

Introduction: Google AI explains the crucial role fathers play in the development of their children – both positively and negatively. What is good about AI is that it concisely summarizes what people have gleaned from reading, other people and experience of living. Here are five (of the baker's dozen) of details given that are supported by data. First, fathers who are involved in the lives of their children improve cognitive development and academic achievement. They also contribute to their children's psychological well-being, emotional resilience and social relationships; and influence both weight gain for preemie babies and breastfeeding rates; and, as their children age, they have fewer behavioral issues and emotional disorders. Finally, on the negative side, ninety percent of homeless and runaway children come from fatherless homes! *** Debi got me this book: *For Fathers Who Aren't in Heaven*, written by a Presbyterian pastor in Cincinnati, after we completed our foster parent training. In Chapter Five, he cites a denominational study. It found that when both parents regularly worship with their children, seventy-two percent remain worship regularly as adults; if only the mother regularly worships with the children, just fifteen percent worship regularly as adults; but, if only the father regularly worships with the children, fifty-five percent worship regularly as adults! This suggests that fathers may have over three times the impact on the future faithfulness of children as mothers do. *** Today's Bible passages describe how Noah's righteousness led to the salvation of his family, including his three sons and their wives. Later, one of his sons behaves un-righteously, but two responded in righteousness (chapter 9:20-27). *** From the book of God's wisdom, we heard that a good and righteous father, who loves his children, will discipline them. And, the Author of Hebrews writes that God is a loving Father who disciplines His children to produce the fruit of peace and the gift of righteousness. *** Let's go deeper to find the highlights of what God says about fatherhood.

I. Noah, found righteous, enters the ark with his family and select animals, in the obedience of faith to God's command; Yahweh shut behind him, the floodwaters covered the mountains, and all but Noah and his family were destroyed. (Genesis 7:1-23)

A. Noah, who was found righteous by Yahweh, enters the ark with his family and a remnant of animals. in the obedience of faith, before the floodwaters happened. (*Verses 1-12*)

1. Then Yahweh said to Noah: Thou must go, thou and thy family, into the ark; because, I have seen thee (being) righteous before Me in this generation. (*Verse 1*)

Enter ark: Yahweh commands Noah to enter the ark with his family to be spared (Genesis 6:11-18).

Noah righteous: Wickedness was great, and every purpose and thought of the heart of men was evil every day.

Noah found grace because he was without blemish and walked with God (Genesis 6:5-9).

2. Take seven males and females of clean animals; and, from unclean animals two males and females; and seven males and females of the birds of the air to keep alive. (*Verses 2-3*)

Animals: They needed more clean animals and birds to sacrifice thank offerings to Yahweh when they began to live on the post-flood earth, and later for food.

Seven: There were five 'extra' pairs of clean animals. Even if they only offered one pair, that is a twenty percent offering.

If God wanted twice as many clean animals as unclean; if they sacrificed sixty percent of the clean animals, it would be a generous freewill-thank offering.

Application: Of all the possessions God entrusts to us, let us always make a generous sacrifice of them to worship our God.

3. In seven days, I (am) causing rain on the earth forty days and nights to wipe out all existing from the surface of the ground. (*Verse 4*)

Destruction: Yahweh uses strong language for what He will do for all land creatures, namely exterminate and destroy (Webster and Darby) them.

4. Noah did all that Yahweh commanded him. (*Verse 5*)

Obedience: Noah did the obedience of faith (that is) righteousness. By acting on Yahweh's grace in him,

Noah (whose name means 'rest') gave his family the rest of salvation from destruction.

A righteous father can save his family from destruction

Application: We must always seek, as a gift of grace, the righteousness from God IN Jesus that is the obedience of faith to salvation (Romans 1:16-17).

5. Noah was six-hundred years old when flood-waters were on the earth; he and his sons, and their wives, went into the ark to escape from the flood-waters. (*Verses 6-7*)

Six hundred years: Life-spans were longer before the flood; but, righteous Noah and his family of eight people were saved (by Christ and the Spirit – 1 Peter 3:18-20) from the destruction of the flood.

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6. (Also) clean and not-clean animals, and birds and all creeping on the ground (male and female) went into the ark as God commanded Noah. (*Verses 8-9*)

Twos: God created all species to reproduce from the union of males and females.

7. Then it was, after seven days, the flood-waters came on the seventeenth day of the second month of Noah's six-hundredth year: all the fountains of the great deep burst forth (on earth), and the windows of heaven were opened. (*Verses 10-12*)

Floodwaters: This total destruction as a judgment of evil on earth will not to be equaled until Jesus returns. Two great first-time events created the massive flood: underground water burst through the ground overwhelming it, while the waters above the expanse were dumped on earth (Genesis 1:6-8).

- B. Noah and his three sons entered the ark with their wives as God commanded; the Covenant God closed the door, the waters covered the highest mountain so all that breathed died; but not Noah and his family. (*Verses 13-23*)

1. The same day Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth; and every living, creeping thing and bird, by their kinds (species), came with Noah into the ark: all flesh in which (is) the breath of life. (*Verses 13-15*)

Entered same day: All entered the ark Noah built as: husband, father and steward of God's living, breathing creatures.

