

Men Are Our Society's Shomrim

The strongest motivation of a man is his protective instinct. Men are wired to be protectors, or in Hebrew *shomrim*. God revealed to the Prophet *Malachi* through prophetic foresight that before the return of *Messiah Yeshua* He will send the ministry of the *Prophet Elijah (Eliyahu)* to accomplish two things: *to change fathers (parents) hearts and children hearts*. “²³Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of Adonai. ²⁴And he will turn the hearts of fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers – else I will come and strike the earth with utter destruction (KJV, a curse)” (Mal. 4:5-6, KJV; Mal. 3:23-24 CJB/TLV). A great and most urgent problem in our day is delinquent fathers (parents) and un-parented children. Social legislators give many diagnoses and solutions. But the root of the problem is in the family unit because fathers (parents) have reneged on their responsibilities to their children. The walls that were protecting our wives and our sons and our daughters are being broken down in ways that fathers (parents) did not foresee. Men today are socially emasculated with resulting families and children being plundered by the enemy of our soul at will. Attacks against bright, wholesome, committed young people are increasing, and Believer families are not exempt. Satan knows that young people have the potential to do great damage to his evil kingdom and that they have unprecedented opportunities to advance *Yeshua/Yah's* kingdom. Responsibility lies often with both parents, but the primary Biblical responsibility rests on men. We need strong and committed men to right the ship.

In today's *Torah* portion (*Vayera*) we read: “¹Then Yah Adonai appeared to him... ¹⁷when Yah Adonai said, 'Should I keep secret from Abraham what I am about to do, ¹⁸seeing that Abraham will most certainly become a great and mighty nation and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? ¹⁹For I have made myself known (*Ki Yeda-ativ*) to him so that he will command (*tzevah*) his sons and his household after him to keep (*shomer*) the Way of Adonai (*Haderech Adonai*) by doing righteousness and justice (*tzedakah u-mishpat*), so that Adonai may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him” (Gen. 18:1a, 17-19). It is evident here (and in all Scripture) that Abraham was a strong spiritual leader. In his 1990 book *Husband and Fathers* prominent Christian author and Minister Derek Prince outlines powerful principles for men to fulfill their roles as successful husbands and fathers. Our father Abraham modeled these roles effectively and successfully throughout his life.

In my June 19, 2015 message, based on Derek Prince's teaching, I outlined three God-given responsibilities every father has toward his family: (1) *prophet*, to represent *Yah Adonai* to them, (2) *priest*, to intercede for them; and (3) *king*, to rule them according to *Yah Adonai's* standards of righteousness. In today's *Torah* portion we can observe Lot's failure to fulfill his duties as a husband, a father and a guard resulting in disaster on his whole family. In contrast we contemplate that *Adonai* chooses Abraham because He knows him intimately (*yodea*) and can rely on him to be faithful in his trifold duties. This faithfulness is the basis on which *Yah Adonai* promised him that he would become the head of a great and mighty nation, and that all the nations of the earth would be blessed in him. If the faithfulness of Abraham produced a blessed and prosperous nation, what do you think would happen to a nation whose fathers fail in their primary obligations? The Scripture answer is: “*You will father sons and daughters, but they won't belong to you, because they will go into captivity*” (Deuteronomy 28:41). The Hebrew in this passage indicates that Moses is speaking to men. The word father refers primarily to the father's part in procreating children. So this verse is addressed primarily (but not exclusively) to fathers. What a shock when one realizes that not enjoying our children is a curse. I began to ask myself: *How many parents today really enjoy their children?* Not many, I concluded. What is the reason? Because we live under a curse for disobedience. *Yah Adonai* made children a great if not the greatest blessing (Ps. 127) He could give to men and women. When fathers and mothers – but especially fathers – do not walk in *The Ways of Yeshua*, then their sons and daughters are no longer a blessing and will become a curse. The CJB translates Deuteronomy 28:41 more literally when it says: “...*but they will not belong to you...*” This, too, is being fulfilled today. In countless broken families the children no longer belong to their parents. Parents and children are estranged from one another. The failure of male leadership opens the way for many of the evils that follow.

