

# Proverbs 19:18

Sunday 2/12/2017

Today, I want to turn to Proverbs chapter 19. We are going to focus on one verse today, which I think is a very important verse. We are a very young church, and that is always a good thing. Most churches you find are usually built right next to a cemetery. That is because most of the people are eighty or ninety, and it is just a short hop over the fence to put them in the ground. But God has blessed us here with something that is a phenomenon today. Everybody who comes through our church—the pastors, people who really know the ministry and know how it works—they marvel at the fact of how many young couples and young people we have in our church. When I speak of young, I am talking about people fifty, sixty, and down. You are still considered young at that point, but it is a phenomenon today.

Most young couples are in divorce court, and most of them are having all kinds of problems. Most young men and ladies that are in our singles area do not care about going to church anywhere. God has blessed us. People continually get married and have kids. We have women who have just been married, and they are going to have their first baby. I have been told that there are a couple of you couples out there that are thinking about having a baby, and that is a great thing. It is just a natural thing where our churches have a lot of children. But with having children comes a tremendous responsibility.

We talk about the seven stages of spiritual growth, and the key stage as you grow up is the father stage. The father stage, spiritually speaking, is that point in your life where you begin to take responsibility in a major way. Your life is no longer your own. You now disciple people, you invest in people, you put all of the things in people's worlds that you take from yourself and you give to others. That is basically what happens in a physical sense when you have your first child. Your life is over as you once knew it. It is. The more children you have, the more "over" your life gets. It is not only an emotional drain, but it is a financial drain. Then you have all the responsibility to teach them everything.

As a father, I tried to, and I was not the best father in the world; I would be the first one to tell you that. Ask my kids; they will tell you. But I tried. I remember I bought them their first car. I remember I bought Kelly's. I thought it was important for a girl to know how to drive a stick shift. I just think that is vital. I mean, that is right up there with handling a .357 Magnum, I think, because you never know when you are going to have to drive a stick shift. Stick shifts can be scary. I learned to drive on one. I know you get to the top of the hill, and if you do not balance that clutch and gas right, it starts to roll back. If somebody is behind you, you are going to hit them. It is a fear.

I remember I bought Kelly a little Escort. I saw it and bought it. I said, "I am going to get her her first car." It was a stick shift. She did not like it, but I said, "You are going to drive." So I took them out. I am glad it was not rabbit season because you would have been shot for sure because she was jumping all over the place. But then I finally got her to the point, and I said, "Okay, in our neighborhood, our car was up the hill. Just turn around. Just drive up there. Just go ahead over." I remember Greg McClintock was standing at my house, and we were in the house talking. I just said, "You are on your own, girl. Go ahead and go." The next thing I know, after about five

or ten minutes later, she is knocking on the front door, no car, just her. She got to the top of the hill, and she started to roll back. She panicked. So she just shut it off in the middle of the street, pulled the emergency brake on, and walked home. Long story short, to this day, she still cannot drive a stick shift.

When you become a father, there are a lot of things you start teaching your kids, a lot of responsibility. We do not usually think of Proverbs as being a book on child training, but it really is. I am going to tell you something: most of all the other places that you go, and I have sat through a lot of child training seminars, everybody knows that that is an issue for parents, so they want to make some money off of it. Everybody writes a book on it or puts a set of tapes on it: "How to Raise Your Kid" and all those things. I do not think ever in my life I have ever heard it start in Proverbs. As far as I am concerned, that is where it all starts with what is going on here.

## I. The Context of Proverbs: Israel as God's Son

First of all, I want to keep this in the context of Israel as God's son. That is how I want to look at it first. We are going to take a little time with that. Then I want to take you into the practical application of this verse of you as a father and a mother dealing with your own son or your own daughter. I think that the lessons are very good here. We will look at yet again a great set of principles in dealing with Israel and then how it relates and parallels to dealing with your own children.

Proverbs 19:18 Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

Now, let us have a word of prayer here, and we will get going.

Within the context, starting with what it is in the book of Proverbs, we want to do that first because I want to always get the right flow of things. This "chasten thy son" here will be a reference to the nation of Israel as God's son. Last week, we saw the two aspects that you want to study Israel. Well, there are really more than two, but the two main ones: Israel as God's son, after chapter four, and then we saw it as God's wife. We showed you the two different aspects of that. I also told you that when it comes to New Testament Christianity, it is pretty much the same thing. You are here, male or female, you are God's son. At the same time, male or female, you are also the bride of Christ. So there are two aspects to that, and that is a very important concept.

We understand that now, that Israel was God's son in a corporate, national way as a nation. We looked at the last couple of weeks how God was passing over their transgression because of the covenant that He made with Abraham. I gave you all this last week. But at the same time, even though He is going to pass over their transgression, He also told them that He was going to chastise them, and He was going to hold them accountable, and He was not going to let them just do whatever they wanted to do based on that covenant.

Just for the record, this chastisement that Israel was going through, or is going through, it starts from 606 BC when God kind of shuts down the kingdom of heaven to the nation of Israel, and the times of the Gentiles begin to roll in, Daniel chapter two. It goes right up into the time that we are living today, right up into the tribulation period, and then the chastisement ends at the

second coming of Christ. You need to know that. In the Bible, it says much about this chastisement. When the Bible talks about God's chastisement to Israel, there are great verses for our own understanding of our own chastisement.

I want to say this: if you are truly saved this morning, and I am not saying you are not, but if you are truly saved this morning, I want to tell you something right now: you are not going to escape the woodshed of God at some point in your life. You are just not going to do that. At some point, you and God are going to head down that little path, at least from the back door of your house, down to that little shed down there, and you are going to get a whipping. It is just that simple. So all of these things will apply to us.

*Psalms 94:12*

*Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;*

That is a great verse because it tells us that the chastisement of God then is part of God's teaching process for your life and my life. That is very important. We are going to see how this builds as we come down through here.

*Proverbs 3:11*

*My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:*

So many of God's people do that. So many of God's people, they get out of fellowship with God, they do their own thing, and then the hand of God comes down, and they have to go through chastisement, and they get an attitude about it. They get an attitude about it, don't they? I have noticed it in you many times. You get an attitude about it. That attitude takes away everything that God is trying to do.

Let me show you why you should not be weary of His correction or despise that chastisement when it comes. The other verse that would go along with this is Isaiah chapter 53 verse 5. It is talking about Christ here.

*Isaiah 53:5*

*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

Here is the concept, here is the thought: if you think for one minute that God is going to lay all of our chastisement on His Son, if you think for a second that He is going to take everything that we ever did that was wrong, that God should have put us in hell for; if you think that God is going to lay that all on His Son, you are going to take that salvation, and then you are going to live your life the way you want to, and God is not going to come down and deal with you after what His Son did for you, you are surely mistaken. So the chastisement of God is there to teach us something. It is there to bring us through some things. It helps us. Whatever I go through in life, and I know that we are all this way, and we all have things in our life that get us down and we struggle with, but no matter what we go through in life, what we should do and what we should look at is no matter what we have to go through, Christ went through much more for you and I.

So we may have to go through what we are going through, but we do not have to go through what He went through for us. When we take God's salvation, there is a responsibility that comes with that. You are going to see how this responsibility builds as we come down through here and look at the nation of Israel.

Hebrews chapter 12, verses 5 through 11, is without a doubt the definitive chapter in the Bible on God's chastisement as it relates to Israel first and then you and me second. Here is what He says:

*Hebrews 12:5-11*

*And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:*

*For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*

*If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*

*But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*

*Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?*

*For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.*

*Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

That verse right there gives you an insight into the fact that if you are truly saved, you are going to go to that woodshed. At some point in your life—in my particular case, it was probably every day of my life—but you are going to go through a chastisement because you are God's child. You are going to see the parallels here in a moment. If you endure chastening, God dealeth with you as sons, for what son is he whom the Father chasteneth not? But if you be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then you are bastards, and not sons. What He basically says here is this: if you go through your life and you claim to be a child of God and you are doing your own thing, and the hand of God's chastisement is not in your life, you are kidding yourself; you have never truly been saved. Because God says in that verse that He chasteneth every one of His sons. He says if you do not get the chastisement, then you better look at something closely in your life.