2. All flesh went in as God had commanded (Noah), then Yahweh Himself shut behind him; the flood-waters continued forty days and bore up the ark which rose high above the earth; the waters prevailed and increased greatly, and the ark went on the face of them. (*Verses 16-18*)

God–Yahweh: The Name of the Creator-God commanded Noah concerning all He created; but, the Name of the Covenant-God graciously closed the door behind him in as an act of salvation.

3. All the high mountains under heaven were covered fifteen cubits deep. (*Verses 19-20*)

Mountains covered: Twenty-two feet above the highest mountain does not seem like much, but most creatures were overwhelmed by the suddenly rising waters before they could reach any mountain.

4. All flesh that moved died, and swarming creatures, and every (hu)man; all with the breath of life in nostrils died. (*Verses 21-22*)

All that breathed died: Every creature and every man, all of whom breathed, died – except righteous Noah and his family who were saved in the ark he built.

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5. He (Yahweh-God) wiped out all existing from the surface of the ground; then was left only Noah and those with him in the ark. (*Verse 23*)

Result: Noah saved his wife and children through the righteousness that comes by the faithfulness of the God who commanded their salvation and Yahweh who closed the door of the ark (Genesis 6:16).

The word used for ‘door’ is the same word Jesus used to describe Himself (John 10:1-10).

A righteous father can save his family from destruction

II. Righteous fathers discipline their children in love; and, God likewise disciplines His children in love to produce peace and the gift of righteousness. (*Proverbs 13:22-25; Hebrews 12:4-11*)

- A. Solomon wrote that a good and righteous father disciplines the son he loves. (*Proverbs 13:22-25*)

1. Good man leaves inheritance to children’s children / and has been laid up for the righteous, wealth of one sinning. (*Verse 22*)

Grandchildren: Good men provide for their children and grandchildren, and (the passive voice God) will pass on wealth gained from sin, to the righteous. Our passages have a theme of God’s grace of righteous living.

2. Much food from left to rest ground of the poor / and it is destroyed in no justice. (*Verse 23*)

Food for poor: Poor people, following God’s instruction of land rest every seven years, get abundant crops but unjust people destroy them. The challenge for God’s people is to bring justice to the poor.

3. He sparing the rod is hating his son / and he loving (his son) seeks to discipline him. (*Verse 24*)

Father love: True father love for children is to discipline and instruct children so they may learn by experience in the home to follow God’s ways.

A good father disciplines his children in love

4. The righteous (eats) food to fill his soul / and the belly of the wicked will be lacking. (*Verse 25*)

Righteous: It is always better to live by the righteousness of obedient faith. A good father will follow Noah as a model of a good father.

- B. God disciplines His sons, as a father who loves his children, so they will have the fruit of peace that becomes the gift of righteousness. (*Hebrews 12:4-11*)

1. Not yet to blood (death) y’all have resisted, struggling against sin; y’all have forgotten the encouragement (*para-klay-sis*) He is speaking to y’all: My son, thou must not be thinking light of the discipline of Lord, nor must thou be made faint by means of Him showing fault. (*Verses 4-5*)

Struggle: All disciples of Jesus struggle with sin: Their own, that of powerful people, and demonic.

Comfort: But they are being comforted by the Comforter (John 14:15-17), and they must be strong under the Lord’s fatherly discipline (these verses quote Proverbs 3:11-12).

2. Lord is loving whom He is disciplining, and He is punishing every son He receives. (*Verse 6*)

Mark of love: We just heard (Proverbs 13:24) that discipline from a father is a mark of love.

3. By discipline y’all are enduring, as with sons, God has dealt with y’all, because: what son father not disciplining? (*Verse 7*)

Father: God’s disciplining of experiential instruction of people is what Proverbs tells human fathers.

Application: As God’s children we must accept His discipline as evidence of His Father LOVE for us, and respond in the obedient faith of righteousness Noah modeled.

A good father disciplines his children in love

4. But, if y’all are being without discipline ... then, illegitimate children (bastards) and not sons, y’all are being. (*Verse 8*)

No discipline: Any person who is not disciplined by God as a loving Father, is not yet a true and legitimate child of God IN Jesus.

5. Furthermore, we were having fathers in the flesh (as) discipliners and we were turned to them in respect; but not much more, will we be subjected to the Father of spirits and we will live? Because, indeed, for a few days they were disciplining (us), but He (disciplines) for our well-being, in order to be partakers of His holiness. (*Verses 9-10*)

Human examples: We have considered human examples of loving fathers with Noah and his three sons and inspired proverbs.

God: Now we are told God has a higher purpose in discipline: to make us holy as He is holy (Leviticus 11:44-45; 1 Peter 1:15-16).

6. All discipline, indeed, for the present is not thought to be joyous, but grievous; but afterward: (is) peaceable fruit, who have been exercised, is given of righteousness. (*Verse 11*)

Good fruit: The good fruit (that remains, John 15:1-16) is peace coming from being trained by exercise resulting in the gift of righteousness that was Noah’s. When we receive this, we can rest in God as Noah’s name suggests.

Conclusion: Noah, found righteous before Yahweh, enters the ark with his family and selected animals, in the obedience of faith to God’s command. Yahweh shut behind them, the floodwaters covered the highest mountain so all but Noah and his family died. Righteous fathers discipline their children because of love. Likewise, God disciplines His legitimate children in love to produce peace and the gift of righteousness.

A righteous father can save his family from destruction