The pattern of evil that began in the Garden of Eden with Adam has been repeated countless times in subsequent human history. Adam (the husband) was delinquent in his responsibility to guard (*shomer*) the Garden and this opened the way for Satan to tempt and seduce Eve (if he guards the Garden, then the snake

cannot get in). The delinquency of men (*lack of guarding their jurisdiction*) has likewise opened a way to the flood of evil that has now engulfed modern civilization. *Malachi* points a main responsibility that fathers, as priests, have toward their family: “*For a Cohen’s lips should guard knowledge, and instruction must be sought from his mouth. For he is a messenger of Adonai-Tzva’ot*” (*Mal. 2:7*). The priest is responsible to know the *Torah of Yah Adonai* and to interpret it for His people. This also applies to a father as priest. His children and family should be able to seek the *Word of Yah Adonai* from his mouth. But what happens if priests fail in their function? *Yah Adonai* declares: “*My people are destroyed for want of knowledge. Because you rejected knowledge, I will also reject you as Cohen for me. Because you forgot the Torah of your God, I will also forget your children*” (*Hosea 4:6*) What a powerful word! *Yah Adonai* is telling our people, *I expected you to be priests, but you rejected the knowledge you needed*. This was not secular knowledge they rejected, but knowledge of *The Ways of Yeshua (haderech Yeshua)* and the *Word of Yah Adonai (Davar Yeshua)*. As a result *Yah Adonai* no longer accepts them as priests- and even vows to forget their children. What an awful consequence!

As priest of his family, each father has the privilege to do what Job did – *to bear up his children continuously before Adonai in prayer*. This keeps them under the continuing oversight and protection of the Almighty. But when a father fails to fulfill his intercessory ministry as priest, *Yah Adonai* says, “*I will forget your children.*” The NIV renders this verse as, “*I also will ignore your children*”. That is, *Your children will no longer be under My special, watchful care*. You might say that this terrible situation calls for an army of committed intercessors who will stand in the gap on behalf of such families. But the intercessory prayer of a father on behalf of his family is unique. No one else can fully take that father's place. This unique privilege carries unique responsibilities.

Chronologically *Malachi* is the last book of the *Nevi'im* in the *Tanach* and also in the Old(er) Testament of Christian Bibles. Interestingly the last word in the last book is *curse (i.e., anathema, cherem in Hebrew)*. Had *Yah Adonai* have no more to say to humanity after the Prophets (*Nevi'im*), His last word would have been *anathema* (curse)! Thank *Yah Adonai* for *Yeshua*, our curse bearer (*Gal. 3:13*) and who empowered and gave us the way out of the curse in *Messiah Yeshua*! *Malachi's* message was addressed to people extremely zealous in their religious practices, yet who complained that *Yah Adonai* did not answer their prayers as they expected. In response *Yah Adonai* pointed out their failures as husbands and fathers: “*13Secondly, you do this: Tears cover the altar of Adonai – you are weeping and groaning because He no longer accepts the offering or receives it favorably from your hand. 14Yet you say, “Why?” Because Adonai bears witness between you and the wife of your youth, whom you have treated deceitfully. Yet she had been your companion and your wife by covenant*” (*Mal. 2:13-14*). God looked behind all their external religiosity and saw broken marriage vows and husbands abusing wives. *Malachi's* message might be summarized like this: *Nothing you do in religion makes up for what you don't do at home*.

Yah Adonai went on to explain one main purpose of a monogamous marriage as He originally ordained it: “*Did the One not make her with a remnant of Ruach? Then what is the One seeking? Offspring of God!*” (*Mal. 2:15a*). When the husband and wife live together in harmony according to the principles of Scripture, they are empowered to raise righteous, God-fearing children. But when a marriage breaks up, it is the children who suffer the most. *Yah Adonai* continued with a warning to all husbands: “*So protect your spirit—do not betray the wife of your youth.*” (*Mal. 2:15b*). He followed this with an uncompromising statement of His attitude toward divorce: “*For I hate divorce, – says Adonai the God of Israel*” (*Mal. 2:16*).

Yah Adonai's Word confronts our modern civilization with two alternatives: *Restore family relationships* and live or *continue to deteriorate* and perish under His curse. But, the final outcome of this crisis will be decided by the response of *men and fathers*. In our day *Yah* is judging us through our children. Our *KS Community* needs to present a clear message depicting Believing families as *Yah Adonai* intended them to be – a message that demonstrates the roles of husbands, wives and children. There must be no compromise. *Shabbat Shalom!*