

LVI. PARENTS, PROVIDENCE, AND THE PROPHETIC WORD: 1 Samuel 22:3-5

INTRODUCTION/CON(TEXT). David, the king-elect, is still on the run from the current king Saul, who is seeking to kill him.

Put yourself in David's shoes. What is going through your mind? What are you going to be concerned about? Well, for David, he was concerned with obeying the Fifth Commandment.

BOYS AND GIRLS,

Q. 69. Which is the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment is, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." (Exodus 20:12)

Look with me again at these verses.

1 Samuel 22:3-5

"3 And David went from there (*the cave of Adullam*) to Mizpeh (*lit. "watchtower"*) of Moab (*modern day Jordan, just East of Israel*). And he (*David*) said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and my mother stay with you, till I know what God will do for me." 4 And he left them with the king of Moab (*at Mizpeh*), and they stayed with him (*the king of Moab*) all the time that David was in the stronghold (*most likely the cave of Adullam*). 5 Then the prophet Gad () said to David, "Do not remain in the stronghold; depart, and go into the land of Judah." So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth."

Now there are at least FIVE specifics to make note of in these verses of Holy Scripture:

1. David honored his father and mother by making sure they were properly cared for (1 Samuel 22:3b).

1 Samuel 22:3b "Please let my father and my mother stay with you,"

- **TRAPP:** "This care of [David] for his aged parents' ease and safety was very commendable, and worthy of imitation." — Trapp, John. *John Trapp's Complete Bible Commentary* (p. 2887). Kindle Edition.

2. David labored to do his duty as he waited for the promise of God to be fulfilled (1 Samuel 22:3c).

1 Samuel 22:3c "till I know what God will do for me"

- **HENRY:** "[David] expresses his hopes very modestly, as one that had entirely cast himself upon God and committed his way to him, expecting a good issue, not from his own arts, or arms, or merits, but from what the

wisdom, power, and goodness of God would do for him." — **Matthew Henry, *Unabridged Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible*. OSNOVA. Kindle Edition.**

3. David's parents are received and sheltered by the king of Moab, likely because his great-grandmother Ruth was a Moabitess (1 Samuel 22:4).

1 Samuel 22:4 "And he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold."

- **POOLE:** "Partly because [David] was related to and descended from one of his people (Ruth 4:10); and partly because he was Saul's enemy (1 Samuel 14:47), and therefore more likely to be David's friend." — **Poole, Matthew. *English Annotations on the Holy Bible* . E4 Group. Kindle Edition.**
- **TRAPP:** "[David] might haply plead that his father's grandmother, Ruth, was a Moabitess." — **Trapp, John. *John Trapp's Complete Bible Commentary* (p. 2887). Kindle Edition.**

4. David was given direction from the Lord through His Word, something with which Saul would no longer be blessed (1 Samuel 22:5a).

1 Samuel 22:5a "Then the prophet Gad said to David, 'Do not remain in the stronghold; depart, and go into the land of Judah.'"

- **Remember now, this is one of the exact things king Saul lacks.** Since he repeatedly disobeyed and turned his back on the Lord, the Lord's Prophet will no longer speak to Saul. **1 Samuel 15:34-35** "Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. And Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death. . ." Saul, who had continually rejected the Word of the Lord, came to a point where the Lord would not reveal Himself to Him. **1 Samuel 28:6** "And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord did not answer him, either by dreams, or by Urim, or by prophets." Not so with David. David did not reject the Word of the Lord, and therefore he is continually blessed by it.
- **TRAPP:** "It was no small comfort to distressed David to have about him a prophet." — **Trapp, John. *John Trapp's Complete Bible Commentary* (p. 2888). Kindle Edition.**

5. David obeyed the Word of the Lord (1 Samuel 22:5b).

1 Samuel 22:5b "So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth."

- **HENRY:** "Animated by this word, there he determined to appear publicly. Thus are *the steps of a good man ordered by the Lord*." — **Matthew Henry. *Unabridged Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible* (best navigation) . OSNOVA. Kindle Edition.**

BOYS AND GIRLS [recap all five points]

Q. What should be our overall learning from this passage?

DOCTRINE. *It is important for Christians to honor their parents, trust God's providence, and pay attention to the prophetic Word.*

APPLICATION OUTLINE.

- I. THE PARENTS GOD HAS GIVEN YOU MUST BE HONORED (1 Samuel 22:4-5).
- II. THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD IS MYSTERIOUS (1 Samuel 22:4-5).
- III. THE PROPHETIC WORD MUST BE RECEIVED AND OBEYED (1 Samuel 22:4-5).

