

The background of the image is a dramatic seascape. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a sliver of orange and yellow light breaking through on the right side, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The ocean is turbulent, with large, white-capped waves crashing against a dark, rocky shoreline in the foreground. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues, greys, and blacks, with the white foam of the waves providing a stark contrast.

THE
CHASTENING
OF THE LORD

Hebrews 12

THE NEED TO ENDURE (VV. 1-4)

Adversity Demands Endurance

- ❖ A call to endurance and faith (10:36) followed by examples (11) – “*great...cloud of witnesses*”
- ❖ (v. 2) – Jesus is our ultimate focus, and primary example – endurance and victory.
- ❖ (vv. 3-4) – perspective of suffering.

THE NEED TO ENDURE (VV. 1-4)

Endurance Demands Elimination

- ❖ **Endure** – from *hypo*, “under” and *meno*, “to stay, remain.”
- ❖ **Weight** – distinct from sin – unnecessary.
- ❖ **“and the sin”** – “so easily ensnares us” – *euperistatos* – *eu*, “well,” *peri*, “around,” *statos*, “standing,” i.e., easily encompassing (VINE)
 - ❖ All sin needs to be eliminated to be victorious.
 - ❖ The sin which greatly encompassed them? – 3:12, 19; 10:28; 11 – unbelief!

THE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD (VV. 5-11)

Chastening – *paideia*

- ❖ “tutorage, i.e. education or training; by implication, disciplinary correction” (STRONG)
- ❖ “(1) the act of providing guidance for responsible living. (2) the state of being brought up properly.” (BDAG)
- ❖ “(1) the whole training and education of children. (2) whatever in adults also cultivates the soul, especially by correcting mistakes and curbing passions. (2a) instruction which aims at increasing virtue.” (THAYER)

THE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD (VV. 5-11)

Chastening – *paideia*

- ❖ Involves pain – (vv. 6, 11)
- ❖ Not of necessity punishment of wrong:
 - ❖ See Christ – 5:8
 - ❖ Began when they were faithful – 10:32
 - ❖ “*every son whom He receives*” (v. 6)

THE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD (VV. 5-11)

The Source – A Father's Love

- ❖ (vv. 5-6) – speaks to sons whom the Lord loves.
- ❖ (vv. 7-9) – without = illegitimate.
- ❖ Out of love for our profit – (v. 10a)
- ❖ Trust in God's use of adversity to our advantage –
cf. 2 Corinthians 12:9

THE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD (VV. 5-11)

The Goal – Holiness, Righteousness

- ❖ *(vv. 11b)* – a training process.
- ❖ *(v. 10)* – to partake of His holiness. *(cf. 1 Peter 1:15-16)*
- ❖ *(v. 11)* – to produce fruit of righteousness. *(cf. John 15:1-2; 1 Peter 1:6-7)*
- ❖ Adversity calls us to a sound mind which distinguishes the shaken from the unshaken and prioritizes accordingly. *(vv. 26-27)*

THE NEED TO RESPOND CORRECTLY TO THE LORD'S CHASTENING (vv. 12-17)

Not Sulking, but Improving (vv. 12-13)

- ❖ Or else the spiritual man will sustain far greater injuries than the physical!

Not Yielding to Satan's Purpose

- ❖ God's purpose – (v. 14)
- ❖ Do not become embittered and act as Esau! – (vv. 15-17)
- ❖ Satan intends for it to destroy you, and it will if you do not draw near to God! (cf. 2 Corinthians 12:7)

THE NEED FOR BOLDNESS (vv. 18-24)

Not Fear

- ❖ The Old Covenant was characterized by fear – (vv. 18-21)
- ❖ God has not given us a spirit of fear – *Romans 8:15*;
2 Timothy 1:7

But Boldness

- ❖ You have come to Mount Zion! – (vv. 22-24) – the culmination of spiritual blessings fulfilled in Christ and the New Covenant.
- ❖ These are matters which cannot be shaken – (vv. 26-27)

THE NEED FOR REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR (VV. 25-29)

Be Grateful and Godly

- ❖ (v. 25) – Do not refuse Him who speaks! (*cf. Hebrews 2:1-4* – more earnest heed to God’s word.)
- ❖ (v. 28a) – We must have gratitude for God’s blessings.
- ❖ (vv. 28b-29) – Such gratitude is expressed in reverence and godliness, not deviation from the pattern of what God has spoken.

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