is easy. Trashing your hotel room is easy. But being a Christian, that's a tough call. That's rebellion.)

But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who will render to every man according to his deeds: 7 to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; 8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. 9 There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, 10 but glory and honor and peace to every man who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 11 For there is no partiality with God. 12 For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law; and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law; 13 for not the hearers of the Law are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified.

C. Rebuke. Deut 28:45-46

(It has been said, "A winner in life righteously rebukes and forgives. A loser is too timid to rebuke and too petty to forgive." God sets the standard. Many times children push until they get a verbal rebuke in a certain tone. To "rebuke" is to cut, often with speech, but can include a look or even a written word. It is what pastors are called to do {2 Tim 4:1-2}. It is to be done out of love {Rev 3:19}. It can be instantaneous or over a period of time. Rebuke for sin is immediate to a mature believer. Rebuke begins discipline. Not an issue of

whether it is known or not. Rebuke involves sin. If it is not known it should be.)

So all these curses shall come on you and pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed, because you would not obey the Lord your God by keeping His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.

Heb 12:25-29

See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less shall we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven. 26 And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven." 27 And this expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, in order that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

D. Response.

1. Hardening. Heb 3:7-11

Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 Where your fathers tried Me by testing Me, And saw My works for forty years. 10 "Therefore I was angry with this generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart; And they did not know My ways'; 11 As I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'"

2. Adjustment. (Recognition, Repentance, Renewal)

a. Loss of love. Rev 2:5-6 (Ephesus)

'Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you, and will remove your lampstand out of its place — unless you repent.

b. Compromise with evil. Rev 2:16-17 (Pergamum)

'Repent therefore; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.

c. Immorality. Rev 2:21-22 (Thyatira)

'And I gave her time to repent; and she does not want to repent of her immorality.

d. Spiritual deadness. Rev 3:3 (Sardis)

'Remember therefore what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent.

e. Worldliness. Rev 3:19-20 (Laodicea)

'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent.

E. Removal.

Keeping the rules will not save eternally but it will deliver temporally. This is where a lot of the confusion is. People focus on the here and now salvation and do not distinguish the eternal.

1. God's grace is extensive and deep. Jer 18:5-12

Then the word of the Lord came to me saying, 6 "Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter does?" declares the Lord. "Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel. 7 "At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it; 8 if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. 9 "Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant it; 10 if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it. 11 "So now then, speak to the men of Judah and against the inhabitants of Jerusalem saying, 'Thus says the Lord, "Behold, I am fashioning calamity against you and devising a plan against you. Oh turn back, each of you from his evil way, and reform your ways and your deeds. "'12 "But they will say, 'It's hopeless! For we are going to follow our own plans, and each of us will act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.'

2. His love flows through it. Eph 3:14-21

For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fulness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

3. One day it will run out for unrepentant mankind.

Rev 19:11-16 (Failure to righteously respond.)

And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head are many diadems; and He has a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 And He is clothed with

a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

12. **Specific Reasons for Running out of Grace. Deut 6**

A. Failure to obey. Deut 6:1-3

"Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, 2 so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. 3 O Israel, you should listen and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

B. Failure to Love the Lord. Deut 6:4-5

4 "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! 5 "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

C. Failure to Consciously know His will. Deut 6:6

And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart;

D. Failure to Teach His values to your children. Deut 6:7-9

and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. 8 And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 9 And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

E. Failure to Value your redemption. Deut 6:10-12

10 "Then it shall come about when the Lord your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, 11 and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you shall eat and be satisfied, 12 then watch yourself, lest you forget the Lord who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

F. Failure to worship Him alone. Deut 6:13-15

You shall fear only the Lord your God; and you shall worship Him, and swear by His name. 14 You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you, 15 for the Lord your God in the midst of

you is a jealous God; otherwise the anger of the Lord your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you off the face of the earth.

G. Failure to trust Him. Deut 6:16-17

16 "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested Him at Massah. 17 You should diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and His testimonies and His statutes which He has commanded you.

H. Failure to properly fight His enemies. Deut 6:18-19

And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, that it may be well with you and that you may go in and possess the good land which the Lord swore to give your fathers, 19 by driving out all your enemies from before you, as the Lord has spoken.

I. Failure to testify of His Integrity. Deut 6:20-25

"When your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What do the testimonies and the statutes and the judgments mean which the Lord our God commanded you?' 21 then you shall say to your son,' We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt; and the Lord brought us from Egypt with a mighty hand. 22 'Moreover, the Lord showed great and distressing signs and wonders before our eyes against Egypt, Pharaoh and all his household; 23 and He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, to give us the land which He had sworn to our fathers.' 24 "So the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God for our good always and for our survival, as it is today. 25 And it will be righteousness for us if we are careful to observe all this commandment before the Lord our God, just as He commanded us.

