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THE LORD IS OUR FATHER

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 2 Chronicles 28:22 - 2 Chronicles 29:1-6

- The Lord wants us to know Him as our Father. Natural fathers have short falls, but Our Lord will never ever let us down.
- We do not have to be confused for we derive fatherhood from God.
- A young girl growing up without a father, thereby missing the love of a father, goes out looking for love in all the wrong places in order to fill the void. Drawn to men and indulging in promiscuity because she has mistaken it for love.
- The fathers love is important. It establishes something within the child either the boy child or the girl child.
- God conveys the identity of that individual through the father.
- An example is given of Jesus after being baptised by John the Baptist. The Fathers audible voice spoke forth, saying, 'this is my beloved child'. A connection between Him and the Father was being established.
- We need that affirmation that encourages us to do something, or which says 'do not continue doing that thing'.
- The boy needs to grow knowing that he will be a man, and when that time comes the fathers voice will make it known.
- The girl child needs to also be told that she is a lady, and one day she going to be a woman, get married and make someone happy and establish a home.
- Words such as being constantly told that 'you are beautiful, and there is nothing wrong with you' need to be said to the child while growing up. It is important to note those things and note their source/where they are coming from. Words said to the child are destructive, for example telling the child words such as 'you are useless, good for nothing', also shape and define the life of a child.
- Just because you are a man does not make you a father. Having brought a child to this world does not make you a father. Fatherhood is an anointing from God.

The story of Ahaz

- He was the King of Judah, he was a very great man. He did however, do something that affected the whole nation of Judah. He had backslidden, and turned his back against God. He prevented people from worshipping and he shut/closed the house of God. The church became a dumping site, and he took away the alters and put them outside in the open field. All this arose from a time when he took a journey to a foreign land and he saw how they did things. He then imported their way of worship to Judah, and did away with the way in which worship to God almighty was done. Jehovah was no longer the only God.
- Fathers; how are we leading our families? Are we drawing them to God, or are we drawing them to worship foreign gods? Can they boldly stand and hold on to their faith?
- When king Ahaz died, he was buried at a place elsewhere for he was not fit to be buried with kings.

ABIJAH - the Lord is father; Abi - FATHER; Jah - JEHOVAH

- Jehovah is the Father to the fatherless, and a defender of the widow.

- Children and women are not regarded as people of equal standing with men, and they are taken as properties. This is typical in Africa. A scenario is given for in the event that the man dies, the in laws come in and tell the woman that by tomorrow they should have vacated the place as they are presumed to be the men's cause of death. The way orphans are treated is disheartening.

HEZEKIAH - Jehovah strengthens

- Abijah was the mother of Hezekiah, and she was married to king Ahaz. She knew that the Lord is Father even though the husband was negligent.
- The only thing that Ahaz gave to the son was the right to become king. Everything else was done by the mother. She grooms him on how to become king. She instilled in him the fear of the Lord, with the knowledge that Jehovah God is his real father even when then the earthly father failed him.
- When human fathers fail us, God is your father. God will give you strength. Just because your father was not present does not mean that you are not going to turn out well in the end. Nothing is impossible with God, and He is your father. The father that you need.
- To be a good father, you need anointing and continuous flow of fatherhood from God, and encouragement from your wife. If the wife is not present and constantly encouraging the husband/father, he will flee and never come back.

1 Samuel 17:55-58 (DAVID)

- David had done something that had not been done before. He went out to face a whole army on his own.
- Saul marvels and seeks to know who his father is
- The young man is then brought before the king, and is asked 'who is your father?'

Is your father God?

- It is not just about what you have accomplished in life, it is the father behind the accomplishment of the son.
- Who instilled the characteristics you have? It is the father who brought you up.
- It was David's father who gave David the sense that 'I can go out and conquer a giant'
- It can be a father out there, or a spiritual father. Who is your Father?

Being called 'daddy' is a crown. Are you fit to wear the crown of being called daddy?

The ceiling of the father's achievement is the foundation of the son. Joshua starts where Moses stops. Elisha starts where Elijah stops. The last miracle of Elijah was the first miracle of Elisha.

Fathers leave a legacy and inheritance for the children.

It is God who is fathering you through this particular channel.

Many of us grew up without fathers, living lives aimlessly. It is hard doing things and going through life with no voice that says to you 'this is how to do things'.

'if only I could know my father' is the cry of the human heart for many of us.

The Lord wants us to know Him as our Father.