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Holiness Writers

FAMILY GOVERNMENT

By

William Baxter Godbey

*“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without
which no man shall see the Lord” Heb 12:14*

Spreading Scriptural Holiness to the World

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FAMILY GOVERNMENT

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Abraham is cognomened by the Lord of Glory, "the father of the faithful," honored with the headship of the visible church, which God permanently organized in his family; having been launched in the days of Abel, honored with the preaching of Enoch who walked with God 300 years, without a break when he complimented him with a glorious and triumphant chariot ride up to heaven, jubilantly shouting the victory over death, hell and the grave as he thus felicitously escaped the lugubrious pall and ghastly grip of the grim monster, the chilly investiture of the winding sheets and the doleful imprisonment of the icy sepulcher, the common lot of all mankind, superinduced by the satanic invasion, throwing anonymous gloom over the halcyon beauty of an unfallen Eden, and inaugurating a funeral procession, whose doleful tread has sent panic to all human hearts with the exception of Enoch God's brilliant souvenir of his primitive loving kindness, shining over the despondent generations of the antediluvian world, and in a similar manner manifesting the glory of Eden with never fading flowers and never failing fruits and all cheered by human immortality; as he gave the antediluvians the wonderful lesson on His primeval wisdom, mercy and loving kindness in behalf of His creative climax, so he repeats the same glorious souvenir in the translation of Elijah, representing the great post-diluvian world under the law and the prophets and as Justin Martyr and Irenaeus who lived and wrote in the second century when the Seer of Patmos wound up his earthly pilgrimage at the age of 101, suddenly disappearing like Enoch and seen no more, they verily believe translated to heaven alive thus gaining triune testimony, along with his predecessors to the Divine beneficence having created man immortal.

I never can forget the profound impressions fastened on my spirit during my infancy, childhood and youth; born and reared out on the dreary mountains where I never saw a hearse nor an imported coffin. One man in the neighborhood, a noble old Dutchman, owned a big four horse wagon and hauled the corpse to the grave with many friends riding in his wagon; the people having dug the grave with their own hands, out of their own timber made the coffin and my father officiated in the funeral services, which wielded so potent an influence on my infantile mind and intensified as the years came and went till I reached the age of 20 when I left my mountain home to prosecute my collegiate education, which I could not get in that country. The people all en masse attended almost every funeral and witnessed the interment. They had no screws for the coffin's lid and consequently when the people had all looked at the corpse and given the deceased a long farewell the mechanic would nail on the lid of the coffin, the hammer sounding so loudly and doleful as to bring gushing tears all around.

Then as they lowered it into the grave with ropes grating on it and then let in the clods, making a doleful and frightful clangor on the coffin's lid; putting a nightmare conviction on the weeping

crowd standing round. Then my father would give out a song, lead it and they would all sing like the roar of Gabriel's trumpet,

"Hark from the tombs a doleful sound,
My ears attend the cry!
Ye living men come view the ground,
Where you must shortly lie!"

Then the corpse is apostolized as speaking to the people,

"Princes this clay must be your bed,
In spite of all your towers,
Ye tall, ye wise, ye reverent head,
Must lie as low as ours!"

Then the poet apostrophizes the people, yielding to conviction and crying out,

"Great God is there our certain doom,
And are we still secure?
Still marching downward to the tomb,
And yet prepared no more!

"Grant us the power of quickening grace,
To fit our souls to fly,
Then when we drop this dying flesh
We'll rise above the sky!"

God said of Abraham, "I know he will command his house after him." How all parents should walk in the footprints of Abraham, "the father of the faithful." Rom. 4 ch. Whom God looked from heaven and saw ordering his house harmonically with wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption, 1 Cor. 1:30 and consequently he honored him with the paternity of His great family on the earth, the church of the first born, washed in the blood of the lamb. As he is the model for every home to emulate, we are inexcusable for our depreciation of this beautiful illustration of the divine paternity, which God has given us all to emulate, and reproduce in our own homes.

Though God made him rich in silver and gold, herds, flocks, actually a millionaire as temporal riches symbolize spiritual wealth; yet He never built Him a house on the earth, giving this reason that this world was not His home and He was a pilgrim and a stranger traveling to His house not made with hands, eternal and in the heavens; thus never consenting to build him a house lest it would alienate his heart from his house in heaven. The reason why Paul could make money enough by his trade, tent building, to support himself and evangelistic helpers, Luke, Silas and Timothy was because the largest nation in all that part of the world in Bedouin Arabs the children of Abraham through Ishmael, Esau and Keturah his second wife; who this day dwell in tents and never live in houses. I've been in their cities and every family living in a tent, which they make with their own hands out of the hair of the animals they slaughter for food, as they have herds and flocks in vast

numbers. I have often seen houses in their cities used for storage but nobody living in them as they rigidly follow Father Abraham religiously, and believe they would lose their souls if they lived in houses.

