

## WHEN GOD CHASTENS

### PSALM 38

Introduction:

Not all sickness is chastisement, as we learn from Job's experience, but some is as we learn from David's experience.

This Psalm was written so David would never forget how painful it is when God begins to deal with you in chastisement. We do not know the specific time and circumstances of this humbling experience, but it may well have been connected to his public transgressions in connection with breakup of the home of Uriah, and the whole mess that grew out of it. There are indications that the Lord touched David's body with disease during this time—especially in Psalm 51. This Psalm is usually considered one of the penitential psalms.

It is rather ironic that I have studied this Psalm on a day in which I am in great misery because of a terrible cold, sinus infection, sore throat, and just general misery. And I suspect that this affliction is related to some abuse of my body that lowered my immune system. So it has been one that has caught my attention.

- I. WHEN GOD CHASTENS, THE SUFFERING CAN BE SEVERE.

1. The suffering can be physically severe.
2. The suffering can be relationally severe.

The depth of the divine abhorrence of our sins, and the depth of His desire for our holiness escapes us. We chose to ignore the attitude and desire of God—to our own hurt. It is His love for us that prompts Him to chastise us.

II. WHEN GOD CHASTENS, HE KNOWS THE EXTENT OF OUR PAIN. (v. 9)

III. WHEN GOD CHASTENS, WE SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SIN. (v. 4-5, 18-19)

IV. WHEN GOD CHASTENS, HE IS STILL OUR ONLY HOPE. (v. 15-22)

1. He alone can remove the guilt.
2. He alone can stop the chastisement.
3. He alone can give healing.