I. THE PARENTS GOD HAS GIVEN YOU MUST BE HONORED (1 Samuel 22:4-5).

1 Samuel 22:4-5

"3 And David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab. And he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and my mother stay with you, till I know what God will do for me." 4 And he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold. 5 Then the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not remain in the stronghold; depart, and go into the land of Judah." So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth."

In The Fifth Commandment, God says through Moses,

- **Exodus 20:12** "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you."

QUESTION. How can I honor my parents?

ANSWER. EZEKIEL HOPKINS: "Now this Honour, which they are to defer unto them, consists in these Four things, Reverence, Obedience, Retribution, and Imitation." — **Hopkins, Ezekiel . An Exposition of the Ten Commandments . Monergism Books. Kindle Edition.**

Reverence, Obedience, and Imitation seem clear to most. But what does Hopkins mean by honoring your parents in Retribution?

The Fifth Commandment does not simply require you to obey your parents when you are young; it also requires you to physically care for your parents when they are old!

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

I) Joseph cared for his father.

Genesis 47:12 "And Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with food, according to the number of their dependents."

II) Christ cared for his mother.

John 19:26-27 "26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!"
27 Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home."

III) David cared for his father and mother.

1 Samuel 22:3 ". . . Please let my father and my mother stay with you. . . "

USE FOR EXHORTATION / DIRECTION

I) Honor your parents in Retribution—in relieving their needs, especially in their old age.

BOYS AND GIRLS...

- **JOHN DOD:** "Children must honor their parents not only in youth but in their parents' age and weakness, providing for them as they once provided for us. This reciprocal duty is the beauty of the Fifth Commandment, showing God's care for the aged and infirm." — **John Dod, A Plain and Familiar Exposition of the Ten Commandments (London: Thomas Man, 1604), 76.**
- **BOSTON:** "The honour which God requireth of children towards their parents is not only a submission to their authority, but a cheerful obedience to their commands, and a tender regard to their necessities, especially in age or distress. This is a fundamental duty, for the family is the nursery of the church and commonwealth." — **Thomas Boston, The Whole Works of the Late Reverend Thomas Boston, vol. 1, ed. Samuel McMillan (Aberdeen: George and Robert King, 1848), 245.**
- **OWEN:** "The duty of children to their parents is to give them double honour: first, inward, by loving and reverencing them in the heart; second, outward, by obeying their lawful commands and providing for their needs. This is a debt we owe, not only for nature, but for God's express command." — **John Owen, The Works of John Owen, vol. 16, ed. William H. Goold (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1851), 321.**
- **WATSON.** "Honor is to be shown to parents in relieving their needs. Joseph nourished his father in his old age (Genesis 47:12). It is but paying a just debt. Parents brought up children when they were young, and children ought to nourish their

parents when they are old. The young storks, by an instinct of nature, bring food to the old ones when, by reason of age, they are not able to fly. Pliny calls it "a law of the storks." The memory of Aeneas was honored for carrying his aged father out of Troy when it was on fire. . .

Such children, or monsters shall I say, are to blame who are ashamed of their parents when they are old and fallen into decay; and when they ask for bread give them a stone. When houses are shut up, we say the plague is there; when children's hearts are shut up against their parents, the plague is there. Our blessed Savior took great care for his mother. When on the cross, he charged his disciple John to take her home to him as his mother, and see that she lacked nothing (John 19:26-27)." — **Thomas Watson. The Works of Thomas Watson (p. 734). Monergism Books. Kindle Edition.**

QUESTION. What if one or both of my parents are wicked?

ANSWER. Even if your parents are wicked,

- (i) You are to honor them by Reverence, though never excusing sin;
- (ii) You are to honor them by Obedience to all their lawful commands, but never their commands to sin nor that which would keep you from positive righteousness;
- (iii) You are to honor them by Imitation insofar as there is a good example to follow; and
- (iv) You are to honor them by Retribution, caring for them in their old age.

There are exceptions to rules, yet these should be your standards.

WATSON: "Though children must obey their parents "in all things," yet *it is with the limitation of things just and honest*. ["Children obey your parents *in the Lord*,"] that is, so far as the commands of parents agree with God's commands (Ephesians 6:1). If they command against God, they lose their right of being obeyed, and in this case we must un-child ourselves." — **Watson, Thomas. The Works of Thomas Watson (p. 734). Monergism Books. Kindle Edition.**

USE FOR COMFORT / ENCOURAGEMENT

I) There is great reward in honoring your father and mother!

