

יָמִין וּשְׂמָאוֹל לְמַעַן יֵאָרִיךְ יָמֶיךָ עַל-מַמְלַכְתְּךָ  
הָיָא וּבְנָיִי בְּקָרֵב יִשְׂרָאֵל: 8

My translation: “(14)When you enter the land which YHWH your God is giving you and you take possession of it and you say, ‘I will put over us a king like the people which are around me.’ (15) You must set over you a king which YHWH choses from your brothers. You must not set a king over you who is an alien and not a brother.”

“(16) Only he must not gather horses to himself and must not return to Egypt in order to increase horses, because YHWH has said, “You can never return that way again.(17) And he must not increase wives in order that his heart not be turned away, and he must not increase wealth, gold and silver.”

(18) “But when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he must make a copy by hand of this book of the Law in the sight of the priests of Levi. (19) And it will be his companion and he will read from it every day of his life in order that he will learn to fear YHWH his God by doing all the words of this book of the Law, to do them. (20) So that his heart is not exulted above his brothers, and that he turn not aside from these commandments to the right or to the left, in order that the days of his kingdom and his sons will be long in the midst of Israel.”

Let me begin by wishing every father here a very happy and blessed father's day . . .

A father's job description is long . . . primary breadwinner . . . coach . . . driving instructor . . . spider killer . . . fishing instructor . . . driving instructor . . . the guy who snores when he falls asleep in front of the TV . . .

17.14 כִּי-תָבֵא אֶל-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נֹתֵן  
לְךָ וַיִּרְשָׁתָהּ וַיִּשְׁבָּתָהּ בָּהּ וְאַמְרַתָּ אֲשִׁימָה  
עָלַי מֶלֶךְ כְּכָל-הַגּוֹיִם אֲשֶׁר סְבִיבֹתַי:  
17.15 שָׁוִם תִּשֶׂים עָלֶיךָ מֶלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר יִבְחַר  
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּיָדְךָ מִקְרֵב אֶחָיִךְ תִּשֶׂים  
עָלֶיךָ מֶלֶךְ לֹא תֹכֵל לְתַתּוֹ עָלֶיךָ  
אִישׁ נָכְרִי אֲשֶׁר לֹא-אֶחָיִךְ הוּא:  
17.16 רַק לֹא-יִרְבֶּה-לּוֹ סוּסִים וְלֹא-יָשִׁיב אֶת-הָעַם מִצְרַיִמָּה  
לְמַעַן תִּרְבּוּת סוּס וַיִּהְיֶה אָמַר לְכֶם  
לֹא תִסְפּוּן לָשׁוּב בְּדֶרֶךְ הַזֶּה עוֹד:  
17.17 וְלֹא יִרְבֶּה-לּוֹ נָשִׁים וְלֹא יִסּוֹר לְבָבוֹ  
וְכִסֵּף וְזָהָב לֹא יִרְבֶּה-לּוֹ מְאֹד:  
17.18 וְהָיָה כְשִׁבְתּוֹ עַל כִּסֵּא מַמְלַכְתּוֹ וְכָתַב  
לּוֹ אֶת-מִשְׁנֵה תְּהִלָּתָהּ הַזֹּאת עַל-סֵפֶר מִלְּפָנֵי  
הַכֹּהֲנִים הַלְוִיִּם:  
17.19 וְהִיתָה עִמּוֹ וְקָרָא בּוֹ כָּל-יְמֵי חַיָּיו  
לְמַעַן יִלְמַד לְיִרְאָה אֶת-יְהוָה אֱלֹהָיו לְשֹׁמֵר  
אֶת-כָּל-דְּבָרֵי הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת וְאֶת-הַחֻקִּים הָאֵלֶּה לַעֲשׂוֹתָם:  
לְבַלְתִּי רוּם לְבָבוֹ מֵאֶחָיו וּלְבַלְתִּי סוֹר מִן-הַמִּצְוָה

<sup>1</sup>Charles McLain, CBTS, unpublished class notes; used with permission

I agree with Pastor Tedd Tripp, who wrote, “The task of parenting is indeed a daunting one. It is a huge responsibility that can be overwhelming. Humanly speaking, it can even be frustrating.”<sup>2</sup>

The role of fathers has drastically changed in the past few decades.