Furthermore, verse 9, here is the parallel: "Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?" There is your verse that tells you that all spirits come from God. He is the Father of spirits. You want to mark that in your Bible. We talked about that, I think, Thursday night. "For they," your mom and dad, "verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure." That does not mean that your mom and dad just got up in the morning with glee because they are going to give you a whipping. Maybe in some cases they did, but that is not what it is saying here. The pleasure here is an old English phrase talking about, you know, you

walk into someplace, and a guy says, "What is your pleasure?" In other words, "This is what you want. What do you want?" So He is basically saying that they do it after the structure of things in life of doing what is right for you. "For they, after a few days, chastened us after their own pleasure, but he," meaning God, "for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness." That is another great concept. Your chastisement that God brings into your life is not to hurt you; it is to help you. But when you get the wrong attitude about it, or you do not understand God's hand in your life, then you look at it, and that is why you despise it.

He goes on and He says, "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." What He says here is that chastisement will yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness to your life and to my life. I want you to keep that thought in mind. We are going to be coming back to that throughout our time today, so please keep that thought in your mind.

## II. Israel's Historical Chastisement

Last week, I showed you that God had given Israel—we talked about Israel as God's wife—given her a written bill of divorcement. We saw why: under the law, Deuteronomy chapter 24 and Isaiah chapter 50. We saw Israel in two lights as we want to study them, as I already said, the wife of God and then, of course, the son of God. Now God has estranged Himself from His wife, and she cannot find Him. This is why Israel cannot find God today, no matter what they do. Most people today, most Gentiles, most Christian Gentiles, have no idea how God is dealing with the nation of Israel. Of course, you find all kinds of well-meaning Christians bearing tracts and bearing Bibles in the ground, that in the tribulation, the Jew will find them and come to Christ. It is just a waste of time. The Bible says that God has estranged Himself from them, and now He has hid Himself from them.

Turn over to Matthew chapter 13. Let me show you this great concept. There are a lot of them in the Bible, but I am just going to take the time to give you one here in this particular time we are together. Of course, this is dealing with the parables. In your Bible, there are twelve parables that are given to the nation of Israel. You will find that there are thirteen, but the thirteenth one is one to the church and to the Gentiles, not to Israel. But you are going to find that there are twelve parables in Matthew that are given to the nation of Israel. They are given to the nation of Israel after Matthew chapter 12, where Israel has now made their official rejection of the King and the kingdom. So it goes into a mystery state now, which the Bible calls parables, and they cannot get a thing. But here is the one that shows you that God has hid Himself from them.

*Matthew 13:44*

*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.*

The teaching here is that the treasure, from Deuteronomy 31, Isaiah 54, Ezekiel 19, and other places, the treasure is Israel. We know that the field, Matthew chapter 13, will be the world. When you want to find the concept of "he hideth," look at Deuteronomy 31:17, Isaiah 54:8, Isaiah 45:15, Isaiah 57:17, places like that. It actually goes into greater detail on how He found

Israel, but when Israel rejected, then He hides Himself from Israel. Today, as we speak, and since 606 BC, right after the second coming of Christ, God has hid Himself from His people.

The last part of that verse says, "and let not thy soul spare for his cry." What we have is a picture here of the treasure, the nation of Israel, that God found in the field, the world. God brings them into being a nation, but they reject Him. They reject Him and they turn against Him. Now they are under the hand of God's chastisement as God's child. Any student of history will know that Israel as God's son has cried out down through history. The key and the amazing thing and the model for us is that all down through history, Israel has cried out for God. "Where is God?" They try to find God, and God has never slacked His hand of chastisement in their life. Never. Not one time has He spared for their crying. Boy, let me tell you something, they have been crying.

I guess I could start anywhere, but in 606 BC, they cried out. God had brought the nation of Israel out, and the books of the Bible are great books because the early books show how God formed up the nation of Israel. He brought Israel to a place where He put them into the kingdom and established the kingdom. But Israel went after other gods, and Israel rejected the God of Israel. So what happened in 606 BC and a little bit later on in 587 BC is that two nations came down and literally destroyed the nation of Israel. This begins the official times of the Gentiles, and this begins the official hand of God's chastisement in their life. Oh boy, when Nebuchadnezzar came down to take Jerusalem into captivity, words cannot describe what they went through, how they cried, how they anguished, how they unbelievably went through that particular time.

Nebuchadnezzar comes down three times. We commonly date the time of the captivity from 606 BC, and that is the first time he comes down. He defeats Jehoiakim, who was the king of Israel. Then he takes key people into captivity down to Babylon. This is where Daniel goes down in Daniel chapter one. He comes down later again in 597 BC, and they lead a revolt against him coming down, and he whacks them a second time. This is the time that he takes Ezekiel into captivity. Both those writers are exilic books; they write during the captivity. Then he comes down a third time in 586 BC, and this time he really clobbers them. They board up the city to try to keep him out. Popular back in those days, all they did, they had all the time in the world. The city had walls. You could not get in, you could not get out through the gate. So what the armies did is they circled the cities and laid siege to it. They had plenty of food, plenty of water. They did not have to lose anybody in battle, and everybody on the inside starved to death.

He lays siege. Jerusalem is shut up for two and a half years. No food in, no water out. Nobody got in, nobody got out. For two and a half years, those little kids starved to death. For two and a half years, they did not have water to drink. They did not have proper food. They did not get anything. All they had was what they had when the gates were shut, and he ringed that city with his troops. Oh my goodness, did they ever cry out. He laid siege for two and a half years, and then on July 19th, 586 BC, the city falls. Nebuchadnezzar goes in, and he literally butchers everybody in that city. They take the little kids and they throw them up in the air, and they catch them on their spears. They set people on fire and threw them off the walls. They raped the women and ravished the women and killed the little children. They decimated everything about

that. They went into the temple, the very temple that God had designed to have fellowship in the nation of Israel, and they burned that temple, destroyed everything about it.

In Psalms 137:1-4, the psalmist writes about that time when he carried them off into Babylon, gone to captivity, lost their God, lost their religion, lost everything that God had given them.

*Psalms 137:1-4*

*By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.*

*We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.*

*For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion.*

*How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?*

You know, I know some of you like the world, and I saw many of you like to stay in the world, but you know that is exactly what the world does to you. It will take everything that God has ever given you from you, and then after it does, it will look you right in the face and make fun of you because you lost it. They took everything from God's people that they had, and then when they took it all, and they take them into captivity, they take them down by the river, and this is where Ezekiel lives in Ezekiel chapter one, the river Chebar, and they say to them, "Play us one of your songs. Sing that old-time religion for us."

Rex Harrison was a guy; he is dead now, and I met him a number of years ago, and he was crippled. He had polio when he was a kid, and he was a really good preacher, but boy, he could play the piano. Nobody could play the piano and sing like Rex Harrison. It was incredible. Rex Harrison, my favorite song that he would sing is "Some Golden Daybreak." Man, I will tell you what, I will never forget that he told his testimony one night and how that he was saved when he was a kid, and he got out of fellowship with God, and he was playing in a bar piano, and he was playing the blues, and he was singing the blues. A lady came up and put a five or ten dollar bill in his little tip glass there, and she says, "You know what?" She says, "You sing the blues really well." She says, "You must be a Christian out of fellowship with God." He says, "That thing hit me right between the eyeballs." He says, "I am, I am, I am." You know why? That is what the world will do to you. The world will take everything that God has ever given you, it will take you captive, and the joy you once had down in your heart, you will hang your harp on the old willow tree, and the very world system will look at you and say, "Come on, sing us one of them songs. Come on, sing us one of those songs of Zion." They say in verse 4, "How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?"

You know, you cannot. You know when you can tell when somebody gets out of fellowship with God? You know the first thing that goes? Their joy. The first thing that goes is their joy.