13. Major Judgments of History:

**A. The Man and Woman in the Garden. Gen 3 (3960 B.C.)
(Rules, Rebellion, Rebuke, Response, Removal)**

The penalty was prescribed and known. Gen 2:15-17

Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. 16 The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

**B. The Flood on all mankind. Gen 6-8; Gen 6:5-8 (2300 B.C.)
(Rules, Rebellion, Rebuke, Response, Removal)**

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 The Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. **2 Pet 2:4-5** For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient

world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

C. Sodom and Gomorrah which would become the standard of destruction of a people and nation that did not destroy the earth. Gen 18-19; 2 Pet 2:6 (1851 B.C.)

and if He condemned the cities of **Sodom** and **Gomorrah** to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter; 7 and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men. **Jude 6-7** And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day. 7 Just as **Sodom** and **Gomorrah** and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example, in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

D. Canaanites. (1405-1399 B.C.) Joshua

E. Northern Kingdom. (721 B.C.) following other gods.

F. Assyria. 705 B.C.

G. Southern Kingdom. (586 B.C.) playing spiritual games.

H. Babylon. (516 B.C.) Anti-Jew sentiment.

I. Persia.

J. Greece.

K. Rome. Decadence.

L. Prophetical Babylon. They will undergo destruction similar to Sodom and Gomorrah. Isa 13:19-20

And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew **Sodom** and **Gomorrah**. 20 It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation; Nor will the Arab pitch his tent there, Nor will shepherds make their flocks lie down there. **Jer 50:39-40** "Therefore the desert creatures will live there along with the jackals; The ostriches also will live in it, And it will never again be inhabited Or dwelt in from generation to generation. 40 "As when God overthrew **Sodom** And **Gomorrah** with its neighbors," declares the Lord, "No man will live there, Nor will any son of man reside in it.

M. Israel of the last days will repeat their mistakes. Rev 11:7-8

And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called **Sodom** and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

N. The Moabites and Ammonites of the last days will one day receive massive discipline for their sins against Israel. Zeph 2:7-11

And the coast will be For the remnant of the house of Judah, They will pasture on it. In the houses of Ashkelon they will lie down at evening; For the Lord their God will care for them And restore their fortune. 8 "I have heard the taunting of Moab And the revilings of the sons of Ammon, With

which they have taunted My people And become arrogant against their territory. 9 "Therefore, as I live," declares the Lord of hosts, The God of Israel, "Surely Moab will be like **Sodom**, And the sons of Ammon like **Gomorrah** — A place possessed by nettles and salt pits, And a perpetual desolation. The remnant of My people will plunder them, And the remainder of My nation will inherit them." 10 This they will have in return for their pride, because they have taunted and become arrogant against the people of the Lord of hosts. 11 The Lord will be terrifying to them, for He will starve all the gods of the earth; and all the coastlands of the nations will bow down to Him, everyone from his own place.

O. Prophetic Edom will one day be utterly destroyed like Sodom and Gomorrah. Jer 49:17-19

"And Edom will become an object of horror; everyone who passes by it will be horrified and will hiss at all its wounds. 18 "Like the overthrow of **Sodom** and **Gomorrah** with its neighbors," says the Lord, "No one will live there, nor will a son of man reside in it.

14. Principles Gleaned from Sodom and Gomorrah.

A. Flagrant sin challenges the Lord. Isa 3:8-11

For Jerusalem has stumbled, and Judah has fallen, Because their speech and their actions are against the Lord, To rebel against His glorious presence. 9 The expression of their faces bears witness against them. And they display their sin like **Sodom**; They do not even conceal it. Woe to them! For they have brought evil on themselves. 10 Say to the righteous that it will go well with them, For they will eat the fruit of their actions. 11 Woe to the wicked! It will go badly with him, For what he deserves will be done to him.

B. Sacrifices alone will not calm the Lord's discipline. Isa 1:9-11

Unless the Lord of hosts Had left us a few survivors, We would be like **Sodom**, We would be like **Gomorrah**. 10 Hear the word of the Lord, You rulers of **Sodom**; Give ear to the instruction of our God, You people of **Gomorrah**. 11 "What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?" Says the Lord. "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams, And the fat of fed cattle. And I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs, or goats.

C. Immorality, dishonesty and promotion of evil pollute the land and make it worthy of destruction. Jer 23:13-15

"Moreover, among the prophets of Samaria I saw an offensive thing: They prophesied by Baal and led My people Israel astray. 14 "Also among the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrible thing: The committing of adultery and walking in falsehood; And they strengthen the hands of evildoers, So that no one has turned back from his wickedness. All of them have become to Me like **Sodom**, And her inhabitants like **Gomorrah**. 15 "Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts concerning the prophets, 'Behold, I am going to feed them wormwood And make them drink poisonous water, For from the prophets of Jerusalem Pollution has gone forth into all the land.'"

