

PARENTING IN TURBULENT TIMES

PRECEPT

2 CHRONICLES 20:1-4

¹ After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to wage war against Jehoshaphat. ² Some people came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Dead Sea. It is already in Hazezon Tamar" (that is, En Gedi). ³ Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. ⁴ The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

PROMISE

What Canada have in common with Jehoshaphat and Israel is the fact that there is a vast army coming against us. Our country is facing a crisis that many Christians are not aware of. The current threat assessment is that our country is becoming one of the least religious countries in the world. Satan is targeting three primary aspects is pursuit to the manifesto he's following; our children, our Christian schools, and our churches.

1. THE DEVIL IS ATTACKING OUR CHILDREN. George Barna, the leading expert in global church data, trends, and statistics in North America, released his last book called Raising Spiritual Champions. He is issuing a serious alarm of what's happening today. He says that the number one target of the devil is our children. *"While churches have merrily continued to focus on adults, the Evil One has switched course and now focuses on winning over those worldview and life choices are being shaped prior to reaching their teens years."* This is because the Evil One knows that our children are the most vulnerable and easiest to get a hold of and control.

2. THE DEVIL IS ATTACKING OUR CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS. Idolatry is happening all across the nation. Our Christian schools are capitulating and actually falling into these ways of idolatry rather than standing in the truth. The only way we can actually help students with their identities and help them in their walk is to actually hold to the truth and not compromise it. *"If we love our children, we cannot simply stand by and watch them, and their generation forge a pathway towards eternal pain and suffering-all because awe are unwilling to follow Jesus' command to make disciples and to follow His instructions on how to do so."* - George Barna

3. THE DEVIL IS ATTACKING OUR CHURCHES. George Barna also said in his book that *"The Christian body is getting smaller and weaker by the decade because we have failed to adapt to the new strategies and tools deployed by our spiritual enemy, Satan."* We must be hopeful in the return of Christ and encouraged because the signs actually validate the truth of what Jesus said is going to happen. Paul identified in Timothy 4 that one of the key signs of last days reality is great falling away from the faith. That is not something that should discourage and disappoint us. There are many rising up in their faith and grasping the truth. These are the times that we can't just say we are Christians, but actually be one. The governments of Canada and United States have deemed lawful what God in His law has deemed sinful. Whenever human beings make sin the rule of the land, sin begins to rule the land. By changing the laws, they made a pathway for the man of lawlessness whose works are in accordance with Satan (2 Thessalonians 2). We have to keep perspective that our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the authorities and powers of the dark world and spiritual forces of the evil (Ephesians 6:12). King Hezekiah, when faced by nations and overwhelming odds facing potential annihilation, prayed. As Christians, this is our first defence in battling this great war ahead of us.

PRACTICE

1. Raising Our Children. What does the Bible say about raising children? How can you apply this in your home?

2. Discipleship in the Home. How can you protect your children to the dangers happening in the world today? How can you disciple them to the truth and ways of the Lord?

PRAYER

I. Life Groups

- Pray for our life groups to continue to multiply in quantity & quality for God's glory.

II. Life Kids

- Pray for our children to have strong faith and knowledge of our Lord as they grow up in the church.

III. Life Worship

- Pray for the worship team to always be strengthened and to seek the Lord in their personal lives.

IV. Life Sports

- May more people be brought to God and encounter Him in a special way through this ministry.

V. Volunteers

- Pray that God may bring our church more servants to join us in His Kingdom work.

VI. Life Link

- Pray that our ushers will serve our brethren and visitors gracefully and lovingly.

VII. Prayer

- Pray that we will all be deeply committed in seeking God through prayer and fasting.