*Psalms 40:3*

*And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and trust in the LORD.*

The first thing that goes when we get out of fellowship with God is that song in our mouth and our heart. The joy is not down in my heart. It goes, and it shows. People get cantankerous, they get bitter, they get mad, they get mean, they get all kinds of things. You know why? Because they have lost the joy, and it is really hard to sing one of the Lord's songs when you are in a strange land. It is just that simple. What a great passage that is.

Then in 606 BC, He scatters them through all the world. For the next five hundred years, they are not in their homeland anymore. For the next five hundred years, they are scattered through all of the Gentile nations. The stupid Charismatics, and I use the word stupid lovingly, but the stupid Charismatics, they believe in speaking in tongues. They do not even have an idea why God gave them tongues in Acts chapter 1 and Acts chapter 2. They have not got a clue. You know why they gave them tongues in Acts chapter 1 and Acts chapter 2? Because those Jews that are dispersion here were sent out for five hundred years. I mean, they were still Jews, but they lost their native tongue. They no longer spoke Hebrew. So when God wanted to bring them back, He had to give the apostles the ability to speak in the language that they spoke because they no longer spoke their native tongue. But that five hundred years of being scattered, I mean, it is an incredible thing. Oh, did they cry. Oh, did they cry.

Seventy years later, a small bunch goes back in Nehemiah chapter 7 verse 66, and there is a reason for that because God had to have the Jews back in the land at the first coming of Christ. So He sends a small remnant back. In Nehemiah chapter 7 verse 66, it gives you the number: 42,360. 42,360 Jews go back out of probably twenty million plus. The rest of them got scattered or killed. That is called a remnant in the Bible. They go back seventy years later, but now they are under somebody else's control. We see in Daniel chapter 2, the Gentile nations starting with Babylon and then going to Persia and then going to Greece and then going finally to Rome. At the first coming of Christ, they are under the brutal Roman domination of the Roman Empire. Oh, did they cry out. Jerusalem and Judea is the uttermost part of the Roman Empire. It is an outpost. Nobody wanted to be there. When a guy got stationed out there as the governor of it, he must have done something wrong. It is like being in the military and being stationed in Nome, Alaska, someplace at a radar station out there by yourself. So the Roman soldiers hit. The climate was bad. The people were bad. It was not a very happy place to be. Everybody was there in an occupational sense. They did not want to be there. But they took it out on the Jews. It was brutal.

Christ comes to them at the first coming of Christ, and He reveals Himself as their Messiah. You know the story: they reject Him. After that rejection, they go on for a while, and they just get bad to worse. Then in 70 AD, the hand of God chastised, but never let up. God never stopped it. He never spared for their crying. When those back there in 606 BC and in the Roman Empire and in 70 AD when Titus came down and destroyed the city a second time, and they were throwing those babies up in the air, and they were pulling them apart, and they were doing everything to them, and ravaging the women and killing the men. Moms cried out for their kids. Moms cried out for their husbands. Husbands cried out for their wives. God just kept putting it to them. Incredible. If you did not know your Bible, you would think God enjoyed something like that. I have had people see something like that or hear something like that, and they say, "Well, I cannot

trust a God like that." Your problem is you could not trust a God anyway. You know nothing about Him.

Titus comes down and destroyed Jerusalem, and now they are scattered to the whole ends of the earth for the next eighteen hundred years. We come up in the modern times of history today, and the chastisement of God is so evident in the life of that nation. Ironically, Israel makes two very bad choices when it comes to God coming to them at the first coming of Christ. In the Old Testament, their mistake was dumping God and His Word for Baal worship. In the New Testament, it was taking the Messiah that God had given them and rejecting Him and then crucifying Him. Along with that, they made two statements that are the most damaging statements anywhere in the Bible. They are two statements that absolutely set the demise for the nation of Israel.

He is on that cross. He is going to be crucified. Matthew chapter 27 verse 25. They are up there, and they look at Him, and they look at Him as the Messiah versus Rome. When they put Him on that cross, you know what the nation of Israel says?

*Matthew 27:25*

*Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.*

A little bit later on, when He is standing, or before, when He is standing before Pilate, Pilate wants to get rid of Him. Pilate wants to get Him off his hands because Pilate knows He is innocent. In John chapter 19, he comes up there, and he says to them, he brings Him out there, and He is beaten and all of those things. He stands before that Jewish crowd, and he says, "Shall I crucify your King?"

*John 19:15*

*The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.*

Let me tell you a little something about God you better learn quickly: God writes things down when we say them. He is standing up there. He had given His Son to the nation of Israel. He had given His Son, and He is standing up there watching these proceedings go on, watching Israel reject Him, watching Him go before the Roman Empire, and His own children, the son of God, the nation of Israel, turning their back on God Himself. When they made that statement, "His blood be upon us and our people," God was standing right there, and He looked over at one of the angels, and He said, "Write that down." A little bit later on, He says, "We have no king but Caesar." The great wise men said, "Write that down." God held them to their word for the next two thousand years. You better be careful what you say about your father to your Father, your Heavenly Father. People all the time, stupid Christians, asking God to damn everything, and then wonder why their life is upside down in a toilet. You know why? Because God is holding you accountable to what you say. We cannot even get it.

Oh, did they cry out. Oh, did they cry out. Over there in Jerusalem today, they have what they call the Wailing Wall. It is talked about in Lamentations chapter 2 verse 18. It is not the original temple that Solomon built. It is the second one that Herod built around 20 BC. It is all that is left

of that ancient time. It is just a short part of that wall that is exposed. The rest of it has houses built around it or buildings around it. But you go over there today, or you get on it and look at it, you will find all the old Orthodox Jews standing right up against that wall reading their scriptures. You know what they are praying for at that Wailing Wall? It is a Wailing Wall. You know why they are wailing? They are wailing because of what they have went through as a nation. They are praying for the Messiah, for God to send them the Messiah, to deliver them from all the bondage of the last 2,600 years. Because they are blinded like so many of God's people, they do not even understand. What they are going through is simply because they have rejected the very One that God sent them.

I want to say something to you. I am jumping quickly into the practical when I am still in the doctrinal, but let me say something to you: if you are a child of God and you wonder why you are going through some really tough times in your life, you better see what you have done with the One that God has saved you and given you. Oh, how has the hand of God of chastisement been on them? Up through the Dark Ages, 500 to 1500, they were severely persecuted by the Roman Catholic Church. They were expelled from every country in Europe. They were put into ghettos. That is where the original word comes from. We think of the word ghetto in Chicago or ghetto in Kansas City as a very bad place. Well, the word ghetto did not start with Kansas City or Detroit or Chicago. It started in the Bible times where they collected all of the Jews that wanted to keep them in one spot. The Jews were blamed for everything that happened. When the Black Death came down through Europe, it was the Jews that was their fault, and they were persecuted in every place. They could not own property. They could not buy anything. Terrible bondage. God never one time slacked His hand on their chastisement.

From 1900 to 1945, they had amalgamated into Europe. They were all through Europe. You have Russian Jews, Polish Jews, German Jews, French Jews. They are all through the land of Europe. When Adolf Hitler came to power, he looked at that nation of Israel, and he saw them as the scourge of Europe that needed to be eradicated. So he built places like Dachau, Sobibor, Treblinka, Auschwitz. Auschwitz, where Dr. Mengele took little Jewish kids, and he was fixated on twins. He would try to take them and change their eye color by taking your little daughters, your little kids, and while they are awake, injecting dye into their eyeballs to try to change the color of their eyes. They would take Jewish men and put them in ice water that was freezing temperatures. Then they would stand around them with a clipboard, seeing how long they would last in frozen water so they would know how long their downed pilots could survive if they went into the icy waters. Terrible experiments. He took Siamese twins. He studied them. He took two twins and sewed them together. Terrible things. Not to mention, eight million of them went to the gas chambers. Not to mention that after they come out of the gas chambers, the ones that have tattoos like some of you have—no marks on your tattoos, that is fine—but they cut off the skin and made lampshades out of them. They took the very flesh and made it into soap. They cut their hair off before they went in, and they sent it out to the places that would manufacture crosshairs for periscopes on submarines or fill mattresses with it. I have seen pictures of stacks as high as this room, filling up half this building, of little kids' shoes that were taken off as they went into those gas chambers. I have seen videos where the little kid wants to panic and run, and he runs down there, a kid right about our kids' ages, naked. He is not going to go into that gas chamber,

so he runs down to get away, and the guards laughingly unleash their German shepherds and Doberman pinschers and run that little kid down and tear him to pieces.