BOYS AND GIRLS...

- Though Exodus 20:12 ties the promise to living long in Canaan, Paul clarifies in Ephesians 6:2 that the blessing is not simply for the Old Testament church in the promised land, but for the New Testament church now, even today.
 - **Ephesians 6:2-3** "2 'Honor your father and mother' (this is the first

commandment with a promise), 3 'that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.'"

- ♦ **Q132. What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment, the more to enforce it?**

A. The reason annexed to the fifth commandment, in these words, "That your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you," is an express promise of long life and prosperity, as far as it shall serve for God's glory and their own good, to all such as keep this commandment. (*Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16; 1 Kings 8:25; Eph. 6:2-3.*)

II. THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD IS MYSTERIOUS (1 Samuel 22:4-5).

1 Samuel 22:4-5

"3 And David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab. And he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and my mother stay with you, till I know what God will do for me." 4 And he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold. 5 Then the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not remain in the stronghold; depart, and go into the land of Judah." So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth."

TBLC Q18. What are God's works of providence?

A. God's works of providence are His most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all His creatures; ordering them, and all their actions, to His own glory. (*Ps. 145:17; Ps. 104:24; Isa. 28:29; Heb. 1:3; Ps. 103:19; Matt. 10:29-31; Gen. 45:7; Rom. 11:36; Isa. 63:14.*)

I) The providence of God is mysterious, yet always wise.

- David's parent's reception by the king of Moab is surely at least partly due to the fact that David's great-grandmother was from Moab. **1 Samuel 22:4** "And he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold."

USE FOR COMFORT / ENCOURAGEMENT

God is doing ten thousand providential particulars in your life right now of which you are totally unaware. Yet every one of those sovereign acts of providence is for your gladness, the saints' good, and His glory.

BOYS AND GIRLS...

- **THOMAS BOSTON:** "God sits in his secret place, surrounded with clouds and darkness., holding the rudder of the world in his hand, and steering its course through all the floatings and tossings of causality and

contingency to his own appointed ends."

He who purchased you by His sacrifice will surely provide for you by sovereignty.

I strongly encourage you to read or listen to John Flavel's The Mystery of Providence

II) It is our Christian duty to trust both the Lord's promises and providence.

- David does his duty in honoring his parents, as he trust in the Lord's promise and patiently waits for it to be providentially fulfilled. **1 Samuel 22:3** ". . .Please let my father and my mother stay with you, till I know what God will do for me."

USE FOR EXAMINATION / TRIAL

- **Q1. Do you know the promises God has made to you?** You find them in Scripture and they belong to you through faith in Christ alone!
- **Q2. Do you trust the Lord's timing to fulfill His promises or do you expect Him to work according to your schedule?** Say with David, "Till I know what God will do for me" as your trust His perfect timing.
 - **RICHARD BAXTER:** "Till you can rest in God's will, you will never have rest."

III. THE PROPHETIC WORD MUST BE RECEIVED AND OBEYED (1 Samuel 22:4-5).

1 Samuel 22:4-5

"3 And David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab. And he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and my mother stay with you, till I know what God will do for me." 4 And he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold. 5 Then the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not remain in the stronghold; depart, and go into the land of Judah." So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth."

I) The Prophetic Word, which we have sufficiently contained in the Scriptures, must be received in faith.

- See David receiving the Word of the Lord as a great example.
 - **2 Peter 1:19-21** "19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises

in your hearts, 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

- (i) What God says is sin must be repented of.
- (ii) What God promises must be believed in faith—namely, Christ Jesus.
 - **BOYS AND GIRLS...**

USE FOR WARNING / AWAKENING

- **You who are still rejecting the Prophetic Word of the Scriptures, the gospel of salvation, hear me:** Today is the day of salvation. You may never get another chance to turn from your sins and trust Christ by faith. You may never get another chance to be baptized. You may never get another chance to join the church. You may leave this place today and God remove His Word from you because you would not hear it and believe it.
 - **1 Peter 2:24** "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness."
 - **1 Corinthians 6:2** "Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation."
 - **BOYS AND GIRLS...**

II) The Prophetic Word, which we have sufficiently contained in the Scriptures, must be *obeyed* in faith.

- Saul had the Prophetic Word taken from him, not because he refused to listen, but because he refused to obey. **BOYS AND GIRLS...**
- (i) What God says to do must be the standard of your life—sought after by God's help.
- (ii) What God presents as a bad example must be avoided.
- (iii) What God presents as a good example must be imitated.