From the Arabic side of the house we have an incident here auxiliary in elucidation of his domestic economy. The Bible is strong and explicit on hospitality, a prominent constituency in their religious lives, (as they believed that the angels often walked on the earth in human form,) and consequently they were afraid to close doors against any traveler, lest he might prove to be an angel and then they would commit an awful sin. One stormy evening, an old man stopped at Abraham's tent and asked for hospitality, which he cheerfully granted. When the hour for family worship rolled around he fully expected him to participate with him, but he declined to do so, asking to be excused as he worshipped no god but fire. (Among the Orientals there are yet many fire worshippers. When I preached in Bombay India in 1905-06, there were 100 thousand Parsees in that city, who worshipped fire, the followers of Zoroaster, a great man who lived in Persia 500 B. C., contemporary with Buddha in India and Confucius in China, all great lights in their day, doubtless radiated from the Jews dispersed throughout the whole world, during the Babylonian captivity. Fire is one of the symbols of the Holy Ghost along with water, wind, wine and oil).

So this old man told Abraham that he could not worship his god because he didn't believe in it. The patriarch labored hard to convince him that his god was the right one and to join him in his worship but signally failing and consequently told him that he could not lodge in his tent if he would not worship his God. He proved inflexible, when Abraham led him to the door and turned him out amid the awful howling storm and roaring tempest to take chances in the darkness of the night exposed to wild beasts. That moment God spoke to him from heaven, "Abraham I have borne with that old idolater 100 years, can you not stand him one night?" It was like a thunderbolt from a cloudless sky. He jumped out of the tent and roared aloud with his gigantic voice, "Old man come back!" fortunately despite the storm and his faulty acoustics, he heard him and came back, saying, "What kind of a man are you? You drove me out and are now calling me back." "Oh," says Abraham, "My God spake to me that he had borne with you in your idolatry and sins 100 years and asked me if I could not stand you one night." When the old man responded, "Oh, if this is the sort of a God you have, please do tell me all you know about him," consequently they both sat down and Abraham spends the whole night telling him about his God and before day dawned he was happily converted to the God of Abraham and when the oriental sun appeared above the horizon, after breakfast, he goes on his way rejoicing, having filled his haversack with food to supply him on his journey.

The Bible, Old and New, is perfectly explicit on domestic government, fathers provoke not your children to wrath but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Unfortunately the poor little things have inherited evil tempers from Satan through fallen Adam, our federal head. Consequently we should recognize the fact and lovingly avoid the provocation of these tempers which will cause them to misbehave and transgress domestic law. Therefore we should do our best to introduce the little ones to the Savior as early as possible; so like Samuel the prophet, and John the Baptist and the Apostle Timothy, and your humble servant, they will get acquainted with Him in their childhood, take him by the hand and start out On life's journey walking by his side along the king's highway of holiness instead of straying off into Satan's common, exposed to constant peril of soul and body. By the wonderful redeeming grace of God in Christ every human being is born in the

kingdom as beautifully illustrated by the prodigal son and his brother, both of them born in the father's house, i.e. the family of God and the elder having the good fortune to get converted before he lost his infantile justification never did get out but was then safe and sound, soul and body when his debauched and debased junior brother, miraculously escaped hell by his flight from the hog pen, the next station to it; beautifully illustrating the fact that every sinner is simply a backslider and the nominal conversions are simple reclamations from a backslidden state as we see confirmed in the case of the prodigal who just got back to his father's house where he was born and his elder brother had spent all his life having the good fortune to get converted antecedently to the forfeiture of his infallible justification, which every human being receives through the vicarious substitutionary atonement of Christ, which comes into availability, the very moment soul and body united; constitute personality, which is far back in the prenatal state five or six months antecedently to the physical birth, through the wonderful victory our omnipotent Savior achieves over the devil, who capriciously bagged us all with fallen Adam in the seminal state as Adam was the seed of humanity, created with the power to repeat himself infinitesimally and having lost his spiritual life and received in lieu Satanic nature i.e. depravity, i.e. spiritual death.