The images of fathers returning home from work, patting their children on the head and sitting to quietly read the paper without much family interaction remain forever encapsulated in the portrayal of many television dads of prior generations.

These characters serve as a reminder of the importance of fatherly advice and participation. Beyond being a financial supporter of the family, or the principal exterminator of all things creepy, fathers are vital to a child's development.

Mark Twain wrote, "When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years."

What if God could give you some direction, dad? Would you want to hear what God has to say is really important in all the busyness and running around trying to be a good dad? . . . would you want God's input . . .

I trust that you do . . . so please open your Bible to Deuteronomy 17 . . .

Here is the a place in Scripture where God talks about men who are leaders, and are good kings . . .

Where God speaks about men who would be kings . . . and what it

takes to be a king . . .

READ vv. 14-22 . . .

God wants dads to live like kings . . .

He gives us two simple truths . . .

1. A King Must Reject the World . . .
  - a. Horses = power . . . control . . . being able to command armies . . . to change fortunes . . .
    - i. In the culture of the day, horses were not plow animals . . .
    - ii. They were not even ridden . . .
    - iii. No, horses were used for one purpose . . . to pull chariots . . .
    - iv. The jet fighter of the day . . . the tank . . .
    - v. And the only place to get them was . . . Egypt . . .
    - vi. Egypt was the world supplier of horses . . . in fact, when Pharaoh decides to follow Moses, and God opened the sea and let the children of Israel walk on dry ground, we are specifically told that 600 of the Egyptians best chariots were drowned in the waters . . .
    - vii. Chariots were for the powerful . . . for the rulers . . .
    - viii. And Egypt was famous for their horses . . .
    - ix. Egypt . . .
    - x. The people had been slaves in Egypt . . .
    - xi. For 400 years, they lived in Egypt . . .
    - xii. They were owned by the Egyptians . . . They were slaves to the Egyptians . . . owning no property . . . having no rights . . .

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<sup>2</sup>Tedd Tripp, The Shepherd Press Blog

- and no hope . . .
- xiii. And God brought them out with a strong hand . . . and mighty display of His power . . .
- xiv. The 10 plagues . . .
- xv. The splitting of the sea . . . and the drowning of Pharaoh's army . . .
- xvi. Yet, there was this continual temptation to go back there . . .
- xvii. Even during the 40 years of wandering, the people complained time and again saying, "Oh, that we had died in Egypt . . ."
- xviii. And God says . . . when you get a king . . . he cannot lead the people back there . . . back to the where they used to live . . .
- xix. The king was responsible to not do anything that would renew the desire . . . the temptation . . . the need to return to Egypt . . .
- xx. Egypt was powerful . . . Egypt had might . . . the important and influential were in Egypt . . . and God says they are to never go back that way . . .
- xxi. They were to do nothing that would lead to their backsliding into the land of their slavery . . .
- xxii. They were to NEVER go that way agin . . .
- xxiii. they had been completely delivered from the living death down there . . .
- xxiv. they were to stay completely delivered from the living death down there . . .
- xxv. in Egypt, they didn't know God . . .
- xxvi. they didn't worship God . . .
- xxvii. they didn't obey God . . .
- xxviii. Egypt wanted to rule people . . . control

- people . . .
- xxix. and God says, a king must never, ever, lead his people back to that place . . .
- xxx. A king for God is never to lead his people back to what it was like when they didn't know God . . .
- xxxii. No matter how important or powerful . . .
- xxxiii. Dad, you are to lead your children away from the life you used to have . . .
- xxxiiii. You are now a servant of the King who died penniless on a cross . . .
- xxxv. You now follow the One who said, "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. – Mat 16:24
- xxxvi. And perhaps you are drawn to being important . . . of being influential . . .
- xxxvii. Christian, dad, God has called you to be a servant . . . you are to reject the world's view of importance and power . . . b/c that will lead your family back from where you came . . .
- But not only that . . .
- b. A king must reject the world's view of woman . . .
  - i. not multiply wives to himself . . .
  - ii. In Moses' day, like our own, the world sees conquest and multiple affairs are seen as strength . . . as a sign of rugged manhood . . . God says . . . a real man is a one-woman man . . . a king is a one-woman man . . .
  - iii. And a man who would be king must reject that world view . . . and see women in general and his wife in particular as not