CONCLUSION.

Read Psalm 57.

THE BAPTIST LARGER CATECHISM ON THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- **Q122. Which is the fifth commandment?**

A. The fifth commandment is, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." (*Ex. 20:12.*)

- **Q123. Who are meant by father and mother in the fifth commandment?**

A. By "father and mother," in the fifth commandment, are meant, not only natural parents, but all superiors in age and gifts; and especially such as, by God's ordinance, are over us in place of authority, whether in family, church, or commonwealth. (*Prov. 23:22, 25; Eph. 6:1-2; 1 Tim. 5:1-2; Gen. 4:20-22; Gen. 45:8; 2 Kings 5:13; 2 Kings 2:12; 2 Kings 13:14; Gal. 4:19; Isa. 49:23.*)

- **Q124. Why are superiors styled Father and Mother?**

A. Superiors are styled "Father and Mother," both to teach them in all duties toward their inferiors, like natural parents, to express love and tenderness to them, according to their several relations; and to work inferiors to a greater willingness and cheerfulness in performing their duties to their superiors, as to their parents. (*Eph. 6:4; 2 Cor. 12:14; 1 Thess. 2:7-8, 11; Num. 11:11-12; 1 Cor. 4:14-16; 2 Kings 5:13.*)

- **Q125. What is the general scope of the fifth commandment?**

A. The general scope of the fifth commandment is, the performance of those duties which we mutually owe in our several relations, as inferiors, superiors or equals. (*Eph. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:17; Rom. 12:10.*)

- **Q126. What is the honor that inferiors owe to their superiors?**

A. The honor which inferiors owe to their superiors is, all due reverence in heart, word, and behavior; prayer and thanksgiving for them; imitation of their virtues and graces; willing obedience to their lawful commands and counsels; due submission to their corrections; fidelity to, defense, and maintenance of their persons and authority, according to their several ranks, and the nature of their places; bearing with their infirmities, and covering them in love, that so they may be an honor to them and to their government. (*Mal. 1:6; Lev. 19:3; Prov. 31:28; 1 Pet. 3:6; Lev. 19:32; 1 Kings 2:19; 1 Tim. 2:1-2; Heb. 13:7; Phil. 3:17; Eph. 6:1-2, 5-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-14; Rom. 13:1-5; Heb. 13:17; Prov. 4:3-4; Prov. 23:22; Ex. 18:19, 24; Heb. 12:9; 1 Pet. 2:18-20; Titus 2:9-10; 1 Sam. 26:15-16; 2 Sam. 18:3; Esther 6:2; Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:6-7; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; Gal. 6:6; Gen. 45:11; Gen. 47:12; 1 Pet. 2:18; Prov. 23:22; Gen. 9:23; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 31:23.*)

- **Q127. What are the sins of inferiors against their superiors?**

A. The sins of inferiors against their superiors are, all neglect of the duties required toward them; envying at, contempt of, and rebellion

against their persons and places, in their lawful counsels, commands, and corrections; cursing, mocking, and all such refractory and scandalous carriage, as proves a shame and dishonor to them and their government. (*Matt. 15:4-6; Num. 11:28-29; 1 Sam. 8:7; Isa. 3:5; 2 Sam. 15:1-12; Ex. 21:15; 1 Sam. 10:27; 1 Sam. 2:25; Deut. 21:18-21; Prov. 30:11, 17; Prov. 19:26.*)

- **Q128. What is required of superiors towards their inferiors?**

A. It is required of superiors, according to that power they receive from God, and that relation wherein they stand, to love, pray for, and bless their inferiors; to instruct, counsel, and admonish them; countenancing, commending, and rewarding such as do well; and discountenancing, reproving, and chastising such as do ill; protecting, and providing for them all things necessary for soul and body: and by grave, wise, holy, and exemplary carriage, to procure glory to God, honor to themselves, and so to preserve that authority which God has put upon them. (*Col. 3:19; Titus 2:4; 1 Sam. 12:23; Job 1:5; 1 Kings 8:55-56; Heb. 7:7; Gen. 49:28; Deut. 6:6-7; Eph. 6:4; 1 Pet. 3:7; 1 Pet. 2:14; Rom. 13:3; Esther 6:3; Rom. 13:3-4; Prov. 29:15; 1 Pet. 2:14; Job 29:12-17; Isa. 1:10, 17; Eph. 6:4; 1 Tim. 5:8; 1 Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:3-5; 1 Kings 3:28; Titus 2:15.*)