They cried out. Excuse me for being so graphic this morning, but I want you to understand that what they went through is not what you and I go through. Oh, the air conditioner broke, and we all had to work today in heat. They went through a chastisement, and God not one time ever slacked His hand back. I am telling you, if you did not know God and know the Bible and know why He is doing what He is doing, you would think God was some kind of sadistic being, and I have heard that a lot from people. Stupid people, but people. And they cried out, "Oh God!" They were in those concentration camps. I remember *\*The Diary of Anne Frank\**, and I remember going to her house in Amsterdam where they hid her, and they found her. She went to Auschwitz, and she died in Auschwitz. In her little writings in her diary, she is asking, "Where is God and the promise of His coming?" I will tell you where He is at, sweetheart: you crucified Him, and you said that His blood be upon us and our children, and God said, "Write it down." You said, "We have no king but Caesar." God said, "Write it down."

You and I wonder why we go through what we go through. We wonder why our life is so upside down. We wonder why we cannot get ahead of anything. We wonder why our life is just one dead end after another. You better look at what you have said to God and the attitude you have said it with. God never one time weakened His hand to spare them. You know why? Because He loved them. Hard to grasp, is not it? It is hard for us to understand and grasp in the world that we live in that everything has to be positive. Your kid gets into a league someplace, and there are no losers. Everybody gets a prize because we do not want to ruin his development. The psychiatrists say, "Oh, do not whip your children. Do not ever whip your children. You will warp his personality." My mom and dad were great psychologists. When they warped me, they warped me all over. It was not just my attitude about things. Those days are gone. So we have lost the concept of discipline and chastisement. When it comes to God dealing with His people, He has a hard time believing how God could do that to somebody and still love them. We forget the great definitive verses: "no chastening for the present is joyous but grievous, but afterwards." Sometimes you have got to go through some things to get to the peace of God by your own choosing.

*Acts 2:36*

*Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*

You go over to the book of Psalms. I have told you before that the book of Psalms is basically of three aspects doctrinally. The book of Psalms will be the Jew in the millennium, the Jew at the second coming, or the Jew in the tribulation. Out of all of the Psalms, at least sixty-three of them that I can think of right off the top of my head, at least sixty-three of them, you will read it in the Psalms: they are crying out, "Oh God, how long till thou deliver us? My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Oh God, help me in my time of trouble. Oh God, arise, where art thou? Oh God, avenge my enemies." Those are the great tribulation Psalms of in the tribulation period, the Jew crying out. You know what? God never stops His hand.

### III. Practical Application for Parents

Now, let us get into the inspiration. I painted as black a picture as I could. Now we are going to get even blacker. Let us talk about this passage in a practical sense for you and for me. The verse said, "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." God had a plan for Israel, and when they failed, He also had a plan of dealing with them through chastisement to teach them, Psalms 92. Just like that, God has a plan for you, your family, and especially in the context here, your children.

Now look at Proverbs chapter 29 verses 17 and 18.

*Proverbs 29:17-18*

*Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.*

*Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*

All my life, I have heard that where pastors want to use it, and I guess it is okay. They want to use it as giving the people in their church a vision for where the church is going. I get it. I understand. I have done it myself. Nothing wrong with it at all. But let us get it in a context. Let us put 18 and let us read 17 first and see where this vision really applies first of all. Verse 17 says, "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul." Then verse 18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." You see how He said, "Correct thy son" in verse 17, and then "where there is no vision, the people perish"? That son is Israel. In the Old Testament, what God did is He always gave Israel a vision, and you and I as a mom and dad and our parent, when we have kids, our sons, our job is to give them the vision. I am not talking about a plasma TV. I am talking about the vision of God.

God had a vision for His son Israel, and you as a parent should have a vision for your child, and that vision is a vision of correction to serve God. A vision of a life with God and not a vision of sports. Oh, it is all right for your kids to play sports. Some parents, that is all they do is they design their kids to go out and be a ball player. I have known some parents that all they do when they get their kids is to get all the edge and they cancel, they can get a good job. Nothing wrong with that. I see parents that want to be so career-driven with their kids or sports-driven with their kids that they will take their kids out of church on Sunday morning to play ball and play this or do that and all that. I appreciate the parents in this church that when you sign your kid up, you say, "You know what, we will be there every time except Sunday morning and Thursday night." Now you may not think much of that, but I will tell you something, that is a great testimony to a lost guy. It does not mean anything to most of God's people, but it is a great testimony because you want to give not only a vision of a life with God, you want to instill in that kid, "You know what, there are some things in this family we do not negotiate." Now I get criticized for that. I do not need a big piece of paper to list the things I do not get criticized for, but I do not care. You know what, you get to the judgment seat of Christ, you stand there with your family, it is not going to be how many touchdowns you made, it is not going to be how many home runs you hit over the fence, it is not going to be how many baskets you scored. It is going to be what did your family do that I gave them to you, and what vision did you present before them?

Whatever your kid's vision is today is basically your vision. I do not mean this in the wrong way, but a lot of the ministry is taking young men and young ladies and correcting the vision that mom gave them, or dad gave them. There were bad visions, but that is the ministry. Psalms 94:12 says the chastisement is part of that teaching process.

*Psalms 127:3*

*Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.*

The Bible says in Psalms 127:3 that the children that we have are God's heritage. They are not your heritage. They are not even your kids. You may have custodianship of them, and you may be the stewards of them, but do not ever get to the place where you think they are not God's.

Mel Sabaka used to tell the story; I heard him say it many, many times. He did not do it much after he got older, but when I was with him in the younger years and he was preaching, he preached back then. Nobody ever really, I think maybe very few people ever heard him preach the way he really preached when he got old and older. Now he mellowed out a little bit, but let me tell you something, back there in the 60s or the 70s and the 80s when we were traveling, 70s anyhow, and we were doing our deal, and we were going to those little churches in Bridgeport and in Janesville and those places that we were going down there preaching, boy, I am telling you something, he was something else. I remember him telling a little story how he did not want to serve God, did not want to preach, and he thought everything in his life was his own. He tells the story how they had a little sweetheart, a little blonde girl that was born, and she lived for a short period of time, a couple of days, a week maybe, and she died. He used to tell the story with tears. He did not cry much when he got older, but I have watched him down there, and I have watched him get in front of that crowd of about this size in those churches down in Bridgeport, Ohio. Bridgeport, Ohio, is a tough town, boy. It is an old river town. Steubenville, another river town. We used to get some of the wildest places you ever saw in your life. He would get up there, and he would tell that story. He said, "You know what, folks?" He said, "I wanted it in my own way. I thought everything in life was mine. I thought those kids were all mine." He said, "You know what God had to do? God had to come down and pluck me a little flower out of my garden and plant it in His garden." He would get down on his knees, and he said the caretaker, the undertaker, came over and said, "We are going to lower the casket." He said, "Get out of here, I will kill you." He picked that little casket about that long, and he delved down, and he put that little casket down there, and when he laid that casket in the ground, he told God, "Okay, God, You are right. None of this is mine. It is all Yours. From this point on, I am going to give it to You. All of it is Yours because it is Yours." He got up, buried that little baby, and he never looked back in his preaching.

It is not yours. We just think it is because we clothe them, because we feed them, because we do all the fun things with them. We get the illusion that they are really our kids. Well, God may have entrusted them to you, and you may be the custodians of it, and you may be the mom and dad, but God gave them to you so you could give them the vision of Him because they are His heritage. They are not yours. There will come a time when you do not instill that vision that you will not be able to reverse the process. That verse says, "Chasten thy son while there is hope,"

because there will come a time where there will not be any hope. Now, I do not mean there will not be any hope that God is going to kill them. Maybe He will, I do not know. I do not mean there is not any hope that they will get mad at you and never speak to you again, though that happens a lot. But where the hope will never be, and the hope will come to the point where there will come a point in that child's life and you as a parent that you will never serve God together, standing side by side, ever in your life. Maybe that is no hope to you, but when it comes in the judgment seat of Christ, the reality is going to be that is no hope because God gave them to you for a reason. They are God's heritage.