- iv. something to be conquered . . .  
God's design from creation was, according to the Lord Jesus Christ, one man for one woman for life . . .
- v. and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." – Mat 19:5-6
- vi. One man . . . one woman . . . both husband and wife taking their wedding vows for what they are . . .
- vii. Commitments before God to remain faithful to each other . . .
- viii. I take you to be my wife . . .
- ix. To have and hold from this day forth . . .
- x. For better or for worse . . .
- xi. For richer, for poorer . . .
- xii. In sickness and in health . . .
- xiii. To love and to cherish,
- xiv. From this day forward . . .
- xv. Till death to us part . . .
- xvi. And a man who wants to live like a king must remain faithful to his wife . . .
- xvii. He must take his wedding vows seriously . . .
- xviii. He must show, on a daily basis, that his wife is the most important person in his life . . .
- xix. That she alone is the one alone for you . . .
- xx. and that she has your heart . . . your mind . . . your emotions . . . your body, your desire, your joy, your money, your devotion . . . your all in all . . .
- xxi. Husbands, the apostle Paul commands us,

- love you wife even as Christ love the church and gave Himself for it . . .
- xxii. Husbands, we hear in Colossians, Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. – Col 3:19
- xxiii. Peter instructs husbands . . . Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life . . . – (1Pe 3:7)
- xxiv. Marriage is a relationship that was created by God . . .
- xxv. That is blessed by God . . .
- xxvi. That is ordained by God . . .
- xxvii. That is to give glory to God . . .
- xxviii. And that demands, that any man who would want to live like a king must adore his wife . . . and protect his wife . . . and care for his wife . . . and love his wife . . .
- xxix. A man who would be king must have his one and only woman in his life . . . his wife . . .
- xxx. Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well. Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful

doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love. – Pro 5:15-20

- c. A king must reject the world's power . . . and the world's view of women . . .
- d. But that is not all . . . b/c then Moses tells us . . .
- e. READ v. 17b . . .
- f. He must not amass wealth to himself . . .
  - i. Yes, children are expensive . . .
  - ii. I enjoyed the father's day card from a few years back . . .
  - iii. It said, "A father is a man who carries pictures where his money used to be . . ."
  - iv. Can I get a witness?
  - v. Children are expensive . . .
  - vi. It takes money to raise children . . .
- g. But the fact remains, no matter how expensive they are, there are plenty of dads who run off to work, not because they need the money . . . but because they love the wealth and prestige . . .
- h. They are seen as important at work . . .
- i. And work provides them the toys they have to show off . . .
- j. There are plenty of dads who love money . . .
- k. And are willing to sacrifice their children and their marriage in order to get more money . . .
- l. The world in Moses day a man's success, often, by the bank account and the wealth he had . . .
- m. The more wives the better . . .
- n. The more money the better . . .
- o. Our day is not much different . . .
- p. The bigger office, the more important you are . . .
- q. The bigger the bank account, the more important you are . . .
- r. The more power and prestige, the promotions at

work . . . gives many men and women their sense of importance, of worth . . .

- s. And many, many fathers are more than willing to climb the corporate ladder at the expense of their children . . . and their marriage . . .
- t. Sacrificing children on the altar of wealth is nothing new . . .
- u. Sacrificing marriage on the altar of wealth is nothing new . . .
- v. Which is why Paul instructs us . . . Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. – 1Ti 6:6-10
- w. A king for God must reject the world's view of money . . .
- x. And if the world says you are a failure . . . but your wife says you are a success . . .
- y. If you turn down the overtime, although the money would be nice, in order to spend time with your children . . . the world may call you a loser . . .
- z. The boss may call you a quitter . . .
- aa. But your kids will call you a king . . .