- **Q129. What are the sins of superiors?**

A. The sins of superiors are, besides the neglect of the duties required of them, an inordinate seeking of themselves, their own glory, ease, profit, or pleasure; commanding things unlawful, or not in the power of inferiors to perform; counseling, encouraging, or favoring them in that which is evil; dissuading, discouraging, or discountenancing them in that which is good; correcting them unduly; careless exposing, or leaving them to wrong, temptation, and danger; provoking them to wrath; or any way dishonoring themselves, or lessening their authority, by an unjust, indiscreet, rigorous, or remiss behavior. (*Ezek. 34:2-4; Phil. 2:21; John 5:44; John 7:18; Isa. 56:10-11; Deut. 17:17; Dan. 3:4-6; Acts 4:17-18; Ex. 5:10-18; Matt. 23:2, 4; Matt. 14:8; Mark 6:24; 2 Sam. 13:28; 1 Sam. 3:13; John 7:46-49; Col. 3:21; Ex. 5:17; 1 Pet. 2:18-20; Heb. 12:10; Deut. 25:3; Gen. 38:11, 26; Acts 18:17; Eph. 6:4; Gen. 9:21; 1 Kings 12:13-16; 1 Kings 1:6; 1 Sam. 2:29-31.*)

- **Q130. What are the duties of equals?**

A. The duties of equals are, to regard the dignity and worth of each other, in giving honor to go one before another; and to rejoice in each others' gifts and advancement, as their own. (*1 Pet. 2:17; Rom. 12:10; Rom. 12:15-16; Phil. 2:3-4.*)

- **Q131. What are the sins of equals?**

A. The sins of equals are, besides the neglect of the duties required, the

undervaluing of the worth, envying the gifts, grieving at the advancement or prosperity one of another; and usurping preeminence one over another. (*Rom. 13:8; 2 Tim. 3:3; Acts 7:9; Gal. 5:26; Num. 12:2; Esther 6:12-13; 3 John 1:9; Luke 22:24.*)

- **Q132. What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment, the more to enforce it?**

A. The reason annexed to the fifth commandment, in these words, "That your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you," is an express promise of long life and prosperity, as far as it shall serve for God's glory and their own good, to all such as keep this commandment. (*Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16; 1 Kings 8:25; Eph. 6:2-3.*)

PURITAN QUOTES ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- "The fifth commandment requireth the preserving the honour, and performing the duties, belonging to every one in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors, or equals. The honour due to parents includes reverence, obedience, and succour; and the duties are mutual, though different, according to the relation. The promise annexed, 'that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee,' shows that this commandment is not only a duty but a blessing, binding children to their parents and parents to their children, for the good of families and society." — **Charles Spurgeon, A Puritan Catechism (London: Passmore & Alabaster, 1855), 12.**
- "The honour which God requireth of children towards their parents is not only a submission to their authority, but a cheerful obedience to their commands, and a tender regard to their necessities, especially in age or distress. This is a fundamental duty, for the family is the nursery of the church and commonwealth." — **Thomas Boston, The Whole Works of the Late Reverend Thomas Boston, vol. 1, ed. Samuel McMillan (Aberdeen: George and Robert King, 1848), 245.**
- "The Fifth Commandment is the first of those which concern our duties to our neighbors, and it begins with the family, for the honouring of parents is the foundation of all social order. If children do not learn to obey and reverence their parents, how shall they submit to magistrates or honor God Himself?" — **Matthew Henry, Commentary on the Whole Bible, vol. 1 (London: James Nisbet & Co., 1706), 132.**
- "To honor father and mother is not only to do them no wrong, but to love, reverence, and succour them; to obey them in all things lawful, and to submit to their reproofs and corrections. This duty is so essential that God hath annexed a special promise of long life to it, showing how

pleasing it is to Him." — **John Flavel, The Works of John Flavel, vol. 6 (London: W. Baynes and Son, 1820), 418.**

