Good – and Bad – Biblical Examples of Parenting

Once-Godly Parents Who Raised Ungodly Children: Solomon and Rehoboam (1 Kings 14:21-24)

1 Kings 14:21 Now Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city that the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. His mother's name was Naamah the Ammonite.

²² And Judah did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins that they committed, more than all that their fathers had done.

²³ For they also built for themselves high places and pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree,

²⁴ and there were also male cult prostitutes in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations that the LORD drove out before the people of Israel.

Godly Parents Who Raised Prodigals...or Worse: **Aaron and His Sons** (Leviticus 10:1-4, 8-11)

Leviticus 10:1 Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them.

² And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.

³ Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD has said: Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified." And Aaron held his peace.

⁴ And Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said to them, "Come near; carry your brothers away from the front of the sanctuary and out of the camp."

⁸ And the LORD spoke to Aaron, saying, ⁹ "Drink no wine or strong drink, you or your sons with you, when you go into the tent of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations.

¹⁰ You are to distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean,

11 and you are to teach the people of Israel all the statutes that the LORD has spoken to them by Moses."

• Ungodly Parents Who Raised Godly Children: Saul and Jonathan (1 Samuel 19:1-7)

1 Samuel 19:1 And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted much in David.

² And Jonathan told David, "Saul my father seeks to kill you. Therefore be on your guard in the morning. Stay in a secret place and hide yourself.

³ And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak to my father about you. And if I learn anything I will tell you."

⁴ And Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have brought good to you.

⁵ For he took his life in his hand and he struck down the Philistine, and the LORD worked a great salvation for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood by killing David without cause?"

⁶ And Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan. Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be put to death."

⁷ And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan reported to him all these things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before.

•(GOD'S BEST PLAN!) Godly Parents Raising Godly Children: Hannah and Samuel (1 Samuel 1:9-11, 24-28; 2:11)

1 Samuel 1:9 After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD.

10 She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly.

11 And she vowed a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head."

²⁴ And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young.

²⁵ Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli.

²⁶ And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD.

²⁷ For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him.

²⁸ Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there.

1 Samuel 2:11 Then Elkanah went home to Ramah. And the boy was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli the priest.

"It's a race to the heart of a child. The first one to get there wins!"

--UPWARD Sports Founder Caz McCaslin