## IV. Five Stages of Child Training

As you study here, you study Israel as God's son, you will see five stages that He gave to Israel to give them the vision that He wanted them to have. I have taught this before; it is in my books back here. I got it right out of the Bible. I am sorry, I did not get a chance to listen to the internet that day to get a better one. I just got it out of the Bible. The same five stages I teach you and your children based on what God did with Israel.

1.)The Discipline Stage You have to deal with your child on the discipline stage. You know why? Because the fundamentals of all life will be discipline. That child has to learn from day one that there are consequences with the choices that we make, and the only way you can do that is to instill a great understanding of discipline. That is why when God began to deal with Israel, you know the first thing He did? He gave them the Ten Commandments. He did not give them the Ten Commandments so they could keep them. He knew they could not keep them. He gave them the Ten Commandments as a standard of what He expected. When you stay down the discipline stage in your young child's life, from three years old, two years old on, you are laying down the fundamental concept of all life that he understands that from that point on, as he gets older, every choice they make will have consequences. You know what is wrong with most of the kids today? You live your life and do whatever you want because your mom and dad never told you there is any consequences to it. You know why they never told you? Because they never saw it for their own life. I will tell you something, kids, there are consequences to every choice you make in life. You know what happens? You know what the downside of it is? We make some of those choices, and we get away with it. That tends to make us think that there are none, right up to the point that you make the one that nails you. But then it is too late. Oh, the "no hope" is not God going to come down and kill you. I mean, if that was true, God ought to kill us all. The "no hope" is not a fact that He is going to put you in a wheelchair someplace. No, the "no hope" is that you as a family, when God gave you your children, and they are to be a heritage to the Lord, you are going to get to the place sometime where they are eighteen, nineteen, twenty, thirty, and they are off doing their thing this morning, and they are nowhere involved with you in touching the things of God in their life. No hope. They are not coming back. You have taught them well.

*Proverbs 22:6*

*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

The Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go." You took it the other way, you read it wrong: "You train up a child, and away they will go."

2.)The Relationship StageThis will be when God gives them the judges, Samuel, and the early prophets. The relationship stage for you as a parent is now where you can have meaningful talks, serious dialogue with issues they face. This is where you can warn them, you can prepare them. This is where you can get proactive in their life. This is where you can now begin to disciple them. The word "disciple" comes from the word "discipline." In other words, when you disciple somebody, you are giving them a form of discipline. You go to college someplace, especially in places like medicine, I am sure Rob, or places like psychology, and you will say, "I am in med school," and they will ask you, "What discipline are you studying?" In other words, are you going to be a general practitioner? Are you going to be a brain surgeon? You are going to be a heart surgeon? You are going to be a whatever you are going to be? What discipline are you going to discipline yourself to be a doctor at or a psychiatrist at? I took my course; I took it in psychosomatics, but I deal with crackpots.

3.)The Fellowship StageThen you had the fellowship stage, and that will be represented by David, would not it? David is a great example in the Bible of having fellowship with God. This is where we turn our children over to God through the relationship and the discipline that we have already built by the model of our fellowship with Christ. This is where your child will now begin to build a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Now they will never want to lose you. You want to get to the point with your children, and I am not bragging about it, but I am here with my kids, and it is not probably anything that I did, but I am here with my kids. My kids would rather get run over by a truck than break fellowship with their dad, and that is a great key. They would rather get beat up by a 500-pound sumo wrestler than to get out of fellowship with their dad. We cannot stay out of fellowship. Jamie and I go head to head for things on times, and it is hard for us to last an hour. She will call me, or I will call her. Maybe the first couple of times, we will hang up on each other, but sooner or later, we will connect. Kelly is the same way. Kelly is always coming up and saying, "Dad, are we okay?" I get a text a thousand times a day from my kids, "Are we okay? Are we okay?" Sometimes I just say, "No, we are not. Send me money." You want to get to the place where your child cannot stand being out of fellowship with mom and dad, and when you take that through discipline, relationship, into the fellowship, those same kids will never be able to stand being out of fellowship with God. I did not say they would not get out of fellowship; I am saying they will not stay out of fellowship. God will always do that relationship that you built; bring them back. It is just that simple.

4.)The Responsibility StageThe next stage, the fifth stage, I am sorry, the fourth stage, will be the responsibility stage. That will be Solomon. Solomon was the wisest man that ever lived. God gave him all the knowledge that God had, and along with that knowledge, can you understand the responsibility that came along with it? Kids, at some point in your life, you are going to get, if you do this by the book, you are going to get a tremendous amount of information about God and the Word of God. To whom much is given, much is required. There is going to be responsibility that goes along with that. You know what Solomon did? Solomon's famous prayer, when he gets down there, when he tells God he is not worthy for this, and he promises God that

he is not going to let the information that he gets ruin him, but he is going to keep it for the glorification of God's people.

5.)The Ministry StageThen the last stage, that is the ministry stage, and that will be the kings of Israel. They begin after Solomon, and the kingdom goes on. The kingdom splits north and south, and you have a line of kings in the north and a line of kings in the south. At the ministry stage, this is where your family, your kids, come full circle. Now they are standing by your side doing the work of the ministry. Yet when we look back to Israel, this is where they go into a complete breakdown and failure. This is great lesson material for all of us who are parents.

All five of these will build on each other as you progress through and add them. They will build on the last one, but it all starts with the discipline stage. If your kid does not understand the discipline of life and the things that they do will have consequences, you see kids all the time living their life. I mean, eight or nine, four or five, six or seven, it is very obvious that when they get twenty or thirty, they are going to have no more thought of the things that they are doing because they have no thought of them when they are that age. I mean, it is a simple fact: if you will not obey when you are four, you are not going to obey when you are forty. But unfortunately, most of God's people do not train their children; their children train them.

Let me ask a simple question: how many times do you want to tell your child to do something before they do it? I have seen parents all the time. "I will tell you one more time." He looks at his sister, "That was number four. We got six more to go. Let us keep on going." They are training you. I will give your child one or two times, but that should be the end of it. It should be the end of it. This thing where you just keep on doing it and just ignore what you tell them, you know why they do that? Because you have allowed them to do that.

## V. Basic Rules for Parental Discipline

Setting up a biblical form of discipline that will also contain chastisement, a parent should follow several basic rules, I think, in establishing a vision for God for their child. I think that God does this with Israel. Again, these are not seven stages you go through; these are the seven things that you want to understand.

1.)Define Their BoundariesGod does all this with the first thing He does. You need to do with your child: you need to define their boundaries. God did that with Israel. He said, "You stay away from the other nations. Do not let your boys marry their girls. Do not let your girls marry our boys." You will find out in Leviticus chapter 18, 19, and 20. You have to teach your child what you expect from them before you hold them accountable, responsible for doing it. Much of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers is defining the world. If they do not, much of that Bible is the negative side that talks about the consequences. You had to read Deuteronomy chapter 11 and chapter 28, where half the chapter is, "If you do this, I am going to be good to you," and "If you do this, here is what is going to happen." They understood; they realized the boundaries. Does your child understand the boundaries of what they can and cannot do? When they cross that boundary, what kind of reaction do you get from them?

2.) Hold the Line of Accountability or Responsibility There are a lot of parents that their kids are the perfect kids. They have never done anything wrong. Some of you have dealt with that. That is right. You got it right on the money, sweetheart. Good job. I have seen parents that, you know what, you have had to deal with them when their kid did something wrong. I have had to deal with them, and the moment I sit down and I say to them, "Look, we have a problem with your kid," I know I am in Dodge City heading for a shootout, and I do not have a gun because it is always somebody else's fault.