- "The Fifth Commandment doth not only enjoin respect to natural parents, but to all those whom God hath set in authority over us, as magistrates, ministers, and masters. Yet it begins with parents, for they are the first and nearest governors, and from them we learn the pattern of all lawful submission." — **Thomas Watson, The Ten Commandments (London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1965), 78.**
- "Children that dishonour their parents, by rebellion or neglect, do not only sin against God but wound the very order of nature. For parents are God's deputies, and to despise them is to despise the authority of God Himself, who hath placed them over us." — **Richard Baxter, A Christian Directory, vol. 2 (London: Robert White, 1673), 394.**
- "The promise of long life annexed to the Fifth Commandment is not a bare temporal reward, but a token of God's favor, showing that obedience to parents is a means whereby God preserves order and blesses societies. To break this commandment is to invite disorder and judgment." — **William Perkins, A Golden Chain, in The Workes of That Famous and Worthy Minister of Christ, vol. 1 (London: John Legatt, 1612), 56.**
- "The duty of children to their parents is to give them double honour: first, inward, by loving and reverencing them in the heart; second, outward, by obeying their lawful commands and providing for their needs. This is a debt we owe, not only for nature, but for God's express command." — **John Owen, The Works of John Owen, vol. 16, ed. William H. Goold (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1851), 321.**
- "The Fifth Commandment is the bond of the family, and the family is the bond of the church and commonwealth. If children be not taught to honor their parents, they will hardly learn to honor any authority, and so the whole fabric of society is weakened." — **Samuel Willard, A Complete Body of Divinity (Boston: B. Green and J. Allen, 1726), 607.**
- "To honor parents is to acknowledge them as God's instruments in our being and upbringing. It is a duty that flows from gratitude to God, for He hath chosen them to be the means of our life and nurture, and to slight them is to slight His providence." — **Cotton Mather, Magnalia Christi Americana, vol. 2 (London: Thomas Parkhurst, 1702), 89.**
- "The Fifth Commandment requireth children to hearken to the instructions of their parents, for they are God's appointed teachers. A child that despiseth parental counsel despiseth God's ordinance and provoketh His displeasure." — **Thomas Manton, A Practical Commentary on the Lord's Prayer (London: J. D. for Jonathan Robinson, 1684), 154.**
- "The honour due to parents is not a mere outward show, but a hearty

respect, a willingness to obey in all things lawful, and a care to relieve them in their necessities. This commandment is the root of all civil and ecclesiastical order, for it teacheth submission to authority." — **George Swinnock, The Christian Man's Calling, in The Works of George Swinnock, vol. 1 (London: J. D. for Thomas Parkhurst, 1661), 234.**

- "God hath set parents as His representatives in the family, and to dishonour them is to rebel against His government. The Fifth Commandment is therefore not only a rule for children but a principle for all who live under authority, to submit with humility and fear." — **John Bunyan, Exposition on the First Ten Chapters of Genesis, in The Works of John Bunyan, vol. 2, ed. George Offor (Glasgow: Blackie and Son, 1854), 468.**
- "The promise of long life in the Fifth Commandment is a general rule, not an absolute, for God may take some obedient children early to Himself; yet it signifies that honoring parents tends to the stability and blessing of life, both for the individual and the community." — **Matthew Poole, A Commentary on the Holy Bible, vol. 1 (London: Henry G. Bohn, 1846), 147.**
- "The Fifth Commandment is a hedge about the family, whereby God secures the authority of parents and the duty of children. To break this hedge is to invite the serpent of disorder into the home, the church, and the nation." — **William Gouge, Of Domestical Duties (London: John Haviland, 1622), 312.**
- "Children must honor their parents not only in youth but in their parents' age and weakness, providing for them as they once provided for us. This reciprocal duty is the beauty of the Fifth Commandment, showing God's care for the aged and infirm." — **John Dod, A Plain and Familiar Exposition of the Ten Commandments (London: Thomas Man, 1604), 76.**
- "The Fifth Commandment is the first that carries a promise, showing that God delights in the order of the family. To honor parents is to honor God's design, and the blessing of long life is a testimony to His faithfulness in rewarding obedience." — **Richard Greenham, A Godly Exhortation to the Duties of the Fifth Commandment, in The Works of the Reverend Richard Greenham, vol. 1 (London: Felix Kingston, 1599), 189.**
- "To honor father and mother is to walk in the fear of the Lord, for they are His ordinance for our good. A child that scorns parental authority scorns the God who gave it, and such rebellion brings shame and judgment." — **Edward Reynolds, A Commentary on the Book of Ecclesiastes (London: John Clark, 1658), 214.**
- "The duty of the Fifth Commandment extends beyond parents to all superiors, as they bear God's image in their authority. Yet it begins with parents, for if we cannot honor those nearest to us, how shall we honor kings or pastors?" — **Thomas Shepard, The Sincere Convert (London:**

Thomas Mabb, 1640), 93.

