



## GODLY PARENTING

GRACE KETTERMAN

(Proverbs 22:6)



Parents today are grossly confused by lovely-sounding misinformation about how to raise children. An example is the rose theory. It alleges that children are like rosebuds. If no one bothers or interferes with them, they will naturally unfold into gorgeous roses. Sounds lovely! Trouble is, of course, children are not born into the plant kingdom! Children need strong and loving parents. Following are seven functions of great parenting.

### NURTURING

Beyond the obvious nurturing found in healthy food, parents must feed children spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and socially. They are to teach them to play and to pray, to laugh and to cry, to handle anger correctly, to express sadness, and to recover from loss and grief. They can teach them to think, to listen, to learn, and to communicate. Above all, they must teach them about God.

### PROTECTION

No infant could survive long without the protection of a loving parent. Good parents must find the proper balance of protection without overprotection. In an increasingly violent world, physical protection demands constant vigilance.

But in the eternal sense, parents must protect their children's minds. By example and teaching, parents can and must protect children from agnosticism, prejudice, and hatred. They must counter cultural trends toward superficiality and materialism, and children must be trained in the way to live so as to guard against these things. Even though they may temporarily rebel, they are likely to return to those good early teachings (Prov. 22:6).

### CREATIVITY

God has given scientists knowledge that can enable most couples who have diffi-

culty conceiving and bearing children to do so. But those who cannot conceive and carry to term might yet become parents by adoption. A friend adopted a year-old foster child. While waiting to receive the child she learned about the foster mom—what perfume she wore, how she held, fed and changed the baby. This wise adoptive mother made the baby's transition to a new home easier.

Good parents are creative in the ways they live—how they correct their children, spend their money, plan for the future, and teach the truth of God to their families (Deut. 6:4-9).

### EDUCATION

Many parents of toddlers these days seek the preschool that offers the best academic program, but preschoolers need something much more basic than knowledge. They must have the foundation of trust. Trust comes from parents' consistent response to the child's needs. The response may be tender love or tough, but the certainty that Mom and Dad are there, they care, and they will take charge provides healthy, growing trust.

Preschoolers who learn to respect boundaries and obey rules become far safer teens. Proverbs 29:15, 17 makes it clear that children respond to the rod of correction. I like to think of this rod as that ever-present shepherd's rod, used -

prod the wayward sheep away from danger. At times, the crook must rescue the lamb that evaded the prods and fell into real danger.

Children can learn to know right from wrong. They must learn the qualities that later become the fruits of the Holy Spirit—love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22, 23). By demonstrating these superb values, parents are preparing their children for eternity.

### **MOTIVATION**

My father would regularly ask me, "Grace, do you think you'll ever amount to anything?" His face showed me he knew I would, but he set me thinking. His further teaching was that my life was not an accident, that God had His best plan for my life. My job was to find and follow it.

Motivation to make one's life count for God is imparted by parents who bless their children with this truth and help them discover God's best. Sadly, some parents try to motivate success by pronouncing negative predictions. Done in anger, these statements become a curse, causing some children to fail because they come to believe these curses are true. God prompted Paul to write, "Children, obey your parents in all things. . . . Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged" (Col. 3:20, 21). When parents bless their children, it is easier for children to be obedient.

### **RELINQUISHMENT**

The main goal of godly parenting is to turn out useful, God-fearing adults whose lives will matter. Teaching responsibility by assigning tasks, instructing as to how to do them well, and then expressing approval and appreciation will prepare children to become healthy, independent adults.

However, releasing young people into

today's world is a panicky process. This process can be made more reassuring when parents remember that they are transferring them from the shelter of their parental wings to the perfect care of the heavenly Father.

### **A PLACE FOR RETURNING**

My mom and dad are gone now, and so is the warm old home. I now visit the nearby cemetery. There I smile and remember. I weep and miss the old love. But I go from there a stronger woman because I know I'm a composite of the nurturing, protection, creativity, education, motivation, and relinquishment they put together. Above all and surrounding all is the certainty they gave me that I am a child of God, relying on Him.

### **FURTHER MEDITATION:**

Other passages to study about the issue of parenting include:

- > Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 11:18, 19
- > 1 Samuel 1:19-28
- > Psalms 34:11; 127:3-5
- > Proverbs 23:15-26
- > Matthew 19:14
- > 1 Timothy 5:4
- > 2 Timothy 1:5

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To Learn More: Turn to the key passage note on parenting at 1 Samuel 1:27, 28 on page 344. See also the personality profile of Abraham on page 26.

