

BECAUSE THE LORD SEEKS GODLY OFFSPRING

By

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Scripture quotations are from the New International Version of the Bible

Take note that the name satan and related names are not capitalized. We choose not to acknowledge him, even to the point of violating grammatical rules

Table of Content

[Chapter 1 – For the Lord Seeks Godly Offspring](#)

[Chapter 2 – Training Your Child In the Way of the Lord](#)

[Chapter 3 – The Impact of the Lives of Parents on the Lives of their Children](#)

[Chapter 4 – The Impact of the Lives of Children on the Lives of their Parents](#)

[Chapter 5 – Watching Over Your Children as they Grow](#)

[Chapter 6 – The Time to Commence Training](#)

[Chapter 7 – There Shall Be None Barren in the Land](#)

Introduction

Psalm 127:4 says *“Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth,”* and then Malachi 2:15 says *“Has not the Lord made them one? In flesh and spirit, they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So, guard yourself in your spirit and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.”* These introductory passages are the backbone of the book *“Because the Lord Seeks Godly Offspring.”* When we consider the world around us, we cannot deny the decay on all fronts in moral values, discipline and even love in our children. It appears satan is out to attack the children and the parents are too busy to notice this.

Unfortunately, what we as parents are forgetting is the fact that in the pursuits of other things, we are neglecting the peace of mind of our old age. A lot of parents are dancing in the curse of Prophet Eli who though was a diligent prophet of the Lord but for whatever reason, he neglected his major assignment on the face of the earth which was to raise his children in the way and manner pleasing to the Lord. As a result of his negligence and the wicked ways of his sons, Eli and his sons died on the same day and a curse rained over the house of Eli forever. But before we drop this, we need to consider the errors of Prophet Eli who was a man of God. 2 Samuel 3:11-13 says, *“And the Lord said to Samuel: See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears it tingle. At that time, I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family from*

beginning to end. For I told him that I would judge his family for ever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them.”

What the Bible is revealing to us is that our assignment on earth does not stop at a righteous walk with God, but the legacy we infuse into our children is also of great importance to God. Eli didn't directly commit any sin before the Lord, save of his inability to restrain his children from showing contempt before the Lord. And just like Eli, a lot of parents, godly as they may seem are dancing in the curse of Eli owing to their inability to restrain and discipline their children.

Many parents suffer in old age when they are supposed to be resting and enjoying the dividends of the care and attention they have invested in the lives of their children basically because those investments were never made at the time of their youth, and it is totally impossible to reap where you have not sown. The Bible tells us that like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born to a man in his youth, this is very correct because arrows are weapons of warfare, and if the Bible has likened your sons to arrows then it goes a long way to tell you the potentials God has infused into the sons He has blessed you with. But the responsibility to sharpen the arrows and polish them in readiness for war lies in your hands. The Lord has blessed you with the gifts of arrows, but the care of those arrows is a duty you are responsible for. If you do not take care of your arrows and sharpen them in the time of your youth, then in the time of war, you will have no good arrow to fight with. If you do not handle your children with proper care and watch over them when you should, they will not be available for you when you need them.

There is no better time than now for us parents to rise up to the call of God on our lives to raise for Him the godly offspring He seeks. The book “Because the Lord Seeks Godly offspring” cannot exhaust the mind of God with regards the duty of raising godly offspring, but it sure reveals the mind of God on the matter. In order to find rest in our old age we need to start to do what is needful, now is the time to infuse and impress the right and godly values in the lives of our children, and like Psalm 127:5 says, we will be blessed we did so.

Chapter 1: For the Lord Seeks Godly Offspring

Malachi 2:15

¹⁵Has not the Lord made them one? In flesh and spirit, they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So, guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.

Genesis 3:15

¹⁵And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

When we read the book of Malachi 2, we will observe that the Lord is very interested in the marriage union. That small unit called the “home” is a very vital unit in God's agenda. There are so many reasons why the Lord instituted marriage, and one of the most important reasons is that He seeks godly offspring from the union.

Genesis 1:28

²⁸God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Genesis 9:1

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.

From the passages above, we will notice that it is in the design of God from the beginning that man should increase and fill the earth. The Lord desires that the man He has created should increase in number by means of reproduction. These words spoken by the Lord doubles as an instruction and a blessing.

But the increase in mankind that God desires is the increase of the man He created in Genesis 1:26-27; the type of man that God created at the beginning who was without sin. The original man created in the likeness and image of the Lord before sin came into the world. From Genesis 1:28, the Lord gave this word of blessing and instruction of increase in numbers of mankind to the Adam who had not yet sinned.

The marriage union that God instituted and stands to witness till this day, is expected to produce and increase the number of mankind that are created after the image and likeness of God without sin.