- "The Fifth Commandment is not only for children but for all ages, for as long as parents live, we owe them honor. This duty never ceases, though the manner of it may change as we grow into maturity." — **Jeremiah Burroughs, An Exposition of the Prophecy of Hosea (London: W. E. for R. Dawlman, 1643), 526.**

PURITAN QUOTES ON THE MYSTERY OF PROVIDENCE / THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

- "God's providence is the great wheel that moves all the lesser wheels of the world, directing every event to the accomplishment of His eternal purposes. Nothing falls out by chance, but all is ordered by His infinite wisdom." — **John Flavel, The Mystery of Providence (London: W. Baynes and Son, 1820), 1:15.**
- "The providence of God is like a tapestry, whose beauty is seen only when viewed from the right side; in this life, we often see the knots and tangles, but in eternity, we shall behold the perfect design of His hand." — **Thomas Watson, A Body of Divinity (London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1958), 119.**
- "Providence is God's ordering of all things for His own glory and the good of His elect. It is a mystery that humbles the proud, comforts the afflicted, and teaches us to trust in His unsearchable judgments." — **Richard Baxter, A Christian Directory, vol. 1 (London: Robert White, 1673), 84.**
- "The mystery of providence lies in this: that God governs all creatures and their actions, yet so as they act freely according to their natures. His hand is invisible, yet His will is invincible." — **John Owen, The Works of John Owen, vol. 4, ed. William H. Goold (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1850), 139.**
- "God's providence is not only general, over nations and worlds, but particular, over every sparrow that falls and every hair of our head. This should make us tremble at His majesty and rest in His care." — **Matthew Henry, Commentary on the Whole Bible, vol. 5 (London: James Nisbet & Co., 1710), 27.**
- "The providence of God is a deep ocean, whose depths we cannot fathom, yet we may safely sail upon it, trusting that He who rules the waves will bring us to His intended harbor." — **Thomas Boston, The Whole Works of the Late Reverend Thomas Boston, vol. 2, ed. Samuel McMillan (Aberdeen: George and Robert King, 1848), 312.**
- "To distrust providence is to deny God's wisdom, power, and goodness; for He orders all things, even our afflictions, for our sanctification and His

glory. The mystery is not that He rules, but that we so often doubt His ruling." — **William Perkins, A Golden Chain, in The Workes of That Famous and Worthy Minister of Christ, vol. 1 (London: John Legatt, 1612), 78.**

- "The mystery of providence is that God brings light out of darkness, order out of confusion, and life out of death. What seems to us a chaos of events is to Him a perfect harmony of purpose." — **Thomas Manton, A Practical Commentary on the Epistle of James (London: J. D. for Jonathan Robinson, 1651), 203.**
- "Providence is God's hand guiding the ship of our lives through the storms of this world. Though the waves be high, and the way obscure, His eye is upon us, and His arm is mighty to save." — **Samuel Willard, A Complete Body of Divinity (Boston: B. Green and J. Allen, 1726), 148.**
- "The doctrine of providence teaches us that nothing happens by chance, but all things are appointed by God. This is a mystery to our finite minds, yet a comfort to our faith, for it assures us that our times are in His hands." — **Cotton Mather, The Christian Philosopher (London: Eman. Matthews, 1721), 46.**
- "God's providence is the execution of His eternal decree, whereby He works all things after the counsel of His will. To murmur against it is to question His sovereignty; to trust in it is to find peace." — **William Gouge, Of Domesticall Duties (London: John Haviland, 1622), 89.**
- "The mystery of providence is that God uses the sins of men, the malice of devils, and the disorders of the world to accomplish His holy purposes, turning evil to good and curse to blessing." — **John Bunyan, The Pilgrim's Progress (London: Nathanael Ponder, 1678), 54.**
- "Providence is the great theater wherein God displays His wisdom, power, and goodness. Every event, from the fall of a leaf to the rise of a kingdom, is under His sovereign direction." — **Edward Reynolds, A Commentary on the Book of Ecclesiastes (London: John Clark, 1658), 176.**
- "The providence of God is a sweet doctrine to the believer, for it assures us that our trials are not accidents but appointments, designed for our good and His glory, though their manner be hidden from us." — **Jeremiah Burroughs, The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment (London: Peter Cole, 1648), 62.**
- "To behold God's providence is to see His hand in every circumstance, ordering all for the good of those who love Him. The mystery is that His ways are often past finding out, yet always perfect." — **Thomas Shepard, The Sincere Convert (London: Thomas Mabb, 1640), 112.**
- "God's providence is the helm by which He steers the world, and though we see not the hand that moves it, we may trust the heart that loves us. This mystery calls for faith, not sight." — **George Swinnock, The Christian**

Man's Calling, in The Works of George Swinnock, vol. 2 (London: J. D. for Thomas Parkhurst, 1661), 287.