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## HANNAH'S PRAYER

**2** And Hannah prayed and said:

"My heart rejoices in the LORD;  
My horn<sup>a</sup> is exalted in the LORD.  
I smile at my enemies,  
Because I rejoice in Your salvation.

"No one is holy like the LORD,  
For *there is none* besides You,  
Nor *is there* any rock like our God.

"Talk no more so very proudly;  
Let no arrogance come from your mouth,  
For the LORD is the God of knowledge;  
And by Him actions are weighed.

"The bows of the mighty men *are* broken,  
And those who stumbled are girded with  
strength.

*Those who were* full have hired  
themselves out for bread,  
And the hungry have ceased to hunger.  
Even the barren has borne seven,  
And she who has many children has  
become feeble.

"The LORD kills and makes alive;  
He brings down to the grave and brings  
up.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD makes poor and makes rich;  
He brings low and lifts up.  
He raises the poor from the dust  
And lifts the beggar from the ash heap,  
To set *them* among princes  
And make *them* inherit the throne of  
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**On Loan** (1:27, 28) Children are gifts from God. In ancient Israelite culture, not having children was seen as a great tragedy. Samuel's birth was a blessing to Hannah. To thank God for answering her prayer, Hannah kept her promise and dedicated Samuel to serve the Lord at the tabernacle. Her words to Eli the high priest serve as a model for all parents. Even as parents care for and raise their children, they must remember that each child ultimately belongs to God. Parents give their children back to the Lord when they entrust their children to God and His guidance. **Topic: Motherhood**

## KEY PASSAGE



Parenting

## A MOST IMPORTANT JOB

(1:27, 28)

Parenting is demanding and rewarding. Many people prepare and study for years to enter a chosen profession, but parenting is usually on-the-job training.

Moreover, it is a job with no retirement plan.

The family unit, created by God, is the basic foundation of every society. God calls children "a reward" (Ps. 127:3). He commands parents to raise their children with loving discipline (Prov. 10:1, 5; 13:1; 15:20), bringing them up "in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). The goal of parenting is to eventually let the children go. Like Hannah, parents begin that letting-go process right away as they understand that their children are God's gifts. They are lent to us for a time, and we give them back to God as we allow them to follow His guidance in their lives.

Turn to the article about parenting on pages 826, 827. See also the personality profile of Abraham on page 26.



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# ABRAHAM INTERCEDES FOR SODOM

<sup>16</sup>Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way. <sup>17</sup>And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, <sup>18</sup>since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? <sup>19</sup>For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him." <sup>20</sup>And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, <sup>21</sup>I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

<sup>22</sup>Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. <sup>23</sup>And Abraham came near

and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup>Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it? <sup>25</sup>Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

<sup>26</sup>So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes."

<sup>27</sup>Then Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, I who *am* but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: <sup>28</sup>Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?"

So He said, "If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it."

<sup>29</sup>And he spoke to Him yet again and said,

"Suppose there were ten righteous in the city?"

So He said, "I will spare the city for the sake of the ten."

Then He said, "I will not do it. I will destroy the city."

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Parenting

## PERSONALITY PROFILE

### ABRAHAM: A PARENT'S HEART

(GENESIS 18:19)

Abraham loved his children. In fact, the first time the Bible uses the word "love" occurs when God describes the relationship between Abraham and his son Isaac (Gen. 22:2). Abraham showered his kids with affection and hope, as any good parent will do. Better yet, he loved and obeyed God even more than he loved his children.

The birth of Isaac brought great joy to Abraham's house, for it fulfilled God's promise against impossible odds. Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah 90 at Isaac's birth. Although Isaac was the promised child, he wasn't Abraham's first. Years earlier, in a rash attempt to assist God, Sarah suggested that her husband might have a child with the much younger slave girl Hagar, a child Sarah planned to call her own. But Sarah misread her own feelings. Once Ishmael was born, Sarah rejected him and his mother. She eventually insisted that Abraham expel them from his house. This was not an easy decision for Abraham; after all, Ishmael was his son.

Later, Abraham had a much harder decision to make. God asked him to sacrifice his son Isaac. The deliberate manner in which Abraham obeyed speaks volumes about painful faithfulness. And surely it spoke volumes to his son, Isaac, about his father's priorities. For Abraham, nothing was more important than God.