D. Being one of God's people gets an extension of grace, but does not guarantee removal of discipline. Lam 4:6

For the iniquity of the daughter of my people Is greater than the sin of **Sodom**, Which was overthrown as in a moment, And no hands were turned toward her.

E. Generational cycles of sin need to be broken. Ezek 16:44-59

"Behold, everyone who quotes proverbs will quote this proverb concerning you, saying, 'Like mother, like daughter.' 45 "You are the daughter of your mother, who loathed her husband and children. You are also the sister of your sisters, who loathed their husbands and children. Your mother was a Hittite and your father an Amorite. 46 "Now your older sister is Samaria, who lives north of you with her daughters; and your younger sister, who lives south of you, is **Sodom** with her daughters. 47 "Yet you have not merely walked in their ways or done according to their abominations; but, as if that were too little, you acted more corruptly in all your conduct than they. 48 "As I live," declares the Lord God, "**Sodom**, your sister, and her daughters, have not done as you and your daughters have done. 49 "Behold, this was the guilt of your sister **Sodom**: she and her daughters had arrogance, abundant food, and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy. 50 "Thus they were haughty and committed abominations before Me. Therefore I removed them when I saw it. 51 "Furthermore, Samaria did not commit half of your sins, for you have multiplied your abominations more than they. Thus you have made your sisters appear righteous by all your abominations which you have committed. 52 "Also bear your disgrace in that you have made judgment favorable for your sisters. Because of your sins in which you acted more abominably than they, they are more in the right than you. Yes, be also ashamed and bear your disgrace, in that you made your sisters appear righteous. 53 "Nevertheless, I will restore their captivity, the captivity of **Sodom** and her daughters, the captivity of Samaria and her daughters, and along with them your own captivity, 54 in order that you may bear your humiliation, and feel ashamed for all that you have done when you become a consolation to them. 55 "And your sisters, **Sodom** with her daughters and Samaria with her daughters, will return to their former state, and you with your daughters will also return to your former state. 56 "As the name of your sister **Sodom** was not heard from your lips in your day of pride, 57 before your wickedness was uncovered, so now you have become the reproach of the daughters of Edom, and of all who are around her, of the daughters of the Philistines — those surrounding you who despise you. 58 "You have borne the penalty of your lewdness and abominations," the Lord declares. 59 For thus says the Lord God, "I will also do with you as you have done, you who have despised the oath by breaking the covenant.

F. Some people just won't understand. Amos 4:10-12

"I sent a plague among you after the manner of Egypt; I slew your young men by the sword along with your captured horses, And I made the stench

of your camp rise up in your nostrils; Yet you have not returned to Me," declares the Lord. 11 "I overthrew you as God overthrew **Sodom** and **Gomorrah**, And you were like a firebrand snatched from a blaze; Yet you have not returned to Me," declares the Lord. 12 "Therefore, thus I will do to you, O Israel; Because I shall do this to you, Prepare to meet your God, O Israel."

G. Rapid discipline can be a sign of grace. Matt 10:14-15

"And whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake off the dust of your feet. 15 "Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of **Sodom** and **Gomorrah** in the day of judgment, than for that city. (**Rapid destruction vs. a slow one. One hour of one day is grace compared to years of hardship.**) Luke 10:10-13 "But whatever city you enter and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, 11 'Even the dust of your city which clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you; yet be sure of this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' 12 "I say to you, it will be more tolerable in that day for **Sodom**, than for that city.

H. To whom much is given, much is required. Matt 11:23-24

"And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You shall descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in **Sodom** which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. 24 "Nevertheless I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of **Sodom** in the day of judgment, than for you." Luke 12:47-48 "And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, shall receive many lashes, 48 but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. And from everyone who has been given much shall much be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

I. Those who seek to keep their life shall lose it. Luke 17:28-34

"It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; 29 but on the day that Lot went out from **Sodom** it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 "It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed. 31 "On that day, let not the one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house go down to take them away; and likewise let not the one who is in the field turn back. 32 "Remember Lot's wife. 33 "Whoever seeks to keep his life shall lose it, and whoever loses his life shall preserve it.

J. Spiritually mature people recognize God's grace. Rom 9:27-29
(Isaiah knew the Lord's grace to Israel.)

And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, it is the remnant that will be saved; 28 for the Lord will execute His word upon the earth, thoroughly and quickly." 29 And just as Isaiah foretold, "Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left to us a posterity, We would have become as **Sodom**, and would have resembled **Gomorrah**."

K. God knows how to rescue the godly and discipline the unrighteous. 2 Pet 2:6-11

and if He condemned the cities of **Sodom** and **Gomorrah** to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly thereafter; 7 and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men 8 (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day with their lawless deeds), 9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties,