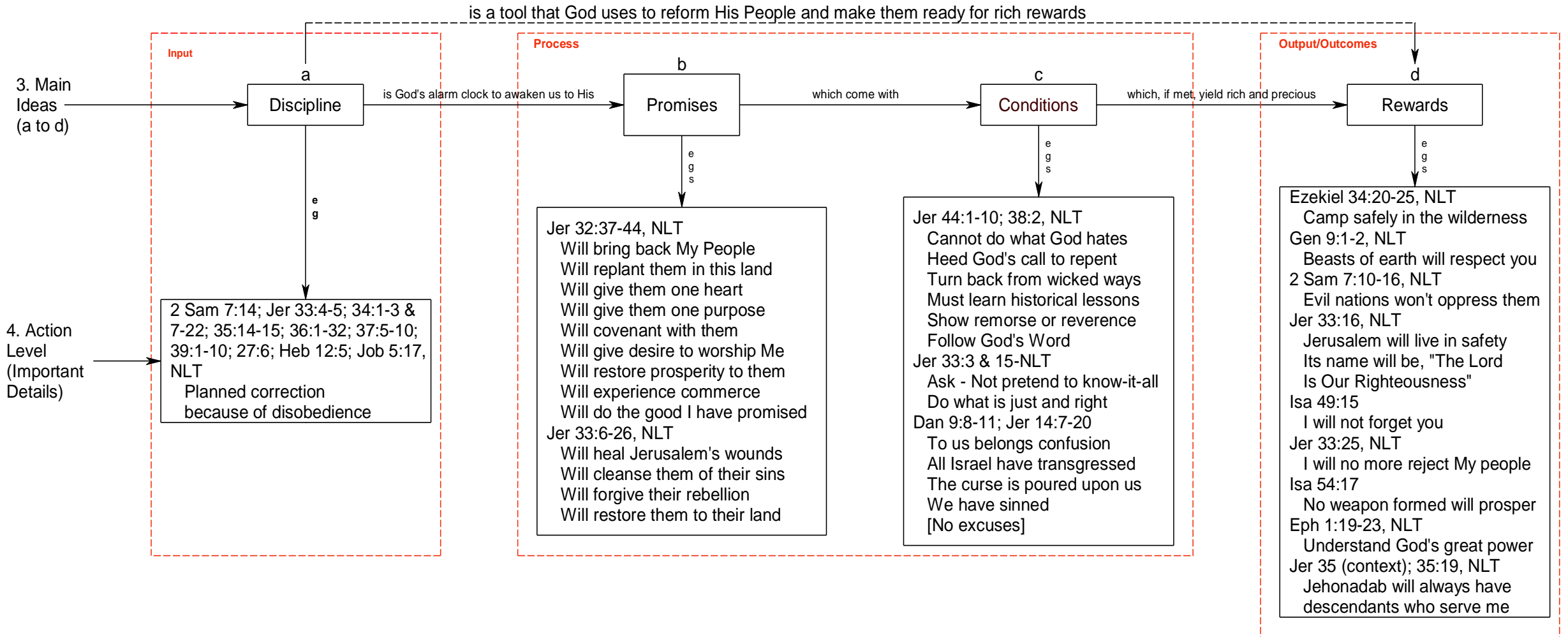


God Can Fulfill His Plans for Your Life If You Cooperate With Him

1. Humans have a tendency to infer associations between events. As a cognitive tool, inferences about associations tell us that two or more things belong together; which, in context can be helpful to know. When humans make correct inferences about associations, the result is comprehension of phenomena. On the other hand, when humans make faulty inferences about associations, the result, for example, may be confusion, wrongful blame, suspicions, and the like. Hence, faulty inferences about associations are the basis of some distress in our world. The Latin phrase, “Post hoc ergo propter hoc” captures the faulty associations’ tendency. It says A occurred, and then B occurred; therefore, A caused B. An example follows. The stove worked well before tenant A moved in, but as soon as A took occupancy; it stopped working; so A caused the stove’s malfunction, (defined as B). This sort of faulty reasoning can also occur in religious matters masquerading as holiness. Perhaps an example may clarify. “...God is love” (1 John 4:8; John 3:16; Psa 89:14; Ephesians 2:4) is both scriptural and easily appreciated. It is a beloved Christian theme; hence, some religious people tend to associate only pleasant experiences with God. The subjective reasoning goes like this; God is love; love is good, and God is good all the time; hence, one should expect only pleasant experiences from God. The problem, however, lies in human assumptions, definitions, and reasoning about God’s love and goodness. For the Scripture plainly states, “...The Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes each one He accepts as His child” (Heb 12:6, NLT). Therefore, humans must begin to appreciate God’s love in a new light, which often requires tearing down the walls of our narrowly defined, and ill-conceived, self-serving definitions and motivations (1 Cor 3:1-4). The purpose of this study is to illustrate God’s discipline as an integral part of His love for redeeming His People.
2. DCPR is the memory aid for this study. What does the acronym, DCPR, means? D is for discipline; C is for conditions; P is for the promises, and R is for results. The chart below integrates the acronym into a unified whole. Follow along as we navigate from 3 to 4. Level three has the study is in a nutshell, and level four explores details encapsulated at level three.

Figure 1: All God's Promises Require Sober and Mature Reactions, Including Repentance



Definitions (What do these words mean?):

Promises are a declaration that something will or will NOT be done. They provide a basis for expectation, hope, and anticipation.

Commerce is interchange of goods or services for money.

Inference is reaching a conclusion, (decision or judgment), about something from known facts or evidence.

Discipline is training to act in accordance with rules or training expected to produce a specific character or pattern of behavior or moral or mental improvement.

Defiled God's Name by reenslaving people whom you set free (Jer 34:16, NLT)