Consequently while in the fall he retained his power to repeat himself indefinitely like everything else, animal and vegetable, throughout the whole world as you see Gen. 1 ch. everything had its seed in its self and thus created in God's wonderful wisdom, self-perpetuative; yet Adam could not transmit what he didn't have, i.e. his spiritual life which Satan destroyed when he killed him in the Eden war. Consequently he has filled the world with people minus spiritual life and fit only for hell, whither every one is bound, if not the recipient of the new creation, wrought in the heart by the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven who never executes his office antagonistically to the divine law which must first be satisfied, "the soul that sinneth it shall die Ezek. 18:4 and 20. As Christ has already satisfied the divine law for every human being, Heb. 2:9 "by the grace of God Christ tasted death for every one. Therefore the moment, soul and body united, God counts that soul justified freely for Christ's sake alone and consequently the Holy Spirit responsively to that justification regenerates it instantaneously superinducing the glorious victory of every soul, actually born into the world, justified in heaven for Christ's sake, and regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Oh what a triumphant charge our glorious Christ, thus made on the devil, who had so adroitly lassoed the whole human race in Adam seminally; but as the work of Christ is personal, therefore the moment personality supervenes, regeneration is promptly administered by the glorious executive of the new creation.

Christendom is awfully blended by Satan's black wing, cunningly spread over them to keep them from seeing the relation of their own infants to the divine economy; actually born into the world, citizens of the kingdom as our Savior indubitably and irrefutably confirms throughout his ministry everywhere taking the little ones in his arms and certifying of such is my kingdom; thus confirming their right to baptism incontestably, as water baptism is simply the badge of citizenship as well as the type of the baptism of the Holy Spirit which gives that citizenship.

The infantile relation to the kingdom is the most foggy thing the popular mind meets in the inspired volume; yet it is clearly revealed but for reasons hard to explain, the clergy have looked at the subject through a veil from ages immemorial. I have two books on it, both of which clear it up and the people ought to have them in every home, as infancy is the most important period of life when character and destiny are shaped and settled for time and eternity. One of the popes said, "Give

me the first seven years of human life, and you may have all the balance." He meant that he could so cultivate it in the dogmatisms of the Catholic Church that it would live and die in it and consequently get to heaven as they positively teach even though having to go through the fires of purgatory.

"Education forms the common mind,
As the twig is bent so is the tree inclined."

All parents by the help of God freely given could see their children intelligently converted before they forfeit their infantile conversion, leaving them nothing to do but bring them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord, and they would enjoy the glorious privilege of living again the earth, with their children who will still press the battle for God and souls while they play on the golden harp among the angels.

Solomon says, "If you beat a boy with a rod you save his soul," again he warns us that if we spare the rod we will spoil the child. How we need the walk in the wonderful wisdom which God has given us of that wisest man of all the ancient world God commands us positively, Eph. 6 ch. "Children obey your parents in the Lord." I became a good reader when only six years old, then learned that scripture and never forgot it. I do not remember of ever disobeying a parental commandment except when my mother whom God had wonderfully used in my conversion ordered me to chew tobacco, because I was the runt of the family and had three sisters older than myself and they grieved over my dwarfhood with sorrow, telling our neighbors that they feared I would never be of any account, as I was so little and the trees and rocks in that mountainous country were so big they were anxious for me to be stalwart so I could do the work; yet little as I was I did more work than my gigantic comrades all around me. As there was not a ray of light on tobacco in that country and everybody used it, even preachers and doctors; my father, a preacher chewing and smoking and my mother a shouting Methodist, a great smoker. Our sympathetic neighbors said to them, "Make that little runt chew tobacco and it will start him to growing." A neighbor who had always had the old pipe in her teeth, said to my mother, "Orpha, my Jim was a little runt like your Will, until we put him to chewing tobacco and oh! how he is growing."

Then she ordered me to get at it; and it broke my heart because I was a little Christian and read the Bible "Children obey your parents in the Lord," and was not theologian enough to see that the clause, "in the Lord" relieved me, as the tobacco was not in the Lord, but in Satan and I did not know it. Yet I took chances and disobeyed parental order, never using tobacco in all my life and submitted to them for a threshing as I thought it would offset the disobedience. But they said you are too good a boy for us to whip. This illustrates the fact that we are to be true to God in all circumstances, even if it exposes us to punishment from our parents for disobedience; we must acquiesce and receive it lovingly.

A hundred years ago the pioneer Methodists in Yankee land were running a rousing Holy Ghost meeting in Cooper Shop, when a bright boy of sixteen happened in, the lightning which was in the air struck him down and he fell in the shavings and they prayed him through and he went home shouting like an angel, found his infidel father still up reading Paine's, "Age of Reason," a favorite with all infidels. He saw at once that he had been captured by those despised fanatical Methodists

and gave him an awful scolding and told him if he didn't just drop it all and behave himself he would drive him from home and gave him his choice, then whether he would drop his religion or give up his home, and he told him at once that he would never give up his religion. Then he told him to go to bed, and next morning to take his clothes and leave and never come back. Spending the night in prayer he arose, gathered up his clothes and bade them a loving adieu; his mother almost dying of grief but the father utterly inflexible. He went at once to the home of the class leader, and told him that his father had run him off for getting religion, and he told him his house was his home for life and for him to make himself easy.

