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Tale of Two Families

1 Samuel 1-2

Background

- Tale of Two Families (Jonathan Edwards and Thomas “Max” Jukes)
- Israel’s history: begins at a low point in Israel’s history, previous 300 years marked by moral and spiritual anarchy
- “In those days there was no king in Israel, everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25).
- In the midst of this, we find a contrast between a devoted mother who applies the biblical principles of instruction in Deuteronomy 6 and a defective father who does not.

Devoted Mother

- Hannah was a devoted mother. She devoted herself and her child to God.
- 1 Samuel 1:11 – “She made a vow and said, “O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head.”
- She also devoted herself to the child’s training to bring him up to worship and serve the Lord.

Devoted Mother

- FIRST PRINCIPLE:

Parents must raise their children to serve the Lord.

- 1 Samuel 1:27-28 – “For this boy I prayed, and the Lord has given me my petition which I asked of Him. So I have also dedicated him to the Lord; as long as he lives he is dedicated to the Lord.”
- As a result of her obedience, Samuel became a man of God and spiritual leader of the people.

Defective Father

- On the other hand, Eli was a defective father.
- He may have been devoted to his duties as a priest, but he was derelict in his duties as a father.
- Eli's sons were terrible failures in their service to God.
- 1 Samuel 2:12 - "Eli's sons were wicked men; they had no regard for the LORD."

The Stark Contrast

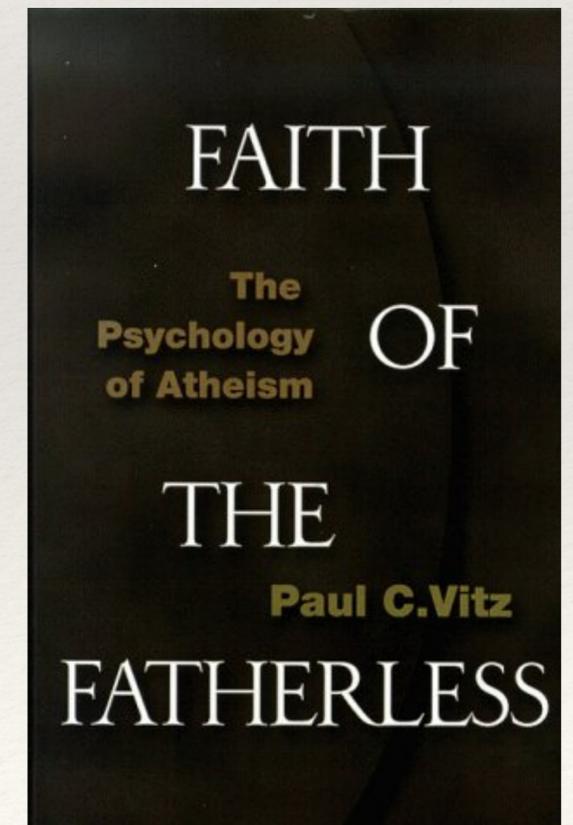
- Hannah had a biblical perspective of the goal of motherhood: children are a gift from the Lord, a stewardship. They are to be returned to the Lord and should become totally committed to Him.
- Eli, through his irresponsibility managed to raise two sons who were totally committed to themselves. They were in it for what they could get out of it.

The Stark Contrast

- 1 Samuel 1:13-17 - “Now it was the practice of the priests with the people that whenever anyone offered a sacrifice and while the meat was being boiled, the servant of the priest would come with a three pronged fork in his hand. He would plunge it into the pan or kettle or caldron or pot, and the priest would take for himself whatever the fork brought up. This is how they treated all the Israelites who came to Shiloh. But even before the fat was burned, the servant of the priest would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, “Give the priest some meat to roast; he won’t accept boiled meat from you, but only raw.” If the man said to him, “Let the fat be burned up first, and then take whatever you want,” the servant would then answer, “No, hand it over now; if you don’t, I’ll take it by force” This sin of the young men was very great in the Lord's sight, for they were treating the Lord's offering with contempt.”

The Stark Contrast

- SECOND PRINCIPLE:
 - Christian homes can become the breeding grounds of future skeptics and atheists (Ludwig Feurbach, Friedrich Nietzsche).
- Atheists and Their Fathers
 - Paul Vitz - *Faith of the Fatherless: The Psychology of Atheism*



First Contrast: Speech

- Devoted Mother

- Hannah talked with God about her problem and grew in her relationship with God.
- She could have become bitter, but she turned her concerns over to the Lord and trusted Him.

- Defective Father

- Eli merely talked to his sons in a feeble reproof and failed to exercise biblical discipline.

First Contrast: Speech

- 1 Samuel 2:22-25 – “Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they slept with the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. So he said to them, ‘Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours. No, my sons; it is not a good report that I hear spreading among the Lord’s people. If a man sins against another man, God may mediate for him; but if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?’ His sons, however, did not listen to their father's rebuke, for it was the Lord's will to put them to death.”