Now, I want to tell you something, I love our kids here, and your kids are all good kids, and probably some of the best kids you could have, but do not ever kid yourself, inside is as rotten and black as the size of the bottomless pit. You go into that nursery, and you have the sweetest little kids running around in diapers in there, and running around, and all the nice, sweetest things, and there is a kid in there, let me tell you something, inside those kids right now is Charles Manson. As a parent, you have to be decisive. You have to be strong. It has to be the husband and the wife together. A big problem with husbands and wives is they do not agree on how to discipline the kids. You know what? Your kids will play that to the ends of the earth. You know what they do right now? "Daddy, can I go do this?" "No, you cannot." Or, "Ask your mother." "Mom, Mom, can I do this? Dad said it was all right, but I had to ask you." They will play you. In your family, there should never be a thing where you have to go ask the dad or ask the mother. Who is in charge of your family? Who runs it at the end of the day? So your kids are to you. There has to be accountability, responsibility. In the early years, you keep before them that they are responsible for their choices and their actions.

You see this in the Bible. It is actually Exodus chapter 32. Moses is up on the mountain, and the children of Israel, just like your children, they go sideways. They have everybody break off your earrings. "Get the ushers down here. Let us get a collection of all the earrings." They put it into a fire, and they make a golden calf. They have not been out of the promised land for what, sixteen minutes, and they are already going back to Baal, going back to Egypt. Aaron was the guy that was in charge. Aaron is a weak leader. Aaron always reminded me of many fathers that I have seen with their families: weak, nice guys, some of the nicest guys on the planet, but when it comes to their families, they are weak. So what he does is he allows this whole son of God, the nation of Israel, to make this calf. Moses comes down. He hears the riot going on down there, what they are having. He says, "It sounds like war." When he gets down there, they are having a rock concert. They are dancing. I mean, they are going to town. They are having a great time. He breaks the Ten Commandments. He calls Aaron on the carpet. You know what Aaron said instead of taking responsibility for what he, as the leader, allowed to do? You know what he did? He blamed it on the people. Aaron is your first evolutionist in the Bible, did you know that? He said, "We took all these earrings and threw it in the fire, and out walked this calf." Darwin, man, \*Origin of the Species\*. I love the Bible. I love how God does not let us get away with anything. Oh, Aaron blames it on the people. People blame it on Moses being up there too long. When God wrote the final analogy of that chapter, it all went on.

*Exodus 32:35*

*And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.*

You know what God said in Exodus 32:35? He says, "And the calf which Aaron made." You are not going to get out from under the responsibility and accountability of what God has called you to do. You just think you are. We own the bad choices that we make, and we cannot blame them on somebody else.

3.) Avoid Unrealistic Expectations Know and understand their limitations. Do not put them in situations that are going to fail them, and you know they are. God kept them wandering for forty years before He ever took them into the land. You know why? He knew they could not stand it. Give them time to grow into the circumstances of life. Help them. Be patient with them. Encourage them. Keep the vision alive before them, and the way you do that is by you living it before them.

4.) Be Able to Read Your Child God knew the nation of Israel. He said about Abraham back there in Genesis 18:19, "For I know him." You are the parent. You are going to be the closest thing to your child. You ought to know that child. You will be able to read that child. You are going to know its mood, its temperament, their strengths, and also their weaknesses. You help develop their abilities to deal with the weaknesses, then give them praise for their strength.

5.) Use Disobedience as a Teaching Tool Use any dialogue that you have with them, any disobedience, anything that they do wrong. Sure, you have to deal with it on different levels; I understand that. But you make a terrible mistake as a parent if you do not use that disobedience as a teaching tool. They are going to make mistakes, and you are going to have to deal with it, but it is always in a loving, kind way to use their mistakes and help them grow through them. That is why you find Christ in the New Testament. He is always, when He is dealing with somebody, He is always using object lessons. He is always taking what they did, and so it is like this: He is using it as a teaching tool.

I have said it many, many times, and this is no criticism if you are doing it. I certainly do not care, and I support you because you have a right to do whatever you do. I am not a big proponent of Christian high school. I am not a big proponent of homeschooling. It is your choice, and I would never say anything about anybody that did it. This is my own personal opinion on the thing. I think that most parents send their kids to Christian school because they think sending their kids to Christian school gets them out of the responsibility of doing what is right with their kids at home because Christian school is going to take care of it. Very frankly, most of the parents that I have seen—there have been exceptions to this, I can think of a couple exceptions as I am speaking to you—but let us be honest, most of the parents who homeschool, most of them have no business homeschooling anybody. I would not let them walk my dog down the end of the block. She is going to go to the bathroom. There is no discipline in their life. There is no structure in their life. They will put their kids down there, give them some books, and they will go watch \*As Your Stomach Turns\* on TV or something like that. You should not say this, talk like that. When you have been around this business for forty-five years, sweetheart, you come and talk to me about it, okay? I am telling you, I have seen it, and I have had to deal with their kids. Where is Steve Bracken Senior at? Not Senior, Junior. Where is Steve? Is he back here? He spent his whole life in a Christian school. He was the worst kid I ever had in my life. Yeah, it was. Was it good for you, Steve? You were the biggest mess in your life in Christian school, were

not you? Yeah, sure. I mean, destroyed everything. Did you go to? Yeah, she turned out better than you, but you were a mess. I lost him when he was about sixteen or seventeen. You know why? Because he went to Christian school, and he was smarter than the parents. He was smarter than the teachers there. He knew it was a fallacy, but instead of doing what was right with it, he just went back to the world, and he met Nicky. Nicky slapped him right out of that thing, man, and then he came here, and I got him back. Of course, Nicky did not like me at first, but he got him back. I am telling you, I have a reason for what I say. I am not making a judgment on anybody. I have seen some parents that were women that were really good at homeschooling, and I saw some that could not get off the couch. I did not get a candy bar.

Your kids are going to make mistakes, and you are going to have to deal with it, but the thing you never want to do with your kids, and this is what Christian schools do and what a lot of homeschoolers do, they get the idea that I am going to isolate my kid from the world. You never need to try to isolate your kids from the world because you want to take the bad experiences they have and use them as a teaching tool. You do not isolate your kids from the world; you insulate them from the world. You know how you do that? Give them a vision. Give them a vision. Give them a vision.

6.) Know When to Spank and When Not To You do not give a kid a whipping because they spill milk. You do not necessarily give them a whipping because they get rowdy and knock something over. You do not spank them out of anger because they inconvenience you. I mean, there are times when God killed three thousand of them on the golden calf, and then there is time that He just sent the plagues to them, and then there is time that He just came down and said, "Do not do it again." But there is a time when corporal punishment has to be put into their lives. There are four key areas that I think that you have to bring out the board of education.

1.) Rebellion against any authority, your authority in particular.

I worked at Woolworth's, which was a five and ten cent store when I was a kid and in high school. I was a dishwasher, and we had these big windows right by the restaurant. I will never forget one day, this woman, and it had poles like this, only they were closer together because on both sides of the mall was open on the top, and it had poles holding everything up. I was over here like the wall, looking out the window, picking up dishes, and a woman was walking down the thing with her son. He must have been about six or seven, eight years old, I do not know. He must have wanted a toy where they were, and she would not buy it for him, and he is throwing a fit. I mean, he is screaming so loud, and it was echoing in the thing. I mean, that is how I heard it. I mean, I am inside a building, and it is echoing. He is screaming, and it was so funny. She was going down the thing, and every time she passed a pole, he would wrap his leg and arm around the pole, would not come, and she would have to drag him off there and pull. She was embarrassed. I was embarrassed, and it was a thing where it was a scene. You know, she is praying, "I wish that I went to that mall that only had two poles," because we had like twenty all the way down there. I thought to myself, "You know, are not there times in your life when you see someone else's child, and you say to yourself, 'I wish he was mine for about five minutes?'" I never forgot that day. You know why? I looked at that, and I was not even a Christian then. Well, I was not right for God anyhow. Years later, I remember that event, and I remember her tugging

on that kid from pole to pole to pole, trying to get him back to the car. I remember thinking to myself, "You know what, that is exactly how God gets us most home to heaven: not getting what we want, whining and screaming and crying, hanging on pole to pole as God tries to get us home." I am telling you, so you have got to know when to spank.

