

Welcome to Father's Day at The Cathedral

I. INTRODUCTION

What has your encounter with father been like???

God has revealed himself as Father from the beginning:

- He is the Origin of the Triune God
- He is Father in His Covenant Dealings
- *Abram* "Exalted Father" → *Abraham* "Father of a Multitude"

II. THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT - GOD AS THE FATHER OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL:

⁴ "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he. ⁵ They have dealt corruptly with him; they are no longer his children because they are blemished; they are a crooked and twisted generation. ⁶ Do you thus repay the LORD, you foolish and senseless people? Is not he your father, who created you, who made you and established you? ⁹ But the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage. (Deuteronomy 32)

¹⁴ "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever." (2 Samuel 7// 1 Chronicles 17:13)

⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷ There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. ⁸ But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. (Isaiah 64)

⁴ "Have you not just now called to me, 'My father, you are the friend of my youth....'? ¹² Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, "Return, faithless Israel, declares the LORD. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, declares the LORD; I will not be angry forever. ¹³ Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the LORD your God and scattered your favors among foreigners under every green tree, and that you have not obeyed my voice, declares the LORD. (Jeremiah 3)

¹⁹ "I said, how I would set you among my sons, and give you a pleasant land, a heritage most beautiful of all nations. And I thought you would call me, My Father, and would not turn from following me. ²⁰ Surely, as a treacherous wife leaves her husband, so have you been treacherous to me, O house of Israel, declares the LORD." ²² "Return, O faithless sons; I will heal your faithlessness." "Behold, we come to you, for you are the LORD our God." (Jeremiah 3)

⁹ "With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn." ¹⁰ "Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.'" (Jeremiah 31)

⁶ "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name." (Malachi 1)

¹⁰ Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers? ¹² May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob any descendant of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts! (Malachi 2)

Compare New Testament: ... ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 10)

⁴ Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the LORD; exult before him! ⁵ Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. ⁶ God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land. (Psalm 68)

²⁶ He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.' ²⁷ And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. ²⁸ My steadfast love I will keep for him forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him. ²⁹ I will establish his offspring forever and his throne as the days of the heavens. ³⁰ If his children forsake my law and do not walk according to my rules ... ³² then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes, ³³ but I will not remove from him my steadfast love or be false to my faithfulness. (Psalm 89)

Compare New Testament ... ² and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. (Revelation 2)

¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. ¹⁴ For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. ¹⁵ As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; ¹⁶ for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. ¹⁷ But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, ¹⁸ to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. (Psalm 103)

Compare New Testament: ¹⁸ "I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.'" (Luke 15)

III. WHAT DOES THE FATHER'S SELF-REVELATION MEAN?

God The Father is not Male

²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4)

God The Father is an Analog for Earthly Fatherhood:

⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.... (Matthew 5)

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father (*pater*), ¹⁵ from whom every family (*patria*) in heaven and on earth is named, (Ephesians 3)

Earthly Fathers Mirror the Heavenly Father. The Father:

- Establishes the vision/mission/direction – His mission is his family
- Commands respect and obedience
- Requires accountability
- Rewards and chastens
- Mercifully initiates reconciliation/forgiveness/restoration

Earthly Fathers differ from the Heavenly Father:

- None are all knowing – seek council of family and others
- None are utterly selfless – constant watch on emotions and self-justification
- None are totally pure – need help of family and community to deal with ourselves
- None are completely good – can do as much damage as good in our fathering