

Prov 3:33 The LORD'S curse is on the house of the wicked, but He blesses the home of the righteous. (NIV)

THE LIVES OF SOLOMON AND HIS SON REHOBAM ARE A TRAGIC ACCOUNT ON THE HOME OF THE RIGHTEOUS TURNED TO EVIL. SOLOMON, ESPECIALLY, HAD SUCH A GOOD START BUT HIS END WAS THAT OF TRAGEDY AND DISAPPOINTMENT. REHOBAM, HIS SON, HAD THE EVIL INFLUENCE OF HIS ERRANT FATHER AND CARRIED ON HIS FATHER'S EVIL PRACTICES. *IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE BELIEVING FATHER TO GRASP THE FACT THAT POSITIONAL TRUTH (ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED) DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE BLESSING OF THE LORD ON HIS HOME IF HE NEGLECTS HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS LORD.* IT'S IMPORTANT FOR ALL PARENTS OF CHRISTIAN HOMES TO BE ON CONSTANT GUARD TO DEAL WITH PERSONAL SINS AND TO CARRY OUT THE LORD'S PRECEPTS ESPECIALLY REGARDING THE HOME.

**THE LORD DISCIPLINES THE CHRISTIAN HOME
WHEN THE PARENTS PRACTICE EVIL**

Prov 3:11 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: 12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

READ THE CONTEXT OF THESE VERSES (VS'1-10). THE BELIEVING FATHER OF A HOME DOES NOT HAVE THE OPTION OF *NOT* TRUSTING IN THE LORD WITH ALL HIS HEART. IF HE LEANS ON HIS OWN UNDERSTANDING HIS HOME WILL SURELY FAIL¹. THE WIFE WHO IS THE FOOL (DISOBEDIENT TO WISDOM) *WILL* TEAR DOWN HER HOME². TOO MANY PASTORS HAVE HAD TO FACE CHRISTIAN PARENTS OF HOMES THAT ARE DISINTEGRATING BECAUSE ONE OR MORE OF THE PARENTS ARE LIVING THE LIFE-STYLE OF SIN EVEN THOUGH THEY NAME JESUS CHRIST AS LORD.

THE HIGH GROUND OF THE HOME OF THE RIGHTEOUS

WE MUST ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF ALL THE PROMISES OF BLESSINGS THAT THE LORD GIVES FOR THE FAMILY THAT IS PRACTICING RIGHTEOUSNESS. THERE IS NO NEUTRAL GROUND. WE AS PARENTS MUST OBSERVE THE PRECEPTS OF THE LORD IN ESTABLISHING A HOME OF THE RIGHTEOUS OR WE CAN EXPECT HIS DIVINE

THERE IS NO NEUTRAL GROUND. WE AS PARENTS MUST OBSERVE THE PRECEPTS OF THE LORD IN ESTABLISHING A HOME OF THE RIGHTEOUS OR WE CAN EXPECT HIS DIVINE DISCIPLINE.

¹ The children of these parents will be blessed individually by the Lord if they fulfill the command of this section. But the discipline of the Lord on the parent(s) *will* have an affect on their life in the home.

² Prov 14:1 The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down. (Niv)

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DISCIPLINE. GOD CANNOT GO AGAINST HIS OWN NATURE. IF HE PROMISES TO BLESS THE HOME THAT PRACTICES HIS PRECEPTS HE WILL NOT REWARD THE HOME THAT NEGLECTS THOSE SAME PRECEPTS - IT WILL BE UNDER HIS HAND OF DISCIPLINE.

Prov 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.
8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. 9
Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;
10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim
over with new wine.

I BELIEVE WITH ALL MY HEART THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF THIS PORTION OF SCRIPTURE IS STILL ACTIVE TODAY. YES, THERE ARE EXCEPTIONAL TIMES IN THE LIFE OF ANY FAMILY WHEN THEY HAVE TO GO THROUGH HARD TIMES FOR REASONS OF BLESSING IN DIFFICULTY. BUT THE POINT IS THAT **GOD WILL BLESS THE HOME OF THE RIGHTEOUS. IN DIFFICULTY OR IN PROSPERITY.**³

DAVID WAS AN EXAMPLE OF GOD'S DISCIPLINE OF THE HOME OF THE BELIEVER THAT PRACTICED EVIL. WHEN THE LORD CONFRONTED HIM WITH HIS SIN OF MURDER AND ADULTERY THROUGH HIS PROPHET DAVID'S DISCIPLINE WAS;

2 Sam 12:9 Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.
10 Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.' 11
"This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. 12 You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.'"