Soon they were all called to breakfast. While eating, the servant man from the home of the boy rushes in, calling his name and saying, run home your father is dying and wants you. So he found him prostrate on the floor and crying aloud to God for mercy, saying the devil was after him and pulling him into hell; they sent for all the Methodists who gathered in and prayed night and day till the poor old infidel passed triumphantly into life with triumphant shout of victory; joined the Methodists Church, and shouted on till the angels came for him.

This boy was none other than John Inskip, whom God raised to launch the present Holiness movement, now enveloping the globe, the greatest ever known; in magnitude far eclipsing that of the Apostolic age. I gave you this notable historic incident, illustrative of the fact, that while children must obey their parents, as God commands, true to His Word, they are only to do it in harmony with His infallible administration. So when parental authority antagonizes the Divine, we are to be true to the latter, cheerfully in the heroic martyr spirit, suffering all parental chastisement for Christ's sake.

The same principle holds good in reference to the marital kingship of every family. God Himself in order in His perfection in every respect, the very Greek word *kosmos* which means order, also means world; tersely illustrating the fact, that God's universe is of perfect order, and utterly free from disharmony of any kind, which would certainly superinduce wholesale ruin and reversion to primitive chaos. Contemplate 217 million suns, accompanied by two billion, one hundred and seventy million worlds with their respective satellite all revolving round the grand primeval center of the celestial universe, lighted with the brilliancy of his effulgent throne and radiated with the glory of the heavenly hierarchies, all moving in perfect harmony through their respective orbits, beating their steady marches, and winging their precipitate flight through trackless ether, peregrinating the void immense, far away to the ultima thule of the celestial universe, where farthest planets roll, and never a collision, nor an infringement of any kind, through the roll of centuries, cycles and ages, and you unhesitatingly recognize the most perfect order of which an arch angel ever dreamed.

Therefore everything in the universe, worlds, planets, satellites, suns, moons, constellations, comets, milky ways, nebulae, etc., all focalize in Him, in perfect harmony, flying responsively to His bidding, shining and singing to all the illimitable universe, the hand that made us is divine God in His infallible wisdom made man the king of the domestic realm and the wife the queen. Therefore his order, his masculine preeminent leadership with the distinct understanding that the husband reigns in the little royal domicile, simply as the vice-regent of God, pursuant to his appointment, and in harmony with His infallible word. When he is not true to his appointment, of course he forfeits his authority, thus liberating the wife and children to serve God in the beauty of holiness, despite his

antagonistic administration and hailing with delight the martyr glory which will shine down on them from heaven in the event, that if it becomes their happy lot to suffer in the interest of God's kingdom.

A wicked, high tempered baker in London, got so annoyed with his wife going to John Wesley's class meetings, and leaving her domestic affairs, to fill her place as well as his own, that yielding to Satanic provocation he positively forbid her to go any more. She went on, much to his aggravation, arousing his diabolical indignation, till he told her that if she would go any more he would settle the matter once for all and forever, that he would put her in his big oven and bake her. Still she went as hitherto, despite his awful threats. Coming home from the classmeeting, she saw the smoke going up from the bake oven, reminding her of her awful doom; when she lifted up her heart and voice to God: "O Lord if the interest of thy kingdom here in the world metropolis demands my martyrdom in that bake oven I am ready, 'Thy will be done.' I remember the parallel case of Shadrack, Meshach, and Abednego, whom Nebuchadnezzar cast into the fiery furnace, heated as hot as it could be, so it melted their chains, so that they dropped off like water, and still never so much as singed their garments, because thou didst go in with them and so utilized their testimony as to actually convert the world's monarch, who had sent them thither. I know you can keep me out of that bake oven, or you can go into it, that it will never hurt me; but if in the interest of your kingdom in this great and wicked city demands and can utilize my martyrdom, I am ready to go in, with delight for Thee, so signally blessed in thy good providence to join the blood washed millions who have through floods and flames gone on before and are now wearing martyr crowns and waving palms of victory in the celestial metropolis."

She goes on home with a light and jubilant heart, perfectly abandoned to His infallible will; when upon entering their cottage she finds him rolling over the floor in awful agony and screaming, "Polly, Polly, pray for me, I am falling into hell." Then she sends runners for the Methodists to come in, which they do with glowing enthusiasm and pray for him night and day, till

"Heaven drops down their souls to greet,
And glory crowns the mercy seat."

And the man leaps triumphantly into life, joins the Methodists and becomes a red hot roaring class leader.

