6/21/09

***Recap of 6/14/09:***

*Why do the righteous suffer?*

*-Righteousness does not exempt us from trials and suffering (examples are Job, Paul, etc.). The providences of God are often applied indiscriminately. (Matthew 5:45-48)*

*-When we suffer we are following the example of Christ (Luke 24:26; 1 Peter 5:10)*

*-Sometimes suffering is due to the discipline of God (Hebrews 12): discipline is proof of God’s love, vs. 6; it is proof that we are God’s children, vv. 7,8; it is evidence that He is our Father, vs. 9; discipline trains us to live righteously, vs. 11; discipline teaches us obedience, Hebrews 5:8*

*-Suffering tests our faith (Proverbs 17:3): to prove it genuine, 1 Peter 1;6,7, to produce endurance, James 1:2,3*

*-God is arranging our circumstances for our good (Romans 8:28)*

*-Suffering tests our character, our integrity toward God, our love for God (Job 1 & 2)*

**“When a Dismal Outlook is the Best Outcome”**

**Genesis 31:1–36**

 I. Joseph’s introduction 37:1,2

 II. Jacob’s decision 37:3-4

III. Joseph’s dreams 37:5-11

IV. Joseph’s downfall 37:12-36