I HAVE SAID THIS REPEATEDLY IN THIS SERIES AND IN OTHER SERIES. THE CHRISTIAN DOES NOT HAVE THE OPTION OF BEING CASUAL IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD, NOR DOES HE HAVE A "MENU" PRECEPTS TO OBSERVE FROM WHICH HE PICK OR NOT PICK. **MARK THIS - THE LORD WILL BLESS THE HOME OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND HE WILL DISCIPLINE THE CHRISTIAN HOME THAT PRACTICES EVIL.**

NOURISHING THE HOME WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS

Prov 31:28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. 29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. 30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.
1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

IT IS UP THE HUSBAND OF THE HOME TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN DEMONSTRATING THE PRECEPT OF HONOR. HONOR IN THE HOME IS LIKE NOURISHMENT TO THE BODY. CONSIDER THE ANALOGY OF THE BODY AND THE HOME. FEED THE BODY NOURISHING FOOD AND THE BODY FLOURISHES AND IS WELL. HOWEVER, IF THE BODY IS FED TAINTED FOOD (FOR EXAMPLE FOOD TAINTED WITH SALMONELLA) AND IT BECOMES SICKLY - PERHAPS IT WILL DIE. HONOR IS JUST ONE OF THE "FOOD GROUPS" THAT NOURISH THE FAMILY.

Prov 12:3 A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved. 4 A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones. 5 The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit.

ANOTHER "FOOD GROUP" THAT NOURISHES THE FAMILY IS HONESTY OR INTEGRITY. I CHOSE THIS VERSE BECAUSE IT INCLUDES BOTH PARENTS. THE BASIS FOR USING IT IN

³ Read Ecclesiastes 7:9-14 (Eccl 7:9 , especially the KJV. In this passage the believer is urged to not question the Lord about the bad times, even though he has been faithful. He is to realize (by faith) that the Lord is sovereign (vs 13) in both the straight (prosperous times) and the crooked (difficult times). In fact, the Lord is able to "symphonize" (vs 14 in LXX) the both so that nothing should "dog his tracks."

CONNECTION HONESTY/INTEGRITY IS FOUND IN VERSE 5.

THE WORD "RIGHT" MEANS A CORRECT JUDICIAL VERDICT. THE WORD "DECEIT" MEANS TO DECEIVE THROUGH FRAUD, CRAFTINESS, SUBTILTY. THE "RIGHT" (HONEST) MAN HAS HIS FEET FIRMLY PLANTED ON THE GROUND. HE WILL NOT BE SWEEPED AWAY BY DIFFICULT TIMES (AS IS THE CASE WITH THE WICKED MAN).

THEN SOLOMON INCLUDES THE MOTHER OF THE FAMILY. THE SENSE OF THE WORD IN THE ORIGINAL TRANSLATED "MAKETH ASHAMED" IS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF THE MOTHER OF PROVERBS 31. THE MEANING OF THIS WORD IS COMPLEX. THIS WOMAN DISAPPOINTS, SHE PROCRASTINATES. SHE CAUSES THE HUSBAND TO BE CONFOUNDED. THE ULTIMATE TRAGEDY OF THIS WOMAN IS THAT SHE CAUSES HER HUSBAND TO BE DRIED UP - I TAKE THE DRYING UP TO MEAN THAT THE HUSBAND'S ATTRACTION TO HER, HIS SEXUAL VIGOR TOWARD HER (AS PER PROVERBS 5) IS CAUSED TO BE DRIED UP - THE WELL OF PROVERBS 5 HAS GONE DRY. THE ROTTENNESS OF THE HUSBAND'S BONES IS A GENERAL MALAISE THAT GREATLY HINDERS HIS FUNCTION AS HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD - A SAD RESULT OF A WIFE WHO NEGLECTS HER RESPONSIBILITY TO HER FAMILY TO BE "RIGHT" AND HAVE INTEGRITY.

THE RIGHTEOUS HUSBAND (FATHER). BUT LET US CONSIDER THE POSITIVE SIDE OF THIS ISSUE. THE RIGHTEOUS HUSBAND (FATHER) IS A STABLE MAN. HE IS THE ROCK, THE FOUNDATION OF THE FAMILY. IT IS HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO OVERSEE THE SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF HIS HOME - TO PROMOTE RIGHTEOUS PRECEPTS AND TO ROOT OUT THE EVIL THAT MIGHT TRY TO TAKE ROOT.

THE RIGHTEOUS WIFE (MOTHER) IS A CROWN OF GLORY TO HER HUSBAND. THE CROWN THAT THE WOMAN PLACES ON HER HUSBAND'S HEAD IS THAT OF HONOR AND AUTHORITY. THE RIGHTEOUS WIFE AUTHENTICATES HER HUSBAND'S HEADSHIP OF THE HOME. IT IS HER PRESENCE AND PERSONA IF-YOU-PLEASE THAT SO GREATLY AUGMENTS THE FAMILY THAT THERE IS A DIVINE AURA OF GOD'S BLESSING ON THE HOME.