While domestic government must be sustained at every cost, let us remember that God Himself is the Leader and His providence, the father, the king and the mother the queen. Laxity of domestic government simply means anarchy, dissipation and ruin to the children. Disobedience to parents, is an anathema in the Bible in the very strongest of phraseology, "The eye that scorneth its fathers and contemns its mother, the ravens shall pluck it out and the young eagles shall eat it;" an awful symbolic statement of a violent death. destined to overtake the children who are disobedient to their parents. The great trouble of the present age is, the appalling wreckage of the domestic government, in which case Satan capture the children, so in life, that they actually rush headlong into not only debauchery and sensuality, but theft and murder.

When I was preaching in the capital of California, the whole city was stirred over a notable murder case, a fine looking young man, walking into a saloon shot the clerk dead behind the bar and

fled away, was caught, imprisoned, condemned to be hung, when the authorities turned him over to the Holiness people to do anything they could for his soul. They found him exceedingly anxious to be saved, and told him that he could get saved, and told him that he could get the salvation, but he would have to go to bottom rock repentance with all his might, which always confesses everything and restores as far as possible. When they got him strung out, perfectly free on the confession line, they were surprised to hear him say the man he had killed and for whom he was to be hung was the fourth, though he was yet in his youth; stating that the first one he murdered at the early age of fifteen. Such was the popular sensation in reference to him, as a Baptist had advertised him the subject of his Sunday morning sermon in his great auditorium; while the Holiness people were praying, exhorting and preaching to him in front of the jail, looking through the iron bars, he would roar aloud to the rabble standing behind them, "Beware of bad books for they ruined this boy, calling the names of the bad books he had read, "Life of Jessie James," the great robber and others.

By invitation I went home with a church officer to dine. On arrival he bade me step out of the buggy, the front door being wide open while he disposed of the horse and vehicle. When I walked in the first thing I saw was a deck of cards. As it was a Christian home, the presumption is that some Satanite brought it in; but the first who saw it should by all means put it in the fire. This illustrates the absolute necessity of fortifying our homes against the ingress of the wicked, as they will certainly ruin them. We should only admit them into our homes to preach the gospel and pray for them, and never permit them to tarry with us for any other consideration whatever.

The Lord never let me rear but one girl to maturity, who was happily converted at the age of twelve and gloriously sanctified at sixteen and would go out with me; helping me in my evangelistic meetings. I found to my sorrow the blue grass dudes were giving her their attention driving their fine horses and glittering vehicles. I said to her, "Effie, I am not willing for you to keep company of those ungodly young men." She said "Father, I do not want their company, but as they are our neighbors, I feel I must treat them politely and I dare not offend them." Then I responded, "Let me tell you daughter what to do, when your beau comes and rings the doorbell, meet him and escort him into the parlor, give him a chair, go to your organ, sing and play a good full salvation song, which will be the notification to your mother to come in, with her company if she has any. After you have sung a few songs, change to prayer, all kneeling and making your beau your special subject; at the same time thanking the Lord for sending him in and thus give you an opportunity to pray for him."

Four years have rolled away and she is 20 and I happen to be at home and my dear wife brings up the subject, observing, "Mr. Godbey, do you know that our daughter has never had a beau since we prayed them all out four years ago, and it suits me well, because as she is our only daughter, I feel that I cannot do without her, and hope she will live single, the little remnant of my life." I respond, "that suits me all right."

Two years more have flown and I am again at home and the daughter brings up the subject, stating to me that four Holiness preachers were waiting on her and all proposing matrimony and giving me their names and asking me to take my choice. I responded, "Effie, they are all good enough for us and I have no objection to any of them. I love them all and have nothing against them; but Bro. Hill was happily converted in my revival in his boyhood and I have known him ever since and have never seen or heard anything wrong with him, and as I have a better acquaintance with him than others,

he is my choice, when she leaped and clapped her hands, shouting, "Glory to God. for he is mine too."

Consequently very soon we all went into the Methodist Church, overflooded and the nuptials were solemnized. It just will not do to tolerate the wicked about your houses, so they'll associate with your children, and they'll fall in love and intermarry. You see how we prayed them all out, till they didn't come at all and our daughter had no beaux, till the holiness preachers, who were then few in number and widely scattered, became acquainted with her so she entered into wedlock. If you tolerate the wicked, in your homes, the normal effect is intermarriage with your children despite all you can do, as they will elope and consummate their matrimonial engagement, despite all you can do.

