

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

No. 76

June 2018

Fathers

Introduction

It is interesting to note the emphasis of God on fraternal positions in a family or divine persons, and when this is done it is discovered that the word "Father" is mentioned 977 times and "Fathers" occurs 515 times. Together this placement occurs 1492 times, a fact quite remarkable when it is known that there are only 1,189 chapters in the bible and 31,102 verses. This means that on average these terms are used every 1 ¼ chapters and once every 25 verses!

- a) The word "Father" is first mentioned when the Lord, having made Eve and presented her to Adam, Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2:23, 24). There are several observations to be made from this scripture:
 - i) God's ideal was only two sexes, not multiple, just a man and a woman.
 - ii) At marriage man was to leave his "father and mother".
 - iii) The woman was defined as "his wife".
 - iv) While this is not our subject, it is evident God never intended to have confusion of the sexes, much less multi-sexes.

There was an unknown duration from when Adam and Eve were sent forth out of the garden of Eden (Gen. 3:23) until the birth of Cain. However, they both had understood God's promise of One who would bruise the head of the serpent (Gen. 3:15) which came after they had sinned. This is shown by Adam calling his wife "Eve" (which means, "the mother of all living) only after sin had entered. Eve called her firstborn son "Cain", which means "possession". "I have gotten a man from the LORD" (Gen. 4:1). She believed they had entered possession of the Lord's promise.

Adam as a Father

At the least, there was a one year period between being put out of Eden and the birth of the child. I would think it must have meant a split mind when Eve told Adam she was going to have a baby.

- a) On one hand, what was going to happen, how would the baby be born, how would they know when it was due? They had no parents to ask any questions and no books to read.
- b) On the other hand, what would they feed the baby and what could they expect to help him, physically, emotionally, mentally and most importantly spiritually?

One thing I am sure of is that Adam prayed for wisdom a great deal as the child grew. Then a second baby was born and perhaps they thought he would just be the same in character as his big brother Cain. They were in for a real shock! Baby

Abel was not like his big brother and Adam learnt that this baby and child had to be dealt with in a different way due to his different personality and interests.

- a) What lessons we have here for every father. Fathers need to seek wisdom from God for the rearing of the child and in so doing, seeking that which God says are priorities. There are at least two of these:
 - i) Train up a child in the way he should go (Prov. 22:6).
 1. This is the pledge of God to each of His children, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye" (Psa. 32:8). It was the prayer of Manoah before the birth of Samson, "Then Manoah intreated the LORD, and said, O my Lord, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child (Samson) that shall be born" (Jud. 13:8; 12).
 2. However, as so many, including Adam and Manoah, this does not apply to teaching them spiritual truths. How many fathers and mothers have sought with all their sincerity to teach their children the way of God relative to salvation only to see them depart from it? I suggest that this is to train up the child in its wholesome natural abilities, that is, if they are prone to the fine arts, encourage them in it, if in music train them up in it and being the "natural" bent of the child, he/she will not depart from it.
 3. We are fathers but we cannot set the boundaries of our children when they leave our homes and it is hard keeping the boundaries even when they are under our roofs. This is why we need to be fathers who pray for our own preservation and our children's for many a parent has lived and died with a broken heart due to their children.

Practical Considerations

"Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4).

- a) In contrast with Proverbs 22:6, this verse deals with the father's attitude to his children and deals with the spiritual aspect of bringing a child up. The first major reality is, a father cannot bring the children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord if he does not live having a fear of the Lord, or very little. Such a person will be more involved with the things of the world than the things of God and lived more for time than in the light of eternity. In dad's family when we said a bad word for the first time, dad never spanked us, for oftentimes we did not know it was a bad word. That which he would do is come beside us and then ask, "Did you ever hear dad say that word?" Of course we had not, and then he would say, "If you do not hear dad or mum say a word, then you do not say it either". That was it. However, if we said it again then there were consequences.
- b) Looking at the words we observe the following:
 - i) Provoke means not to cause the child exasperation, possibly to the point of anger.
 - ii) Nurture means comprehensive training and education which deals with mind and morals, curbing passions cultivates the character.
 - iii) Admonition means exposition of the Lord and by extension, His word.
- c) Of course these same truths apply to mothers. Timothy, from all appearances, had an unsaved father, or at least careless in the things of God. Paul reminds him of the faith that was in his mother and grandmother (2 Tim. 1:5).

Concluding Thoughts

There is a great need for not only praying fathers but also mothers, grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins and friends, for the world children live in today is shockingly different from the world we were brought up in. I was born in 1944 and recall the days of early rock and roll and the singers, but when I look at the world now:

- a) The music and the musicians of today, all there is is a satanic discordant noise called music.
- b) There is an abundance and wide availability of drugs.
- c) There is the availability of vicious violence seen in movies as normal.
- d) Where cursing, the acceptance of vulgarity and blasphemy are thought nothing of.
- e) Promiscuousness is the norm.

It is because our children are the target of Satan and the whole world lieth in wickedness that we must not just pray but truly intercede, for if my child dies unsaved they will forever languish in the cavern of the damned, weeping and wailing, without hope in blackness of darkness for all eternity. What parent would be apathetic about such a possibility of such an eternal future for their child?

To me it is a great relief to know that as saints we have a Heavenly Father who is always perfect in every decision He makes concerning us whether it is for correction, warning or encouragement. By the work of our Lord we have an ever open door of access to speak to Him, or by His Spirit for His speaking to us. He is never too busy attending to another's

needs to come to us in our weakness or distress, and never ever belittles us due to our weaknesses or repeated failures of the past. Thank God for having such a Father with an ever open ear especially in light of the previous paragraph.

. . . *Rowan Jennings*

www.scripturaltruths.org

e-mail: scripturaltruths1@shaw.ca

If you don't wish to receive future Newsletters, please send us an email and we will take your name off the Mailing List.

If you change your e-mail address, please forward your new one so that we can update our Mailing List.