Earlier God had said of Abraham, "I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice" (Gen. 18:19). Abraham's parenting reflected his character, and his character was grounded in his faith in God. Whether they like it or not, parents live out their commitment to God. If that commitment is their central focus, parents will then be able to model a life of faith to their children.

To Learn More: Turn to the article about parenting on pages 826, 827. See also the key passage note at 1 Samuel 1:27, 28 on page 344.



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Aaron and his sons did all the things that the LORD had commanded by the hand of Moses.

#### THE PRIESTLY MINISTRY BEGINS

It came to pass on the eighth day that Moses called Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel. <sup>2</sup>And he said to Aaron, "Take for yourself a young bull as a sin offering and a ram as a burnt offering, without blemish, and offer *them* before the LORD. <sup>3</sup>And to the children of Israel you shall speak, saying, 'Take a kid of the goats as a sin offering, and a calf and a lamb, *both* of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering, <sup>4</sup>also a bull and a ram as peace offerings, to sacrifice before the LORD, and a grain offering mixed with oil; for today the LORD will appear to you.' "

<sup>5</sup>So they brought what Moses commanded before the tabernacle of meeting. And all the congregation drew near and stood before the LORD. <sup>6</sup>Then Moses said, "This is the thing which the LORD commanded you to do, and the glory of the LORD will appear to you." <sup>7</sup>And Moses said to Aaron, "Go to the altar, offer your sin offering and your burnt offering, and make atonement for yourself and for the people. Offer the offering of the people, and make atonement for them, as the LORD commanded."

<sup>8</sup>Aaron therefore went to the altar and killed the calf of the sin offering, which *was* for himself. <sup>9</sup>Then the sons of Aaron brought the blood to him. And he dipped his finger in the blood, put it on the horns of the altar, and poured the blood at the base of the altar. <sup>10</sup>But the fat, the kidneys, and the fatty lobe from the liver of the sin offering he burned on the altar, as the LORD had commanded Moses. <sup>11</sup>The flesh and the hide he burned with fire outside the camp.

<sup>12</sup>And he killed the burnt offering; and Aaron's sons presented to him the blood, which he sprinkled all around on the altar.

<sup>13</sup>Then they presented the burnt offering to him, with its pieces and head, and he burned *them* on the altar. <sup>14</sup>And he washed the entrails and the legs, and burned *them* with the burnt offering on the altar.

<sup>15</sup>Then he brought the people's offering, and took the goat, which *was* the sin offering for the people, and killed it and offered it for sin, like the first one. <sup>16</sup>And he brought the burnt offering and offered it according to the prescribed manner. <sup>17</sup>Then he brought the grain offering, took a handful of it, and burned *it* on the altar, besides the burnt sacrifice of the morning.

<sup>18</sup>He also killed the bull and the ram as sacrifices of peace offerings, which *were* for the people. And Aaron's sons presented to him the blood, which he sprinkled all around on the altar, <sup>19</sup>and the fat from the bull and the ram—the fatty tail, what covers *the* entrails and the kidneys, and the fatty lobe *attached* to the liver; <sup>20</sup>and they put the fat on the breasts. Then he burned the fat on the altar; <sup>21</sup>but the breasts and the right thigh Aaron waved as a wave offering before the LORD, as Moses had commanded.

<sup>22</sup>Then Aaron lifted his hand toward the people, blessed them, and came down from offering the sin offering, the burnt offering, and peace offerings. <sup>23</sup>And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of meeting, and came out and blessed the people. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people, <sup>24</sup>and fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When all the people saw *it*, they shouted and fell on their faces.

