

SPIRITUAL PARENTING

During the month of September, we have been studying a special series of lessons on parenting.

We have been studying how to parent children during a time of national moral and spiritual decline. Parenting will be difficult but not impossible.

During the time of moral and spiritual decline of a nation, spiritual parenting is essential to develop spiritual leaders who will stand in the gap for God to their generation.

Some of the greatest spiritual leaders were raised during a time of great moral and spiritual decline.

The following six great spiritual leaders are examples of this principle.

- *Noah* (house of Seth) was raised during a time of moral and spiritual decline of the Antediluvian civilization.
- *Abraham* (house of Shem) was raised in the pagan national culture of Mesopotamia.
- *Moses* (house of Levi) was raised in a pagan culture of Egypt.
- *Jeremiah* (house of Levi) was raised during a time of moral and spiritual decline that resulted in fifth cycle of divine discipline.
- *John the Baptist* (house of Levi) was raised during a time of moral and spiritual decline that resulted in the five cycles of divine discipline.
- *Jesus Christ* (house of Judah) was raised during the same time as John the Baptist.

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of the spiritual parenting of Noah.
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1. The Antediluvian civilization began to enter into a great moral and spiritual decline in the sixth generation from Adam (Gen.5).

The sixth generation from Adam was Jared. The Hebrew word (yared) means descend or decline and refers to the moral and spiritual decline of the Antediluvian civilization (Gen.6:5).

It was in the sixth generation (Jared) that fallen angels began to cohabit with daughters of men and produced the third race called Nephilim (Gen.6:4, 9-12).

The two races that existed at this time were Cainites and Sethites (Gen.4-5). The Nephilim (third race) was an attack upon the messianic seed of Gen.3: 15 and Luke 3:36-38.

The Nephilim race was the result of a sexual revolution and the corruption of flesh (Gen.6: 12). This brought the divine judgment of the flood upon the Antediluvian civilization (2 Pet.2:4-5; Jude 6).

2. The time from Jared to Noah (6th to 10th) generations was a time of God's long-suffering that none perish (2 Pet.3: 9).

“My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be 120 years.” (Gen.6:3)

“Who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.” (1 Pet.3: 20)

3. It was also a time of great preaching and rejection of the grace gospel.

Only 8 out of an estimated 7 billions people were saved from the flood by the preaching of Noah (1 Pet.3: 20).

The people were preoccupied with details of life and not the things of God or salvation (Luke 17:26-27).

“Son of man, if a country sins against Me by committing unfaithfulness, and I stretch out My hand against it, destroy its supply of bread, send famine against it, and cut off from it both men and beast. Even though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job were in its midst, by their own righteousness they could only deliver themselves, declares the Lord God.” (Ezek.14:13-14)

“And did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly.” (2 Pet.2:5; Rom.10:8-17)

‘Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him in love.’ (Eph.1:4; 2 Pet.3:11)

“And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘All the nations shall be blessed in you (Christ).’” (Gal.3:8, 16).

The Gentiles were the 10 generations of Sethites to the flood and the 10 generations of Shemites to Abraham (Gen.5:1-11:32).

4. Noah was a spiritual parent who lived and raised children by the standard of the word of God. He is described as righteous, blameless, and walked with God (Gen.6:8-9, 22).

Noah raised three sons during a time of great moral and spiritual decline. When is it a good time to raise children? Whenever you are spiritually mature enough!

Noah didn't have a spiritual impact upon his generation for Christ but he did have a spiritual impact upon his own family!

What would it profit a parent to gain the whole world and lose his own family? (Luke 9:25)

5. Your success as a spiritual parent does not depend upon your children's volitional choices as adults.

Your spiritual walk measures your success as a spiritual parent with the Lord. The two prodigal sons of Luke 15:11-32 had a good spiritual parent yet made bad choices as adults.

Noah was a good spiritual parent yet his youngest son committed a sin after the flood that resulted in the “Curse of Canaan.” (Gen.9:20-27)