2.) You never tolerate lying or deceit. You allow these things to get rooted in their life, and you do not deal with it. 3.) Willful disobedience. 4.) Hurting others: We had a little kid one time in our churches years ago. He is a cute little kid. I went up to him some morning, you know how I am, I just like kids, and I went up to him and said, "How are you doing?" He kicked me. I said, "Okay, you are doing okay. I am glad. I know what your goal is in life: field goal kicker for the Chiefs, number seven."

7.) The Parent is the Key Knowing that you, the parent, are the key to it all. Everything rises and falls on your leadership. No one will ever have more influence—you want to remember this—no one will ever have more influence in your child than you. No teacher, no friend, no boyfriend, no girlfriend, nobody. You know why a guy can take a girl out of a family, and she leaves the family? You know why that happens? It is because that parent, that mom and the dad, let him have more influence in her life than they did, and now they want to complain about the fact that this terrible boy just took my daughter. No, no, no. You just basically drove her over to his house, and he took her. People are strange, is not it? Nobody will have more influence in them unless you allow them to. You have complete charge, and if it ever gets to the place where there is no hope, it is by your hand.

*Psalms 127:4*

*As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.*

You get a guy that can hit that clock back on the wall with a bow and arrow. He can just put five arrows right in that thing. You know what? You take your children as arrows in the hand of a mighty man, and you launch them in life: heaven or hell, vision of God, vision of life. It is our responsibility. Just as God was instrumental in establishing discipline and chastisement in His son Israel, you and I as a parent will be the key factor in instilling it into our children's lives. God did it through the leadership, you know that. Just as God used the leadership of Israel—Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, the prophets—He kept the vision before them and alive and held them accountable to it. We as parents, through those five stages of growth and development and putting those things into our children's lives and understanding it, we bring them along through our leadership. When it is time to deal with them on an issue, and chastisement is the order of the day, you do not hold back. You do not spare for his crying. The ancient folk adage is, "Spare the rod, spoil the child." You are not to spare your own feelings when it comes to your child, just like God's chastisement. He loves the nation of Israel and us, and He knows that the chastisement brings about the peaceable fruit of God.

I get it. No mother or father who loves their children ever enjoyed hearing them cry and scream when they get dealt with. I understand it. I used to take my little kids when they were little, little, and I had to give them a whipping, and it was the hardest thing in the world. I mean, I make them put their little pants down and bend over that bed, and their little buns on the rear end, and I have

got to whip that thing. I did not want to do that. I mean, come on, what parent would do something wrong with you, and they look up and they say, "No, Daddy, no!" Man, I am right there. You are right. "No, come on, let us just do something else. Give me twenty push-ups." But that is not a substitute. There are times when you have got to do it, cute buns or none. I get it. Many moms and dads are so squeamish of that and having that little one holler that they just have to, they do not have no heart to do it, so they try to substitute. "You know, okay, I am just going to give you a time out." But they do that in football all the time, in hockey, and they still get in fights. "I am going to take this away from you." "Hey, I get it. Go to your room." "Go to my room? Oh, that is great. I got a Nintendo. I got a big screen TV. I got my computer. Yeah, I will go to my room." "Well, you are not going to have supper." "No problem, I am going to order out."

Now, I am not saying that those things cannot be of value, and you should not use them at times. I really do. They are valuable in their place, but they do not take the place when these four things happen, and you have got to get down, and you have got to get serious. Proverbs 19:18 is sound, practical, wise, exact, and clear, and no amount of trying to improve on it will ever work. The idea is simple and straightforward.

## VI. Bob's World: Discipline in a Nutshell

I have taken all this and put it into Bob's world. Here is Bob's world on disciplining your children. You can forget everything I said. You just get these next four, five, six things down, you are good to go. This is Bob's world. This is Bob looking at life, looking at kids, looking at the Bible, and then boiling it all down to five or six things that you want to remember.

- 1.) Whip him before he can whip you.
- 2.) He will be too big and old in a while, and then all hope will be gone.
- 3.) It is better that the child should cry when he is young than mom and dad crying over him when he is older.
- 4.) The key to children is whale blubber. Whale on him till he blubbers.
- 5.) Let him holler; it will develop his lungs.
- 6.) The board of education should always be applied to the seat of their understanding.

That is my sermon in a nutshell.

## VII. Conclusion: The Purpose of Discipline

Now, here is the key for parents: if you get the biblical concept of discipline down with your child early in life, you get the five stages working like we talked about, you start implementing the things that we have talked about, he grows through the stages, and you will deal with his issues or her issues. Chastisement early in life is part of the process to get him the right way. But when you reach the last three stages—remember the first two stages were discipline and relationship; discipline is doing what is right, and relationship is why we do it this way and why it is going to be this way—but when they get to be twelve or twenty years old, and they are somewhere in there, they hit those last three stages: the fellowship stage, the responsibility stage, and the ministry stage. Now, because you have dealt with them on the first two, when you get to this age, you will have to deal with less restrictions on them than more restrictions on them

because you have already got the first things accomplished. Now you are with them in ministry. Now they are used by you side by side. Now the last thing they would do is badmouth you and disrespect you. Now the last thing they would do is say something derogatory to their mother or to you or use a cuss word. You know why? You trained them early, and now they have come to the point where they are at fifteen, twenty, twelve, up to twenty years old, and they hit those last three stages. Now everything becomes easier because you have done the work when they were younger, and when you do it God's way, it is basically problem-free.

I am not saying they are not going to have issues. I have heard some. I remember one time with a kid in the family. This kid was never disciplined in any way, shape, or form. His father got old and could not do what they needed to do, and the kid was huge. He was sixteen or seventeen years old. He was probably six foot, six foot seven. He was a monster in more ways than one. What they used to do, he used to take his dad and pick him up and stick his head in the toilet upside down. My dad would try to, until I tried to discipline them. That man, bless his heart, I will never forget when he died. He had cancer. I remember when he died, he came to a Wednesday night church service and passed away right during the service. You know, God has got a way. That is a terrible thing, and that is something that is a terrible thing for anybody to do, a terrible thing to hear. You know, God has got a way of working it all out. That same boy went from bad marriage to bad marriage, did everything wrong. His life was upside down, and his life was a mess. He could not get anything. You know what he did one day? He went in, took a twelve-gauge shotgun, and blew his mother's brains out. God is going to get it one way or the other. When you do it your way, then life is completely a disaster, and now you have, in most cases, lost your child, and there was no hope as I said, no hope as far as ministering together as the heritage of God.

Israel's biggest problem all through their relationship with God was the source of all of their issues. It will be the same thing that you and I face. It is what you and I face with God as His children, but it is also true what your children are going to face with you: not the breaking of their will. Some kids are stronger willed than others. Most parents have multiple kids. The first kid they get down through there, and he has got a very passive will. Then they think it is good, and they make the mistake of thinking all kids are that way. So number two and number three come along, and he is the incarnate antichrist with a will of his own, and because they took their finger off the trigger, they lose him. I have seen it all my life. Strong-willed Israel, strong-willed child. You must break that will early in life before it takes root. Israel was talking about being a proud people, stiff-necked, hardened heart, an absolute against every way of God and against everything that God wants them to do. In families, it will be the exact same way. That child needs to meet the brick wall of strong discipline that mom and dad are together, and it is constant, and that kid knows that, "You know what, there is no profit in my life of disobedience. This is not going anywhere. There are no cracks to get through. There is nothing that I can do to get around this. I cannot go against one against the other because mom and dad are together. They are so stuck in that Bible, there is no way to get around the principles." You know what? After a year, six months, or whatever, that child just comes to the place and he says, "I am just going to do what is right because it hurts too much not to be right." It took God 2,600 years to

bring Israel to her knees. Breaking a strong-willed child is not done overnight. Hopefully, it will not take you 2,600 years.