#### THE PROFANE FIRE OF NADAB AND ABIHU

**10** Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane



#### SOUL NOTE

**Into God's Arms (10:1-3)** Christian parents hope to see their children grow up to follow Christ. While the Bible offers practical guidance for raising children, there are no automatic assurances, no guarantees. Aaron, the high priest and leader of Israel's worship, saw his two older sons, Nadab and Abihu, die because they violated God's laws. No one can be certain how his or her children will turn out. Even the best parents will experience parenting challenges. As with all other aspects of life, parents must yield their children to the arms of God. **Topic: Parenting**

## LOVE AND OBEDIENCE REWARDED

**11** "Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always. <sup>2</sup>Know today that *I do not speak* with your children, who have not known and who have not seen the chastening of the LORD your God, His greatness and His mighty hand and His outstretched arm— <sup>3</sup>His signs and His acts which He did in the midst of Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to all his land; <sup>4</sup>what He did to the

army of Egypt, to their horses and their chariots: how He made the waters of the Red Sea overflow them as they pursued you, and *how* the LORD has destroyed them to this day; <sup>5</sup>what He did for you in the wilderness until you came to this place; <sup>6</sup>and what He did to Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, their households, their tents, and all the substance that was in their possession, in the midst of all Israel— <sup>7</sup>but your eyes have seen every great act of the LORD which He did.

<sup>8</sup>"Therefore you shall keep every commandment which I command you today, that you may be strong, and go in and possess the land which you cross over to possess, <sup>9</sup>and that you may prolong your days in the land which the LORD swore to give your fathers, to them and their descendants, 'a land flowing with milk and honey.' <sup>10</sup>For the land which you go to possess is not like the land of Egypt from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and watered it by foot, as a vegetable garden; <sup>11</sup>but the land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, <sup>12</sup>a land

for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.

<sup>13</sup>"And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>14</sup>then I<sup>a</sup> will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil.

"Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand."

DEUTERONOMY 11:18

<sup>15</sup>And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled. <sup>16</sup>Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them, <sup>17</sup>lest the LORD's anger be aroused against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you.

<sup>18</sup>"Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>19</sup>You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. <sup>20</sup>And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, <sup>21</sup>that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.

<sup>22</sup>"For if you carefully keep all these

11:9 <sup>a</sup>Exodus 3:8 11:14 <sup>a</sup>Following Masoretic Text and Targum; Samaritan Pentateuch, Septuagint, and Vulgate read *He*.

## SOUL NOTE



**Teach Them Well (11:18, 19)** So important were the words of 4:9, 10 that they are repeated here. God commands parents to teach their children about Him and His love for them. Parental soul care involves a commitment to teach children in the ways of God. Parents should be able to sense teachable moments with their children. Then they can instruct them in God's ways. Home is the incubator where small hearts and hands are trained to serve God. **Topic: Parenting**



that the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying: <sup>2</sup>"Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, <sup>3</sup>and command them, saying, 'Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.' "

<sup>4</sup>Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; <sup>5</sup>and Joshua said to them: "Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, <sup>6</sup>that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' <sup>7</sup>Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever."

<sup>8</sup>And the children of Israel did so, just as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the LORD had spoken to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them to the place where they lodged, and laid them down there. <sup>9</sup>Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day.

<sup>10</sup>So the priests who bore the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the LORD had commanded Joshua to speak to the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua; and the people hurried and crossed over. <sup>11</sup>Then it

came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over, that the ark of the LORD and the priests crossed over in the presence of the people. <sup>12</sup>And the men of Reuben, the men of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh crossed over armed before the children of Israel, as Moses had spoken to them. <sup>13</sup>About forty thousand prepared for war crossed over before the LORD for battle, to the plains of Jericho. <sup>14</sup>On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they had feared Moses, all the days of his life.

<sup>15</sup>Then the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying, <sup>16</sup>"Command the priests who bear the ark of the Testimony to come up from the Jordan."

<sup>17</sup>Joshua therefore commanded the priests, saying, "Come up from the Jordan." <sup>18</sup>And it came to pass, when the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD had come from the midst of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet touched the dry land, that the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks as before.

<sup>19</sup>Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and they camped in Gilgal on the east border of Jericho.

<sup>20</sup>And those twelve stones which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal.

<sup>21</sup>Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, 'What are these stones?'

<sup>22</sup>then you shall let your children know, saying, 'Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land'; <sup>23</sup>for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, <sup>24</sup>that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever."