Genesis 6:1-3, 5-7

When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, ²the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. ³Then the Lord said, “My Spirit will not contend with men for ever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years.”

⁵The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on earth had become, and that every inclination of the thought of his heart was only evil all the time. ⁶The Lord was grieved that he had made man on earth, and his heart was filled with pain. ⁷So the Lord said, “I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth - men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air for I am grieved that I made them.”

The kind of increase of mankind that came after the fall of Adam was such that every inclination of their heart was evil. This was the kind of increase that grieved the heart of God and for that reason, the Lord shortened their days and eventually wiped them off the face of the earth.

Now, Genesis 9:1 introduces a new beginning for the kind of man the Lord desires; the increase of the righteous man who has found favor in the sight of the Lord, who will follow the Lord, doing His will, obeying all His laws and commands. This kind of increase in mankind doubles as a blessing and an instruction from the Lord. And that is why we see God repeating the exact words of blessing and instruction of increase given in Genesis 1:28 also in Genesis 9:1 in the form of a new beginning.

One of the Assignments of Marriage

The Lord said in Malachi 2:15 that He has joined the man to his wife as one, both in flesh and in spirit before Him as God and before man, because He is seeking godly offspring from their union. Now, if we have been able to establish the fact that the increase in mankind that the Lord desires is the increase of the man He created at the beginning of time in Genesis 1:26-27; the man formed after the image and likeness of God before sin was introduced on the face of the earth, this knowledge makes it easy for us to understand and appreciate the call of God on every married couple who are the instruments through which the Lord will bring about the increase in mankind that His heart desires. This is an assignment not to be taken lightly, it is an assignment of great importance and magnitude to the Lord, and so should be handled with care and diligence.

Why Does the Lord Seek Godly Offspring?

Matthew 6:9-10

⁹This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Genesis 3:15

¹⁵And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

In order to understand the magnitude of the assignment the Lord has given to married couples, those through whom He is bringing about the increase in the godly mankind He desires, we need to search the scriptures to find out reasons why God seeks godly offspring.

In the passage above, the Lord Jesus thought us to pray, asking that the kingdom of God come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. If this prayer that has been taught us by the Lord Jesus is to be answered, then from my own understanding of God's word, we as parents are the instrument through which the Lord is going to bring about that answer.

This for me is one of the reasons the Lord seeks godly offspring from our marriage union. It is the increase in the number of godly offspring produced from our marriage union in keeping with the blessing and instruction of the Lord to increase in number and fill the earth that will bring down the kingdom of God and cause His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. It is our godly offspring brought up in the ways and instructions of the Lord, fulfilling the commands of God, who will bring down the kingdom of God here on earth thus fulfilling the prayers thought us by the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, for as long as we keep praying the Lord's Prayer as the Lord Jesus has thought us to pray, then we should keep ourselves reminded that we are the vessels through which the manifestation of that prayer will come. And if we desire that the will of God be done on earth, then we have a big assignment in our hands.

Another reason the Lord seeks godly offspring is found in the curse the Lord pronounced on satan in Genesis 3:15; there the Lord said, He will put enmity between the woman and the serpent, and between her offspring and his. He will crush the head of satan, and satan will strike his heels. If we look critically at this curse, the first pronouncement the Lord made was "he will crush your head," before making a second pronouncement saying, "and you will strike his heel." By human reasoning, it is a fact that if the head of a living creature is crushed then such a creature is considered dead. Going by the first pronouncement of God that "he will crush your head," this goes to tell us that if the offspring of the woman succeeds in fulfilling the first pronouncement of the Lord in that curse then the second pronouncement ceases to hold. So, the inability of the first pronouncement to take place will bring about the fulfillment of the second pronouncement.

Therefore, if the offspring of the woman has successfully crushed the head of satan, then satan loses the ability to strike his heels. But when the offspring of the woman is unable to crush the head of satan, he empowers satan to continuously strike his heels. When God was making this pronouncement, He had the love of mankind at heart, and the wisdom behind the words of God outweighs the comprehension of satan.

For the offspring of the woman to possess the ability to crush the head of satan, he must possess the power and wisdom that far outweighs the comprehension of satan, and the only source of this power is from God. It is only at the throne of God that we can obtain power and wisdom fitting enough to crush the head of satan. Thus, the importance of training our children in the ways and instructions of the Lord cannot be overemphasized.

Now we are beginning to understand and appreciate why the Lord seeks godly offspring from our marriage union. Offspring who have walked diligently with the Lord, who have received the in-

filling of the power of God in their lives, walking in obedience to the will of God, saddled with the responsibility to crush the head of satan, thus fulfilling the curse of God upon him, and bringing down the kingdom of God here on earth, causing the will of God to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

[Back to Table of Content](#)