Second Contrast: Spirituality

- Devoted Mother

- Hannah promised her son to the Lord and continued to exercise a godly influence over him.
- God blessed her faithfulness and provided for her abundantly.
- She gave birth to three sons and two daughters.

Second Contrast: Spirituality

- 1 Samuel 2:18-21 – “But Samuel was ministering before the LORD a boy wearing a linen ephod. Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the LORD give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the LORD.” Then they would go home. And the LORD was gracious to Hannah; she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.”

Second Contrast: Spirituality

- THIRD PRINCIPLE:
 - If we are faithful to Him, God will answer our prayers in ways that far exceed our expectations (vs. 1:10-11).

Second Contrast: Spirituality

- Defective Father

- Eli, on the other hand, indulged his sons and allowed them to continue in ministry even though they did not deserve this position of authority.
- Christian parents often indulge their children instead of instructing them in the ways of the Lord.

Third Contrast: Service

- Devoted Mother

- Hannah prayed to the Lord, and He heard and honored her devotion.
- Samuel was born and served the nation of Israel faithfully.

- Defective Father

- Eli's sons brought disgrace to the priesthood.
- They drove people away from the Lord and brought destruction to themselves and the nation.

Third Contrast: Service

- 1 Samuel 2:27-34 – “ Now a man of God came to Eli and said to him, “This is what the LORD says: ‘Did I not clearly reveal myself to your father's house when they were in Egypt under Pharaoh? I chose your father out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod in my presence. I also gave your father's house all the offerings made with fire by the Israelites. Why do you scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honor your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?’ Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: ‘I promised that your house and your father's house would minister before me forever.’”

Third Contrast: Service

- But now the LORD declares: 'Far be it from me! Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained. The time is coming when I will cut short your strength and the strength of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your family line and you will see distress in my dwelling. Although good will be done to Israel, in your family line there will never be an old man. Every one of you that I do not cut off from my altar will be spared only to blind your eyes with tears and to grieve your heart, and all your descendants will die in the prime of life. "And what happens to your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will be a sign to you they will both die on the same day."

Third Contrast: Service

- FOURTH PRINCIPLE:
 - God will judge sinful disobedience sin, especially among his ministers.
 - There are physical and spiritual repercussions to sin.

Fulfillment

- 1 Samuel 4:5-11 - “When the ark of the Lord’s covenant came into the camp, all Israel raised such a great shout that the ground shook. Hearing the uproar, the Philistines asked, “What’s all this shouting in the Hebrew camp?” When they learned that the ark of the LORD had come into the camp, the Philistines were afraid. “A god has come into the camp,” they said. “We’re in trouble! Nothing like this has happened before. Woe to us! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? They are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the desert. Be strong, Philistines! Be men, or you will be subject to the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Be men, and fight!” So the Philistines fought, and the Israelites were defeated and every man fled to his tent. The slaughter was very great; Israel lost thirty thousand foot soldiers. The ark of God was captured, and Eli’s two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

Fulfillment

- 1 Samuel 4:12-22 - That same day a Benjamite ran from the battle line and went to Shiloh, his clothes torn and dust on his head. When he arrived, there was Eli sitting on his chair by the side of the road, watching, because his heart feared for the ark of God. When the man entered the town and told what had happened, the whole town sent up a cry. Eli heard the outcry and asked, “What is the meaning of this uproar?” The man hurried over to Eli, who was ninety-eight years old and whose eyes were set so that he could not see. He told Eli, I have just come from the battle line; I fled from it this very day.” Eli asked, “What happened, my son?” The man who brought the news replied, Israel fled before the Philistines, and the army has suffered heavy losses. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured.”

Fulfillment

- When he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell backward off his chair by the side of the gate. His neck was broken and he died, for he was an old man and heavy. He had led Israel forty years. His daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant and near the time of delivery. When she heard the news that the ark of God had been captured and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she went into labor and gave birth, but was overcome by her labor pains. As she was dying, the women attending her said, “Don't despair; you have given birth to a son.” But she did not respond or pay any attention. She named the boy Ichabod, saying, “The glory has departed from Israel” — because of the capture of the ark of God and the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband. She said, “The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured.”

A Promise

- 1 Samuel 2:35 – “I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. I will firmly establish his house, and he will minister before my anointed one always.”
- God would raise up another faithful priest.
- This was fulfilled in human terms when the priesthood was given to Zadok.
- Ultimately found its fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

A Promise

- FIFTH PRINCIPLE:
 - God will honor those who honor Him (verse 30).



David

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David

- David is described as “a man after God’s own heart” even though he committed some of the most egregious sins against God and other people (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22).
- God’s love for David is evidence of His grace, mercy, and forgiveness.
- God doesn’t expect His people to be perfect, even His leaders.
- He does expect that when they sin, they will confess, accept the consequences of their sin, repent, and turn back to Him (Matthew 18:15–17; Luke 17:1–3; Galatians 2:8–11; 6:1–3).