#### SOUL NOTE



**Pass It On (4:19-24)** The memorial of twelve stones was to remind the people of God's miracles on their behalf. In the future, children who saw the memorial would ask their parents what it meant. Then the parents could tell how God dried up the Jordan River just as He had dried up the Red Sea, allowing the Israelites to cross both bodies of water on dry land. It is the responsibility of parents to pass along to their children the stories of how God has worked in their lives. This will strengthen their children's faith. **Topic: Parenting**

than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?"  
<sup>30</sup>Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: 'I said indeed *that* your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the LORD says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed. <sup>31</sup>Behold, the days are coming that I will cut off your arm and the arm of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house. <sup>32</sup>And you will see an enemy in My dwelling place, *despite* all the good which God does for Israel. And there shall not be an old man in your house forever. <sup>33</sup>But any of your men *whom* I do not cut off from My altar shall consume your eyes and grieve your heart. And all the descendants of your house shall die in the flower of their age. <sup>34</sup>Now this *shall be* a sign to you that will come upon your two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas: in one day they shall die, both of them. <sup>35</sup>Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest *who* shall do according to what *is* in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever. <sup>36</sup>And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left in your house will come and bow down to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and say, "Please, put me in one of the priestly positions, that I may eat a piece of bread." "

#### SAMUEL'S FIRST PROPHECY

**3** Now the boy Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; *there was* no widespread revelation. <sup>2</sup>And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim

that he could not see, <sup>3</sup>and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle<sup>a</sup> of the LORD where the ark of God *was*, and while Samuel was lying down, <sup>4</sup>that the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup>So he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me."

And he said, "I did not call; lie down again." And he went and lay down.

<sup>6</sup>Then the LORD called yet again, "Samuel!"

So Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." He answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."

<sup>7</sup>(Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor was the word of the LORD yet revealed to him.)

<sup>8</sup>And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me."

Then Eli perceived that the LORD had called the boy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup>Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."

<sup>11</sup>Then the LORD said to Samuel: "Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. <sup>12</sup>In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup>For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them. <sup>14</sup>And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."

**3:3** <sup>a</sup>Hebrew *heykal*, palace or temple

#### SOUL NOTE



**Intervene!** (3:13) Eli's sons "made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them." Eli did not discipline his sons even though they were priests under his supervision. These men were treating the sacrifices of the people with contempt (2:12-17) and were committing sexual sin with women of the tabernacle. Eli, as parent and as high priest, certainly had the authority to deal with his sons, but he chose not to do anything. Eventually, God stepped in. God gives parents authority over their children. Parents should use that authority wisely to guide their children away from sin.

**Topic: Parenting**

<sup>15</sup>So S  
opened  
And Sam  
<sup>16</sup>Then E  
my son!"

He ans  
<sup>17</sup>And

LORD sp  
me. God  
hide any  
said to  
thing, and  
"It is the  
to Him."

<sup>19</sup>So Sa  
him and  
ground.  
knew that  
prophet of  
again in S  
to Samuel

**4** And  
Israel

THE ARK

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the LORD  
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Hophni and  
of the cover

<sup>5</sup>And when  
LORD came  
loudly that  
Philistines  
said, "What  
in the camp  
understood  
into the camp  
for they said  
And they said



## ADONIJAH PRESUMES TO BE KING

**1** Now King David was old, advanced in years; and they put covers on him, but he could not get warm. <sup>2</sup>Therefore his servants said to him, "Let a young woman, a virgin, be sought for our lord the king, and let her stand before the king, and let her care for him; and let her lie in your bosom, that our lord the king may be warm." <sup>3</sup>So they sought for a lovely young woman throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king. <sup>4</sup>The young woman was very lovely; and she cared for the king, and served him; but the king did not know her.

<sup>5</sup>Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king"; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. <sup>6</sup>(And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, "Why have you done so?") He was also very good-looking. His mother had borne him after Absalom.) <sup>7</sup>Then he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest, and they followed and helped Adonijah. <sup>8</sup>But Zadok the priest, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei, Rei, and the mighty men who belonged to David were not with Adonijah.

<sup>9</sup>And Adonijah sacrificed sheep and oxen and fattened cattle by the stone of Zohaleth, which is by En Rogel; he also invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the men of Judah, the king's servants. <sup>10</sup>But he did not invite Nathan the prophet, Benaiah, the mighty men, or Solomon his brother.

<sup>11</sup>So Nathan spoke to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, "Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king, and David our lord does not know it? <sup>12</sup>Come, please, let me now give you advice, that you

may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. <sup>13</sup>Go immediately to King David and say to him, 'Did you not, my lord, O king, swear to your maidservant, saying, "Assuredly your son Solomon shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne"? Why then has Adonijah become king?' <sup>14</sup>Then, while you are still talking there with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm your words."

