

Chapter 8

- 8:1 All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do,
that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers.
- 8:2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness,
to humble thee, and to prove thee,
to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.
- 8:3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not,
neither did thy fathers know;
that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only,
but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.
- 8:4 Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.
- 8:5 Thou shalt also consider in thine heart,
that, *as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee.*
thought: *This reveals a certain very serious consideration in our way of understanding God . . . collective, unitary discipline. We might read this to mean that each of the individual members of the congregation was subject to chastening by God . . . but, in this passage, I feel that the LORD is referring to the entire collection of the children of Israel. Herein, it is Israel that is the child that is chastened by God. This is important to you this reason: at many times, you have read specific accounts of situations in which certain individuals, or groups, of the children of Israel were killed for their actions; this needs to be considered broadly.*
In each such event, there is this was chastisement that served to notify the nation of Israel, collectively, as a unitary child of God; so that, each portion, and member, would vigilantly follow the will and ways of God . . . and do so, not just because He is a strict Father, but because He also knows what is best for the nation as a whole. The message is, too, to those factions of the nation that do not follow the will of God, and, thus, would jeopardize the promise that was given to the whole; that, these things will be eliminated, in order to preserve the remainder, as it continued walking righteously in the task that God set for them to do. Thereby, history will announce the best practices that are available in walking toward obtaining the promise that God has given; as needs to be done for any being--whether it is an individual or a group--for it to perceive the best of its blessing. And so, too, it is with us, today; in what is called, the church.
- 8:6 Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.
- 8:7 For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land,
a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills;
- 8:8 A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey;
- 8:9 A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it;
a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.
- 8:10 When thou hast eaten and art full,
then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.
- 8:11 Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God,
in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:
- 8:12 Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein;
- 8:13 And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;

8:14 Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;
8:15 Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;
8:16 Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;
8:17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.
8:18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God:
for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth,
that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

8:19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them,

I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.

question: *But, what, then, would be the disposition of the promise to give the land to Abraham's descendants?*

In that case, it is still operative, in the absolute . . . however . . . if the descendants of Abraham walk away from God, they will have signed, and executed, their own societal death warrant; activated as a trigger of a condition that was set in the contract of the LORD'S promise. It is the hand of God upon the children of Israel that allows the congregation to exist, conquer, and prosper: but, once they have chosen to remove the hand of God from them, and to walk in their own way; then, they will lose all that God has given them. For, no man can hold onto the grace of God, except he has the help of God, causing that man to do so. This grace is given with great power; and, after the giving of it, it will need great Power to sustain it, from moment to moment. Without God, the power will dissipate, of natural courses: not, because God performs a specific act, at that time, to will it; but, rather, because the backsliders have no more power to stand, and prevent the chaos that is presently waiting for the opportunity to disassemble them and steal their progress. This will be that judgment upon them which does not even require the intervention of God. The LORD will not have to destroy them; automatically, they will start to unravel, and begin to cease to exist.

Extreme care and consideration toward the Most High God is required of Israel; so that, it will not, ever, turn the congregational backside to--in backsliding from--the LORD, as would occur in any misguided favoritism to anyone, or anything, else . . . including, themselves . . .

8:20 As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face,
so shall ye perish;
because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God.