

February 25 Answers

- 1) In Leviticus 26, God set two paths before Israel. The path of **obedience** led to prosperity, peace, and the presence of God, while the path of **rebellion** led to poverty, war, and separation from God. Yet even at the end of disobedience, when all seemed lost and ruined, there was hope. God is a God of **forgiveness** and **restoration**, and He provided Israel a way back from apostasy. If they **humbled** themselves, confessed their sins and **turned** from evil, “Then I will remember my covenant with Jacob” (Lev 26:42). How wonderful to serve a God who welcomes back the wayward child! As we meditate on this passage, it becomes clear that God’s judgments are a severe mercy, for they are a form of **discipline**. This chapter gives us a pattern to follow: (1) Make sure that the rules and their consequences are clearly **explained**. (2) Don’t make threats; make **promises**, and then follow through. (3) Punish disobedience, but be sure to **reward** obedience. (4) Deal with disobedience in **stages**, giving more severe punishment if the rebellion persists. (5) Always discipline in **love**. God had chosen Israel to be a kingdom of **priests**, and He wanted them to draw the rest of the **world** to Him. It should come as no surprise that God disciplines us today, for the **church** is now His chosen instrument to reach the world for Christ. We need to heed God’s voice and **rejoice** that He is treating us as His children (Heb 12:5–11).