<sup>15</sup>So Bathsheba went into the chamber to the king. (Now the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was serving the king.) <sup>16</sup>And Bathsheba bowed and did homage to the king. Then the king said, "What is your wish?"

<sup>17</sup>Then she said to him, "My lord, you swore by the LORD your God to your maidservant, saying, 'Assuredly Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.' <sup>18</sup>So now, look! Adonijah has become king; and now, my lord the king, you do not know about it. <sup>19</sup>He has sacrificed oxen and fattened cattle and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army; but Solomon your servant he has not invited. <sup>20</sup>And as for you, my lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, that you should tell them who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. <sup>21</sup>Otherwise it will happen, when my lord the king rests with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be counted as offenders."

<sup>22</sup>And just then, while she was still talking with the king, Nathan the prophet also came in. <sup>23</sup>So they told the king, saying, "Here is Nathan the prophet." And when he came in before the king, he bowed down before the king with his face to the ground. <sup>24</sup>And Nathan said, "My lord, O king, have you said, 'Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my

## SOUL NOTE



**A Good Investment** (1:5, 6) David was very ill, and one of his sons, Adonijah, set up a scheme to take over the kingdom. The Bible says of Adonijah that "his father had not rebuked him at any time." One of David's apparent weaknesses was the inability to discipline his children. Many severe conflicts had arisen within his family among the various half brothers. David's failures as a father led to a number of failures and sins in his children. Parents always influence their children—for good and bad. There is no substitute for invested, caring, loving parents who discipline when necessary.

**Topic: Parenting**

Nor punished us according to our iniquities.

- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;
- 12 As far as the east is from the west,  
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.
- 13 As a father pities *his* children,  
So the LORD pities those who fear Him.
- 14 For He knows our frame;  
He remembers that we are dust.
- 15 As for man, his days are like grass;  
As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.
- 16 For the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
And its place remembers it no more.<sup>a</sup>
- 17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting  
On those who fear Him,  
And His righteousness to children's children,
- 18 To such as keep His covenant,  
And to those who remember His commandments to do them.
- 19 The LORD has established His throne in heaven,  
And His kingdom rules over all.
- 20 Bless the LORD, you His angels,  
Who excel in strength, who do His word,  
Heeding the voice of His word.
- 21 Bless the LORD, all you His hosts,  
You ministers of His, who do His pleasure.
- 22 Bless the LORD, all His works,  
In all places of His dominion.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

## PSALM 104

## PRAISE TO THE SOVEREIGN LORD FOR HIS CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

- <sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul!
- O LORD my God, You are very great:  
You are clothed with honor and majesty.
- <sup>2</sup> Who cover *Yourself* with light as with a garment,  
Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.
- He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters,  
Who makes the clouds His chariot,  
Who walks on the wings of the wind,  
Who makes His angels spirits,  
His ministers a flame of fire.
- You who laid the foundations of the earth,  
So that it should not be moved forever,  
You covered it with the deep as with a garment;  
The waters stood above the mountains.
- <sup>7</sup> At Your rebuke they fled;  
At the voice of Your thunder they hastened away.
- <sup>8</sup> They went up over the mountains;  
They went down into the valleys,  
To the place which You founded for them.
- <sup>9</sup> You have set a boundary that they may not pass over,  
That they may not return to cover the earth.
- <sup>10</sup> He sends the springs into the valleys;  
They flow among the hills.

103:16 <sup>a</sup>Compare Job 7:10



## SOUL NOTE

**Children's Children (103:17, 18)** One of the great promises of the Bible is that the mercy of the Lord continues from one generation to the next, even to our children's children. This does not mean that the children of believers will automatically believe in God, but that God's mercy and goodness are available to each generation that follows the good example set by the previous generation. Parents must set the right example for their children. They are living not merely for themselves; they are setting a precedent that will affect generations to come. **Topic: Parenting**

11 They give  
field;  
The wild  
12 By them  
their l  
They sing  
13 He water  
charm  
The earth  
Your v  
He cause  
cattle,  
And vege  
That he r  
earth.  
15 And wine  
man,  
Oil to ma  
And breat  
heart.  
16 The trees  
The cedar  
planted  
17 Where the  
The stork  
18 The high  
The cliffs  
badgers  
19 He appoin  
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20 You make  
In which a  
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21 The young  
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22 When the  
And lie do  
23 Man goes  
And to his  
24 O LORD, ho  
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them all  
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of Your  
possessi  
25 This great  
In which a  
things,