FAMILY GOVERNMENT

By

William Baxter Godbey

Chapter 2

INTERMARRIAGE WITH THE WICKED

Read the first seven chapters in the Bible and you will find that wedlock with the wicked ruined the antediluvian world and brought on the flood as an expedient of divine mercy to keep the successive generations from populating hell infinitesimally. When God drove Cain from the human home, because he killed his brother, he sent Seth to take the place of Abel in the leadership of his righteous people. I have often seen Abel's tomb, on the eastern slope of Mt. Antelebanon in Syria in full sight of the railroad as we now run from Beirut to Damascus, the oldest city in the world, founded by Seth, the oldest Son of Noah a short time after the flood. If you travel in that country you will visit Baalbec on that same road, on the Plain of Beka, very beautiful and level and lying between the Lebanon and Antelebanon mountain ranges four thousand feet above the sea level. The Bible says that Cain built a city and tradition (as we have no written history) till the days of Moses who wrote the Pentateuch 3582 years ago;) certifies that this is the city which Cain built and it became the metropolis of Baal worship, (i.e. the worship of the sun god,) the most popular divinity in the world the first 4500 years, to which the nations came from the ends of the earth and worshipped the sun, moon, and stars, bringing their copious offerings as the gold and silver mines of the world were then in their virgin fertility and the people had no banks to deposit their money and consequently they secured it in their temples. The temple of the sun today standing is a world's wonder, as well as that of Bacchus, the wine god and 250 shrines of so many other gods, still to be seen close by in the great Pantheon in which they worshipped all the gods. All of these magnificent temples are surrounded by a huge stone wall 16 feet broad at the bottom and eight at the top and 100 feet high in which we now see stones so large that there is no machinery on the earth competent to handle them. What do you think of a stone 70 feet long and 16 feet square, nicely hewn out. There is no power on the earth today competent to handle it. The antediluvians lived 10 times as long as we and were all giants comparatively to us, having wonderful physical strength. Besides, they had an animal mastodon, several times the size of our elephant which I saw in India weighing 10 thousand pounds. This animal has never been on the earth since the flood. Doubtless they utilized his wonderful strength in the manipulation of those magnitudinous stone's.

So long as the Sethites kept separate from the Cainites they got along splendidly, blessed with such prophets as Enoch who walked with God without a break, 300 years when he complimented him with a chariot ride to glory. Thus holding him up before all the generations, moving over all the world like waves rolling over the ocean and breaking against the rock bound shore; that they may not forget the primitive economy which would have translated every human being and death would have been unknown if Satan would have let us alone. The Jewish Talmud tells us that Enoch was king in his day, of course, the Sethites only, i.e. the godly people and that he habitually went off alone and spent hours in communion with God, and eventually after 300 years of uninterrupted promenade by His side he went away and staid so long, that the people concluded to go and hunt him, when they searched everywhere and never could find him, Gen. 4:24. The Holy Ghost tells the secret, they could not find him because God had taken him. Apollos in Heb. 11 ch. tells us that he

was translated. Oh, what a brilliant souvenir of God's primitive economy with every human being to serve is probation on the earth about 1000 years, when guided by instinctive providence we would have access to the tree of life whose normal effect would have been the illumination of all ponderous matter out of the body so we would not weigh anything and consequently fly away to God, whence we came.

Whereas our Bible gives the antediluvian world 1656 years, the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament made by seventy learned Jews under the patronage of Ptolemy Philadelphus, king of Egypt at Alexandria 280 B.C.) gives it 220 years. There is no doubt but it is correct as our Saviour in His ministry quoted from it and the Egyptian pyramids which abundantly show up their antediluvian origin, as there is no power on the earth today competent to build them. I have climbed the highest one to its apex 550 ft. high and covering 13 acres. Monuments commemorative of the kings, and in this one, Cheops, have been found coins, giving the date of its building, B.C. 3700, which according to our chronology would put it in the year of the world 354, which would be too early as there were not people enough in the world at that time to have built it. It has been calculated that it would take 29 thousand men 100 years or 100 thousand men 20 years to build it. Hence it couldn't have been built at that time. The Septuagint chronology would put it in the year of the world 954 when evidently there was force enough on the earth to do it as they were all giants and lived 1000 years and nearly all who were born into the world were living on it at that time.

Thus during those ages the Sethites under the administration of such men as Enoch, got along really well, till 2000 years rolled away or nearly so, when we find the statement, "the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair and took to themselves wives," then soon follows the statement that the world is filled with violence, i.e. wickedness. The sons of God were the godly people, and daughters of men the idolatrous Cainites and you see the sad result of intermarriage with the wicked, as this whole world stands on an incline plane dipping low down towards hell whereas heaven is far up above us. Therefore the wicked have the downhill pull, and consequently beat the righteous all the time as one pulling down the mountain is more than a match for ten pulling up the towering altitude.

