

**Blueprint for Biblical Parenting**

Ecc 10 <sup>16</sup> Woe to you, O land, when your king is a child, and your princes feast in the morning! <sup>17</sup> Blessed are you, O land, when your king is the son of nobles, and your princes feast at the proper time— for strength and not for drunkenness!

► Solomon, who penned our text, also penned Ps 127, which talks about building houses and raising children, because they are so much \_\_\_\_\_, and we should approach them the \_\_\_\_\_ way.

► If we are contracted to build a house, the first thing we will do is look at the \_\_\_\_\_ to determine:

1) What's the \_\_\_\_\_?

2) What's the \_\_\_\_\_?

► Then we are going to \_\_\_\_\_ the project by starting at the end, then backing up to schedule the construction phases:

– Finishing last (beautification).

– Prior to that Framing (building on the foundation with the walls and roof).

– Prior to that Foundation (preparing the ground and pouring the concrete on which everything stands).

► These same phases apply to raising a child:

– Last is Finishing (roughly the teenage years), where the \_\_\_\_\_ of living life beautifully as God intended is pursued.

– Prior to that is Framing (roughly the elementary years), where we build Christian \_\_\_\_\_ (integrity, reliability, etc) on top of the foundation.

– Prior to that is Foundation (roughly the toddler/preschool years), where we pour the concrete of faith, respect, and \_\_\_\_\_ on which the whole house stands.

– These phases are not airtight containers. We are always \_\_\_\_\_ the foundation of faith, respect, & obedience, and \_\_\_\_\_ the walls of Christian character, even as we add the beauty of wisdom.

► In our text, Solomon uses kings & princes to show us what it looks like when the \_\_\_\_\_ of biblical parenting is achieved, and when it isn't. (Remember, the Bible speaks of us as God's children and therefore as \_\_\_\_\_, with Jesus being the perfect example of true nobility.)

Rom 8 <sup>16</sup> [W]e are children of God, and if children then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ

1Cor 4 <sup>8</sup> You are already full! You are already rich! You have reigned as kings without us [apostles] – and indeed I could wish you did reign, that we also might reign with you! ...

6 <sup>2</sup> Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? ...

<sup>3</sup> Do you not know that we shall judge angels?

Phil 2 <sup>5</sup> Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be [clutched], <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus "every knee will bow," ... <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. [NASB]

► Solomon uses the negative example of a grown king who is still a child. An example in the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_, and a counter-example is his son, \_\_\_\_\_.

An example in history is \_\_\_\_\_ VIII, and a counter-example is young \_\_\_\_\_ the Great.

► Solomon uses \_\_\_\_\_ to highlight folly, weakness, & childishness on the one hand, and wisdom, strength, & maturity on the other. Young nobles who feast and get drunk in the morning – people will look upon them with \_\_\_\_\_ and follow them, if at all, with resentment. Their “feasting” indicates a lack of foundation, character, & wisdom, and raises doubt about every area of their lives. Contrast the young nobles who feast at the proper time for strength. People will look upon them with \_\_\_\_\_ and follow them with gladness. Their feasting indicates a firm foundation, strong Christian character, & the love of wisdom, and assures one about every area of their lives.

Neh 8 <sup>10</sup> Then [Nehemiah] said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” ... <sup>12</sup> And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.

Prov 9 <sup>2</sup> [Wisdom] has slaughtered her meat, she has mixed her wine, she has also furnished her table ... <sup>4</sup> “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here! ... <sup>5</sup> Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. <sup>6</sup> Forsake foolishness and live, and go in the way of understanding ... <sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

Amos 5 <sup>21</sup> [Thus says the LORD:] “I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not savor your sacred assemblies. <sup>22</sup> Though you offer Me burnt offerings ..., I will not accept them ... <sup>23</sup> Take away from Me the noise of your songs”

► When should young nobles have the faith, character, and wisdom to feast at the proper time for strength? Certainly by adulthood (age 20 for males in Israel), but hopefully earlier – by the time they are exercising substantial independence and are making decisions that can have lasting consequences for themselves and others.

► What does the Finishing/Wisdom phase look like? It looks a like the book of \_\_\_\_\_, esp. ch 1-9 & 31, which contain Solomon’s and the queen’s conversations with their teenage son on every area of life and how to live with the skill and beauty of wisdom while avoiding the carnage and ugliness of folly. What does this presuppose?

1) Our teens are \_\_\_\_\_, but not \_\_\_\_\_.

Prov 1 <sup>1</sup> The proverbs of Solomon ... to know wisdom ... <sup>4</sup> to give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion ... <sup>7</sup> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

2) By the teen years, the conversations we see in Proverbs have \_\_\_\_\_.

3) We have the kind of \_\_\_\_\_ with our teens that we see between Solomon and his son.

4) In short, that we have in our homes the complete opposite of what is considered \_\_\_\_\_ today.

Heb 12 <sup>11</sup> [T]o those who have been trained by [discipline], ... it yield the peaceful fruit of righteousness [NASB]

► All of this depends on pouring a biblical \_\_\_\_\_ in the early years and building the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christian character in the elementary years.

► What we always hear from Christian parents whose children are grown is, “They grew up so \_\_\_\_\_.” By God’s design, our children grow up, ready or not. The house goes up on schedule, ready or not. A foundation will be laid, but not necessarily a \_\_\_\_\_ one. Walls will go up, but not necessarily \_\_\_\_\_ ones. Decor will be added, but it won’t necessarily be \_\_\_\_\_. If we were building a literal house, our takeaway would be, “We’ve got to get \_\_\_\_\_ this right away, and we can’t \_\_\_\_\_ any corners.” This is our opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ God, the perfect parent, and to become like him along the way, while bringing our children in our footsteps.