- bb. And just who's opinion are you concerned about anyway . . .
  - cc. Listen, I've done more funerals than I care to remember . . . and I have yet to hear anyone say, "I wish he would have spent more time at the office . . . I wish he had spent more time with his co-workers . . . I am so glad he spent so much time away from us . . ."
  - dd. To live like a king . . . a dad must never measure his greatness or importance by the world's standards . . .
  - ee. He is not to worry about the world's approval . . .
  - ff. He must never turn his heart or the heart of his family away from God to anything else . . .
  - gg. You are to seek to please God . . .
  - hh. By not returning to the former manner of life . . .
  - ii. By loving your wife and being faithful to her . . .
  - jj. By not being a work-alcoholic seeking to get more and more and more wealth . . .
  - kk. And if the world say you are wrong . . .
  - ll. If the world says you are a failure . . .
  - mm. What do they know anyway?
  - nn. The world doesn't know anything about godly living . . .
  - oo. So let the world talk . . . their talk doesn't bother God . . .
  - pp. These are what He says it takes to live like a king . . .
  - qq. Reject the world . . .
2. A King Must Embrace the Word . . .
- a. READ vv. 18-20 . . .
  - b. One of the very first acts a king was to do, was to

- c. make a copy of God's Word . . .
- c. It was to be a personal copy . . . he was to write it out with his own hand . . . and his own eyes hitting the words . . . and then writing the words out . . .
- d. It was to be an accurate copy . . . the reasons the priests were to be monitoring him as he made the copy is the because the priests were the guardians of the Law . . .
- e. They were to insure that the king didn't leave anything out . . .
- f. They were to insure that the king didn't add anything . . .
- g. The king is not to try to improve on it . . . he couldn't add to it . . . he couldn't subtract from it . . . he couldn't alter it or condense it . . .
- h. Or drop some sections he was uncomfortable with . . .
- i. It was a personal copy . . . it was an accurate copy . . .
- j. It was to be a close copy . . . with him . . . close at hand . . . readily available . . .
- k. It was to be a used copy . . . every day of his life he was to make use of God's Word . . .
  - i. He is not just supposed to carry it . . .
  - ii. To talk about how he has the right translation . . .
  - iii. No . . . it is to be a well-read and a well-lived book . . .
  - iv. The Christian who's bible is falling apart is a Christian who's life is not falling apart . . .
  - v. Men . . . husbands . . . dads . . . you are to be the spiritual leader of your home . . .
  - vi. God forbid that your wife reads her Bible more . . .
  - vii. Or knows her Bible better than you do . . .

- viii. The king is to know the Bible so well that when he is presented with a difficult case, or a tricky situation, he knows what God wants Him to do . . .
- ix. And not some emotional, sappy, “God spoke to my heart . . .”
- x. But rather, here is what God’s Word say I am to do . . . this is what God’s Word says we are to do . . .
- xi. And I know that because I read it . . .
- xii. You know, the Bible says that a husband should be able to teach and explain the Word to his wife and his children . . .
- xiii. And that can only come if you are willing to read it and learn it . . . and do it on a daily basis . . .
- xiv. Carrying a Bible in to church on Sunday is a great thing to do . . .
- xv. But reading the Bible and living it day of the week is MUCH, MUCH better ..
- xvi. B/c, frankly, I’m easily duped . . . we as a church family see each other on Sundays and we’ve got our Bibles . . .
- xvii. You can easily fool us . . .
- xviii. Your wife and kids are not so easily fooled . . .
- xix. And it makes no difference if the children are 4 years old or 44 years old . . . they know when dad is not the spiritual leader of the home . . .
- xx. And a man who would be king must be the spiritual leader . . . he must be the one who explains, studies, read, explores, memorizes, and shares the Word with others . . .
- xxi. Listen, dad’s love to read the paper, the