All the training and chastisement and discipline and all that should be, and obviously should be, enveloped in an atmosphere of mom and dad loving each other, showing affection to the kids. "I love you" a hundred times a day. I have actually met dads that could never tell their kid they loved them. I will say myself, I grew up with my dad and my mom. My dad died when he was fifty-six years old. I was still in the army, and I was twenty then, and I think for the twenty years of my life, I never one time heard my dad ever telling me he loved me. I know he loved me. We made all kinds of sacrifices, but he just could not get to the place. My mom did not either. My mom, my dad, my life growing up was with a fight, mom and dad all the time. Every Christmas was a disaster. I remember as a little kid being afraid that Christmas, we were going to, they would always throw the Christmas. I do not even know how we got a Christmas tree because right after Christmas, it always got thrown out in the front yard. I can just sit there as a little kid looking up and watching my mom. My mom was hell on wheels, boy. She is ripping that tree out, mad about something, throwing that thing down. My dad would get mad, he would punch my mom, and they would go around and around and around, and they would get into it. I remember one time my mom, my dad broke my mom's glasses, and she is out in the garage sitting in the car crying, and my dad is in there ranting and raving, and I am just a little guy, and we had plans to go to the movies, and now those plans are off. But I did not know that. I still thought we could go to the movies, but my mom's glasses were broke. So, stupid me, I had two little magnifying glasses, and I taped them together and took them down to my mom and said, "Mom, could we still go to the movies?" Stupid, I know. I know. What are you supposed to do when you are six years old, man? I was not an ophthalmologist. I did not know how to do all that stuff. I do now.

When it comes to chastisement, a son of God has a bride of Christ. You see how it works? In a biblical relationship between a husband and wife, a child sees and understands from the very early years in life the true rules that he will have to play in developing his relationship with God. He will see an example of a son of God, and he will see how he is going to be, and he will see an example of a son in his father, and he will see the example of a bride in his mother. When the two of them work together well, it forms a vision for him that he comes out of that thing seeing his relationship with his Father as a son and Christ as his bride, a vision of discipline and a life serving God, establishing that.

I wrote these down years ago, what I think are, and I will close with this, what I think are seven really good things to keep in mind with your kids. I think first of all, and I will be the first to tell you, I am not standing up here saying, "Look at me." I have failed in so many of these. I have failed in all of these probably. I mean, I do not want you to think for a moment that I am your poster child of what a good father should be. I am not, and I feel bad about that, but I am just telling you, these are things that I wished I would have done.

- 1.) Good, wholesome experiences during the early times in our lives will do more to influence and character development than any other thing that you do. Getting into those lives and coming to the place where you have the experience, making good memories with them early in life, that

will never leave them and form the foundation of a good relationship that you always think back, "I do not want to lose this because of what I had back here."

2.) Right leadership. I will be very honest with you, I have seen a lot of problems in couples' lives when it comes to their kids and it comes to their own spiritual relationship with the Lord where the wife runs the house. Dad may be a seven-foot-ten, 450-pound linebacker, but when that little 112-pound girl says, "Do this," she puts his tail between his legs and does it. You cannot run a family with a role reversal. You just cannot. It will destroy your family, and you cannot ever really have a working relationship with Christ either because it is backwards. There has to be a role where the father takes the lead. He has to. I have seen situations where the woman did it, and she does, and she is a good woman, and she does the best she can. I have seen the situations in our own church where, over the years, you know that the wife just runs the roost, and it causes problems in everything. The husband should be the one to stand up and say, "Will you please shut up and sit down?" And she looks at him, and she says, "When I want your opinion, darling, I will give it to you." He says, "Be my wife." My wife and I have a great relationship. She always gives me the last word. She says, "Shut up," and I say, "Yes, dear." Backwards.

3.) Direct communication and dialogue. It will develop social skills. It will build the right relationship that leads to the right fellowship. Be able to talk to your kids. Develop the relationship where you can openly, honestly talk to them back and forth and find out where they are at. I know this is all hard when you work all day long and all that, but it comes down to it is a lot easier. It really is. It is harder when you do not have a vision for your family, so you just come home from work and then have to try to talk to them. It is a lot easier when your family is established with a vision of where we are going as a family. It makes everything else easier to deal with.

4.) The best parents will be the ones that excel in the next three things: five, six, and seven.

5.) Support and design an organization of their child's environment. Be involved in what your kid does at school. Be involved in what they do with sports. Be involved in that. Use it as lessons. You realize that when they go to school, go play sports, they are not always going to win. You know, sometimes they are going to get a coach that gets way out of line, and he requires too much of them, and he gets. Use it. Realize that life is going to give them some bad turns. You cannot protect your child from all the bad things in life, and you thinking you can will end the moment they get out of your grasp, and they have to reach the real world, and they will fold up like a broken deck of cards. They have to know there are things out there that are going to come down their way that are not going to be good for them, and you cannot always blame it on somebody else. Even when it is somebody else's fault, sometimes you have got to say, "You know what, honey, you know what, buddy, you get out in the workforce, there is going to be other situations just like this. You know what, it is not fair, but much in life is not fair." I will tell you something else, you hear what Pastor Bob says all the time: sometimes you are not responsible for the bad things that happen to you in life, but you are always responsible how you deal with them. So let us deal with this the right way.

6.) Direct interaction with them in the little things of life. Taking the time to stop and pay attention to what is important to them, even if it is not very important to you. On Bible study night, Thursday night, you will notice my format is to answer every question. I want to be honest with you, and I do not mean this in a bad way because I understand where everybody is at, but sometimes some of the questions that people ask from my standpoint are the dumbest thing on the planet. I do not mean that in a bad way, and the reason I do not mean that in a bad way is because I understand that even at that, my job is to take the time and make it like it is the most important question on the planet. You know why? Because I have adopted the concept that if it is important to you, it is important to me, no matter what I may think about it or what my mindset will be on it or how many times I have been through this a thousand times or you should get this. It does not matter. It is important to you, the little thing, and those are the things I am going to focus on, no matter how many times I have had to do it before.

7.) Strong and firm discipline with a biblical form of chastisement. All the while, as God did with Israel, displaying and showing a great and undying love for that child. Explaining at every opportunity, "Look, buddy, I am going to have to deal with you on this, and this is what we are going to have to do." Then after you have to go through the corporal punishment, if you give them a spanking whenever you do, then you do not just let them go. You sit down there with them. You love them. You do what God does with you when you get out of fellowship. When you get back right, He puts His arms around you, and He makes you know it is okay. That is when you reinforce with that child that it is okay that I have made mistakes with God, and God has had to deal with me, but God has trusted you to me, and I have to make sure you are God's heritage. You keep the vision going. So, you know what, I am going to have to whip you, but I love you. After we are done, come out, let me hold you. Let me hold you. Come on, let us pray together, son. I did what I had to do, honey. I did what I had to do because I want you to be everything that God wants you to be, and there are some things out in this world that will hurt you and keep you from that, and I am going to make sure that I do whatever I have got to do because I love you. You know what? God put all of His chastisement that was mine on His Son, and God does not let me get away with what I want to do, and I am mandated by God not to allow you to get away with what you want to get away with because I love you. So here it comes, buddy. Drop them, bend over. One, two, three, four. He is crying. She is crying. Then you pull him close to you, and you say, "I love you. I only did that because of the fact that I want you to be everything that God wants you to be. I did it because I need you. We need you in this family. You are an important part of this family, and I need you to be everything that God wants you to be because you are God's heritage, and someday I want to stand together." That is it.

God has never spared His hand of chastisement toward Israel, and at the second coming of Christ, God finally establishes His kingdom because of His undying love and faithfulness to His son and/or His wife, however you want to study the nation of Israel. They will inherit all that God has for them and will be the central piece of God's program for all of eternity. In like manner, when you spare not the hand of discipline and chastisement of your son's life, when you do not hold back, you do not give in when he starts to cry and whine and scream and complain, there will come a day when we will all stand as a family. He will stand by your side at the judgment seat.

*Psalms 94:12*

*Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;*

Chastisement is God's hand on Israel to bring them back as God's son. In a practical sense, it is us as parents, and the chastisement and discipline of our children to bring them and keep them where God wants them to be. In both cases, Israel and your children are God's heritage, and it is our job as parents to be the caretakers, the stewards of that, to make sure that your child, male or female, goes through those stages to get the relationship with God that God wants them to have, that they have the chance to be everything that God wants them to be.