**1** The word of the LORD that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.

#### THE LAND LAID WASTE

- <sup>2</sup> Hear this, you elders,  
And give ear, all you inhabitants of the land!  
Has *anything like* this happened in your days,  
Or even in the days of your fathers?
- <sup>3</sup> Tell your children about it,  
Let your children *tell* their children,  
And their children another generation.
- <sup>4</sup> What the chewing locust<sup>a</sup> left, the swarming locust has eaten;  
What the swarming locust left, the crawling locust has eaten;  
And what the crawling locust left, the consuming locust has eaten.
- <sup>5</sup> Awake, you drunkards, and weep;  
And wail, all you drinkers of wine,  
Because of the new wine,  
For it has been cut off from your mouth.
- <sup>6</sup> For a nation has come up against My land,  
Strong, and without number;  
His teeth *are* the teeth of a lion,  
And he has the fangs of a fierce lion.
- <sup>7</sup> He has laid waste My vine,  
And ruined My fig tree;  
He has stripped it bare and thrown it away;  
Its branches are made white.
- <sup>8</sup> Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth  
For the husband of her youth.
- <sup>9</sup> The grain offering and the drink offering  
Have been cut off from the house of the LORD;

The priests mourn, who minister to the LORD.

- <sup>10</sup> The field is wasted,  
The land mourns;  
For the grain is ruined,  
The new wine is dried up,  
The oil fails.
- <sup>11</sup> Be ashamed, you farmers,  
Wail, you vinedressers,  
For the wheat and the barley;  
Because the harvest of the field has perished.
- <sup>12</sup> The vine has dried up,  
And the fig tree has withered;  
The pomegranate tree,  
The palm tree also,  
And the apple tree—  
All the trees of the field are withered;  
Surely joy has withered away from the sons of men.

#### MOURNING FOR THE LAND

- <sup>13</sup> Gird yourselves and lament, you priests;  
Wail, you who minister before the altar:  
Come, lie all night in sackcloth,  
You who minister to my God;  
For the grain offering and the drink offering  
Are withheld from the house of your God.
- <sup>14</sup> Consecrate a fast,  
Call a sacred assembly;  
Gather the elders  
And all the inhabitants of the land  
Into the house of the LORD your God,  
And cry out to the LORD.
- <sup>15</sup> Alas for the day!  
For the day of the LORD *is* at hand;

1:4 <sup>a</sup>Exact identity of these locusts is unknown.

#### SOUL NOTE



**Teach Them Well** (1:3) The Bible tells parents to teach their children about sin and about salvation in God (1:3; Ex. 10:2; Deut. 4:9; Ps. 22:30, 31). Joel exhorted the Israelites to remind their children of the locusts that God had sent on their land, so the children would learn the lesson God was teaching Israel. Even when it's difficult, parents should tell their children the truth about sin and what God has done for them. This will give children the opportunity to learn from their parents' mistakes.

**Topic: Parenting**

It shall be  
Almighty  
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Joy and  
God's  
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lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup>having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! <sup>6</sup>For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, <sup>7</sup>always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>8</sup>Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; <sup>9</sup>but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

#### THE MAN OF GOD AND THE WORD OF GOD

<sup>10</sup>But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long-suffering, love, perseverance, <sup>11</sup>persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. <sup>12</sup>Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. <sup>13</sup>But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup>But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, <sup>15</sup>and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

#### PREACH THE WORD

**4** I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at <sup>a</sup>His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup>Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; <sup>4</sup>and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. <sup>5</sup>But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

#### PAUL'S VALEDICTORY

<sup>6</sup>For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

#### THE ABANDONED APOSTLE

<sup>9</sup>Be diligent to come to me quickly; <sup>10</sup>for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. <sup>11</sup>Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for minis-

**4:1** <sup>a</sup>NU-Text omits *therefore* and reads *and by* for *at*.

I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race,  
I have kept the faith.

2 TIMOTHY 4:7

#### SOUL NOTE



**Early Education (3:14, 15)** Timothy had been learning the Holy Scriptures from childhood. Christian parents have the God-given responsibility to raise their children to know and love God and His word. Young children can learn the great truths and stories found in the Bible that show God's love and power. Teaching given to young children will be embedded in their minds, giving them a strong foundation on which to build. That training is able to make them "wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." **Topic: Parenting**