The way to heaven is up grade all the time from the City of Destruction to the New Jerusalem. The people say, "Oh marry him to save him," a false conclusion. The time to save him is before you marry him, as after that he'll have the advantage of you. Matrimony unifies husband and wife, so they are no longer twain, but one. Therefore when you are tied to him and he has the down hill pull on you, the chances predominate in favor of your ruin rather than his salvation. If he truly loves you (and if not you can't afford to marry him,) you wield more influence over him than you think and there is at least a probability that you can win him for God; whereas matrimony turns the scale the other way. Therefore never enter into wedlock until the party is converted to God and then you will have enough to do to hold him in the Kingdom by prayers, faith and close walk with God. The effect of this intermarriage of the Sethites with the Cainites precipitated an awful apostasy in the antediluvian world; the good one, having died and gone to heaven and the rising generation with one parent a wicked idolater and wielding a more potent influence over the children than the other, as every one is born into the world with depravity in the heart which leans the soul toward sin and if a parental influence is not solid for God, Satan will prove too strong and capture the family. This state of things as fatally prevailed in the antediluvian world that the people actually crossed the dead

line and became unsavable, so that righteous Noah, sent from God preached to them with all his might a hundred and twenty years and had no converts outside of his own family. Thus God abundantly vindicated his own fatherly kindness and tender mercies in sending them his best preacher and giving them 120 years in which to repent and get saved; which would have actually headed off the flood so it never would have come; but when they would not have the Lord at all, but just went ahead, planting, building, buying, selling, marrying and giving in manage and having no time at all to serve God till the very day when Noah entered into the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all; really a signal mercy, as they would not let God save them at all and were consequently fast in Satan's grip and the longer they lived on the earth the more sins they would commit; "thus heaping up wrath against the day of wrath and the righteous judgments of God." Consequently mercy said take them out of the world as the longer they stay the more terrible the hell that awaits them.

Thus we must all the time recognize God's mercy in the awful judgments he sends on the world which cannot hurt the righteous but only take the wicked out of the world. N.B. There are infinite degrees in hell, all the people punished for all the sins they ever committed. Consequently when people become unsavable, mercy says take them out of the world and thus cut down the punishments awaiting them as much as possible. This lesson we learn in I Cor. 15 ch. As star differs from star in glory so there are infinite degrees in heaven, the naked eyes discriminating sixteen different magnitudes of stars; but the telescope revealing 1000 magnitudes. As God's economy is for you to get all you possibly can and then he'll give you to your unutterable surprise; whereas in case of the slothful and unappreciative, he even takes away what they have and gives it to the aggressive servant, out and out, fully consecrated and utterly lost in the divine will and sunk away into his blessed divinity.

The same law applies to the wicked, the infinite degrees of punishment in hell. Consequently when the people settle the fact that they will not let God save them; it is always the verdict of mercy, take them out of the world quickly as possible. Therefore in our home government we must at every cost keep our houses pure from the invasion of the wicked; whereas the available policy is to keep everybody on a bee line for heaven, out and out; the family altar, patronized by every one regardless of circumstances; breaking every child to lead in prayer and all the visitors thus sending up a focalized volume of red hot prayer to God, till he'll tilt heaven's altars and pour the fire down and wrap the home in a Pentecostal flame, keeping it so hot, that Satan cannot get in shooting distance, bearing in mind that you can only run him with heavenly fire and there is not way to get it but to pray it down.

The Squatter far out in the wild west on the plains, roaming round finds himself pursued by a pack of wolves howling for their dinners and determined to eat him up. He puts spurs to his pony and tries to outrun them but in vain. Night overtakes him and he builds him a big fire around in a circle, puts down his bed and sleeps with impunity, as the wolves are afraid of the fire and will not come through it. So we must diligently and heroically fortify ourselves against the devil with fire and at every cost, keep our homes wrapped in a Pentecostal flame. When the wicked come in to see you call the family together and go to prayer, and make them the special subject; meanwhile preach to them like Paul on the Areopagus, surrounded by the Greek philosophers the most learned congregation in all the world, but all heathen. Yet, he proceeded with his might to preach to them the Gospel, reminding

them that as he had traversed the city those several days meanwhile preaching on the street and had visited their great and magnificent temple dedicated to Jupiter, Minerva, Bacchus, Apollo, and many others which so magnificently adorned the city and he had read their names superscribed on them, but had found a shrine superscribed to the "unknown God." He thus availed himself to preach to them that unknown God, because he knew him and said to them, "in Him we live and move and have our being," and he is really the only God in all the universe who created this great world on which we live, the sun, moon, and stars looking down on us and lighting us day and night and He keeps our hearts beating, our blood flowing and our lungs inspiring and expiring, the breath which perpetuates our vitality. So he availed himself of that grand opportunity to tell them the grand truths by which they might be saved, sanctified, receive eternal life and a home in heaven.

So we should remember that in every home the father is king and the mother queen and the sons and daughters officers in the divine government, and the family is really not only the nucleus of the Church, (as in the apostolic age it was confined to the family circle;) but it is the gem of the nation and when it is corrupt, the whole nation which is made up of families will develop into a volcano which Satan will explode and precipitate into hell. Therefore the character and destiny of church and state is determined by the family. Here, the battle is fought and the victory won. The home which is undermined and captured by Satan means ruin to both Church and state.