- sport’s page, the Drudgereport, the stock report . . .
- xxii. Dad’s love the sports channel . . . and the golf channel . . .
- xxiii. And the Bible sits unread, unopened . . .
- xxiv. Listen, you can fool me . . .
- xxv. You cannot fool your wife and children . . .
- xxvi. And you certainly cannot fool God . . .
- xxvii. He says that a king is to read the Bible . . . but not just for the sake of reading it . . . b/c watch what Moses says next . . .
- l. It was to be a well-lived copy . . . that he may . . .
  - i. Learn to fear the LORD . . .
    - (1) to have a healthy respect . . .
    - (2) to speak and work and live as if God was right there, watching . . .
    - (3) because He is . . .
  - ii. Learn to do all the words . . .
    - (1) God wants a man, a leader, to demonstrate that he knows what it is to follow God . . .
    - (2) and that comes by obeying . . .
    - (3) by taking what God says . . .
    - (4) and then actually changing your life . . . your words . . . your attitude . . .
    - (5) “But Pastor, you can’t teach new dogs old tricks . . .”
    - (6) fine . . . I agree . . .
    - (7) but we are not talking about dogs . . .
    - (8) we are talking about humans who were created in the image of God . . .
- (9) I’m speaking to men and women and child who are saved, have the Holy Spirit residing inside of them . . .

- (10) and if we say that changing is too difficult for us . . . to difficult for God . . .
  - (11) We've called God a liar . . .
  - (12) for Jesus said, "For with God nothing shall be impossible. – Luk 1:37
  - (13) you can change . . . you can put the Word of God into action . . .
  - (14) because that is what God wants . . .
  - (15) The secret *things belong* unto the LORD our God: but those *things which are revealed belong* unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law. – Deu 29:29
  - (16) "For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it. – Deu 30:11-14
  - (17) and if you say, "But Pastor, when I try to obey the Bible, I keep messing up . . ."
  - (18) good . . . b/c the next thing Moses says is . . .
- iii. READ v. 20 . . .

- iv. Learn humility . . .
    - (1) nothing will drive your children from you and from God then pride in your part . . .
    - (2) be teachable . . . be humble . . .
    - (3) don't be a proud, arrogant leader . . . they are pathetic . . .
    - (4) be humble . . .
    - (5) listen, king, you are no better than they . . . and no worse than they . . .
    - (6) learn to be humble . . .
  - v. Learn stability . . .
    - (1) daily we fail . . . I agree . . .
    - (2) and your kids fail . . . daily, too . . .
    - (3) but God wants you to put one foot in front of the other . . .
    - (4) to keep going . . .
    - (5) so yesterday, you sinned . . .
    - (6) all that means if that you remembered your frame, that you are but dust . . .
    - (7) and the thing to do now is get back, confess your sins, and get back to living for God . . . in front of your kids . . .
    - (8) turning neither to the right hand . . . nor to the left . . .
    - (9)
  - m. The fact of the matter is, men, dads . . . moms . . . children . . . you cannot live like a child of the King with a closed Bible . . .
  - n. You cannot be a king for God with a closed Bible . . .
- He was not to measure his greatness by the world's standards . . .  
He was not to worry about the world's approval . . .

He was not be more concerned about pleasing the world than  
pleasing God . . .

He was not turn his heart away from God to anything else . . . for  
any reason . . .

The world knows nothing about godly living . . .

A Father's Prayer . . .

Lord,  
I need your special care.  
Like your earthly father, Joseph,  
I want to do God's will,  
even if I may not always understand.

Make me gentle and selfless  
in the care of my family and children;  
help me guide them in the toils and troubles,  
the happiness and wonders of this life.

Like my Father in heaven,  
make me strong in love and forgiveness  
for those you entrust to my care.

No one can do these things rightly, Lord,  
without your constant help and boundless mercy.  
Be with me always,  
and when I come to you in heaven,  
may all my family with me.  
Amen. Victor Hoagland, C.P,  
<http://www.cptryon.org/prayer/special/father.html>