

GLEANINGS

Article GE- 102

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SAVED?

We shared in the last article that Satan has already initiated “the Balaam plan.” If you do not have a copy, you may obtain one from the paper office or on the World Wide Web at bayourouge.net. Our Lord does not bring discipline upon a nation, upon one of His churches or upon one of His children without a reason.

But what will happen to the saved? Most will profit spiritually from the forthcoming experience. *“5And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.” 7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” Hebrews 12:5-11 The New King James Version*

One of the best examples of the benefits of Divine discipline is the patriarch Jacob. First Jacob suffered the death of his mother’s faithful nurse, Deborah (Genesis 35:8). This is followed almost immediately by his beloved Rachel dying (Genesis 35:19). Soon after his eldest son went and lay with Bilhah, one of Jacob’s wives (Gen. 35:22). Then Isaac, his father dies (Gen. 35:29). Later, Jacob is told that his favorite son, Joseph, was dead (Gen. 37:34-35). Our Lord allows these things to happen to us in order to wean our affections from things of this earth and cause us to depend upon God and His ability.