FAMILY GOVERNMENT

By

William Baxter Godbey

Chapter 3

THE HEBREW NATION

In order to have light, truth and salvation on the earth, God called out Abraham and constituted him the patriarch from whom he would establish a holy nation on the earth, who would not only hold up the light to keep the people out of the ditches lest they might stumble headlong into hell, doomed and lost forever; but that he might through this Hebrew nation give a Savior of the world. He positively forbade them to intermarry the heathen among whom they sojourned. Despite all his loving kindness, wonderful miracles, delivering them up to light the whole world and show them the king's highway of holiness; they would intermarry with the heathen who worshipped idols and thus contaminate themselves with idolatry, grieve the Holy Spirit, so that God would let their enemies conquer and enslave them and oppress them in hard bondage, till they would cry for mercy, and he'd raise them up a valiant man or woman to deliver them from the heavy yoke of hard bondage, under which they were groaning. You see as the centuries came and went, they were always collapsing into apostasy, captured by their enemies and burdened with hard bondage; supervening from the fact that the good old ones died and went to heaven, and the oncoming generation did not know the Lord. All the time these deteriorations collapses, and apostasies were traceable to their intermarriage with the heathen, which was positively forbidden in God's Word.

It is wonderful how history repeats itself over and over, as the centuries and ages come and go. And you will always find this deterioration, really originating from the home circle. Therefore all history sacred and secular in all ages in tones of thunder, warn us at every cost to keep our houses dedicated to the Lord in an everlasting covenant which neither men nor devils can break; the home altar in every case the center whence emanates the heavenly radiance, to shine out into the community, interpenetrating and driving away the darkness accumulated under the black pinion of Satan, and sending consuming flames, running over the country, like Samson's three hundred foxes. He caught and attached fire brands to their tails and let them loose to run everywhere and set the whole country into a rolling conflagration. So every home should have plenty of fire prayed down from heaven, flaming on the family altar, to keep every member of the family so inflamed as to be a moving cyclone.

When I was presiding elder forty years ago and visited my grandfather on my district, he had me help him make invoice of his family, then at the age of ninety-six; finding that his descendants numbered five hundred, including children-in-law and grandchildren, and among them 25 licensed preachers. An old hunter in the neighborhood said, "that he had often gone to a deer lick near the Godbey home to shoot the deer coming there in the early morning to drink, and as he lay there before day, the family would rise and go out for secret prayer in different directions and pretty soon meeting in the house for the regular family prayer, when he would hear a big shout, like the campmeeting which they had in their neighborhood a hundred years ago, when the pioneer Methodists had the true fire and Pentecostal power, which shook earth and hell.

There was the secret of the preaching army going out from that rough log house in the mountains. The primitive Methodists all had the fire and the power and were wonderful at the family altar praying it down from heaven in Pentecostal showers. When Bishop Kavanaugh, the pioneer of Kentucky was asked by a Presbyterian, "How do you account for the fact that every Methodist man and woman is always ready to pray in the meetings with so much prayer?" he responded, "It is because they all have the family altar and pray there till they get the power, and consequently have it wherever they go." Well hath the poet said,

"That the devil flees, when he sees,
The weakest saint upon his knees."

Greatheart in "Pilgrim's Progress," in that awful battle with Giant Despair at Doubting Castle, accompanied Christian and Mercy on their pilgrimage to the celestial city. They came to that stile on the road where Christian and Hopeful had left the Highway of Holiness because the road was thorny and flinty, because their feet were sore and that they might walk along the smooth path through the meadow running parallel with the King's highway. Night fell on them and the rain came in torrents. They fell down in darkness, so weary they went to sleep and were awakened next morning by the crack of the whip of Giant Despair, who captured them and drove them like cattle to Doubting Castle and kept them, those awful three days and nights, beating them almost to death, till Christian found in his pocket the Key of Promise which unlocked every door in Doubting Castle. So they escaped and regained the King's Highway, putting up a sign there warning pilgrims not to turn out, as that smooth path through the flowing meadow lead to Doubting Castle.

Greatheart said they would all go and he would fight Giant Despair for them. Consequently, over the stile they go, Greatheart leading the band, till he reached Doubting Castle. Giant Despair came out with the roar of a lion and demanded an unconditional surrender. An altercation followed, words bringing on blows until they get into a regular hand to hand combat and the women awfully alarmed at the ominous defeat. The Giant was so formidable. Greatheart fell to his knees and soon got such power from heaven that he swept everything before him. He slew the giant and all his army, demolished Doubting Castle, liberating all the prisoners, Feeblemind, Ready to Halt, etc., rescuing them all, and thus utterly obliterating that awful hell-trap for the pilgrims, giving victory to all oncoming generations.