

Monday 25 January 2021

*Jer.30,11: "Though I completely destroy all nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only in due measure; I will not let you go entirely unpunished."*

*1Pt.5,6: "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time."*

This mention/explanation of discipline and punishment to God's people occurs in the middle of the promise of their restoration. It is not punishment necessary for the satisfaction of God's anger but for the healing of their wounds, which is their givenness to many sins.

The discipline of God lets his children – us – taste the consequences of sin, and this feels punishing. But we must know, as the day will come when we shall fully understand, that God by disciplining us does not cast us away but gathers us to himself, that it is not for our destruction but for our healing. The pattern is that of the cross. And it is in Christ that we find the desire and the strength by much grace to turn from sin.

"Lord, you died for us not so that we should sin with impunity and care not for how it goes with a sinful world, but so that we have the freedom to turn from sin in repentance and obedience; thank you for reminding us, help us to recognise and acknowledge the discipline and punishment which serves our healing. Amen"