- "The providence of God is a lamp to our feet in the darkness of this world, showing us that no evil befalls us but what He permits, and no good comes but what He appoints." — **Richard Sibbes, The Soul's Conflict with Itself (London: M. Flesher, 1635), 134.**
- "The mystery of providence is that God works all things together for good, even when we see only evil. His ways are higher than ours, and His thoughts are not our thoughts, yet His love is sure." — **John Dod, A Plain and Familiar Exposition of the Ten Commandments (London: Thomas Man, 1604), 45.**
- "Providence is God's government of the world, whereby He upholds, directs, and disposes all things according to His pleasure. To question it is folly; to submit to it is wisdom." — **Matthew Poole, A Commentary on the Holy Bible, vol. 1 (London: Henry G. Bohn, 1846), 19.**
- "The mystery of providence lies in its secrecy; we see the effects but not the causes, the events but not the counsel behind them. Yet we know that God's hand is in all, working for His glory and our salvation." — **Stephen Charnock, The Existence and Attributes of God, vol. 2 (London: Robert Carter & Brothers, 1853), 412.**

PURITAN QUOTES ON GOD'S WORD

- "The Word of God is the only rule of faith and obedience, without which we are left to wander in the darkness of our own imaginations. It is the light of our path and the voice of God Himself." — **Thomas Watson, A Body of Divinity (London: Banner of Truth Trust, 1958), 25.**
- "The Scriptures are the oracles of God, shining with divine beauty, revealing His glory in every page. They are sweeter than honey and more precious than gold, for they show us Christ." — **John Flavel, The Works of John Flavel, vol. 1 (London: W. Baynes and Son, 1820), 112.**
- "God's Word is the comfort of the afflicted soul, a balm for every wound, and a sure anchor in the storms of life. It speaks peace to the conscience and hope to the heart." — **Richard Baxter, A Christian Directory, vol. 1 (London: Robert White, 1673), 156.**
- "The necessity of God's Word lies in this: it is the breath of God, by which we live spiritually. Without it, we are dead in our sins, groping blindly for salvation." — **John Owen, The Works of John Owen, vol. 6, ed. William H. Goold (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1851), 89.**
- "The beauty of the Scriptures is that they are God's love letter to His people, written with the pen of His Spirit, adorned with the promises of His grace." — **Matthew Henry, Commentary on the Whole Bible, vol. 3**

(London: James Nisbet & Co., 1710), 214.

- "God's Word is necessary for all godliness, for it teaches us what to believe and how to live. Without it, we are like ships without a compass, driven by every wind of doctrine." — **William Perkins, A Golden Chain, in The Workes of That Famous and Worthy Minister of Christ, vol. 1 (London: John Legatt, 1612), 34.**
- "The comfort of God's Word is that it is a sure word, never failing, always true. In our deepest sorrows, it whispers of God's love and promises eternal rest." — **Thomas Boston, The Whole Works of the Late Reverend Thomas Boston, vol. 4, ed. Samuel McMillan (Aberdeen: George and Robert King, 1849), 267.**
- "The Scriptures are a garden of divine delights, where every verse blooms with the beauty of God's wisdom and every promise yields the fragrance of His mercy." — **Thomas Manton, A Practical Commentary on the Epistle of James (London: J. D. for Jonathan Robinson, 1651), 321.**
- "The Word of God is the soul's food, without which we starve; its beauty is the reflection of God's glory; its comfort is the assurance of His presence in all our trials." — **Samuel Willard, A Complete Body of Divinity (Boston: B. Green and J. Allen, 1726), 89.**
- "The necessity of the Scriptures is seen in their authority, for they are God's voice to us, commanding, instructing, and guiding. To neglect them is to despise God Himself." — **Cotton Mather, Magnalia Christi Americana, vol. 1 (London: Thomas Parkhurst, 1702), 127.**
- "The beauty of God's Word lies in its simplicity for the humble and its depth for the learned. It is a stream where lambs may wade and elephants may swim." — **John Bunyan, The Pilgrim's Progress (London: Nathanael Ponder, 1678), 92.**
- "In the Word of God, we find comfort for every affliction, for it reveals a Savior who has borne our griefs and a God who will never forsake us." — **Richard Sibbes, The Bruised Reed (London: M. Flesher, 1630), 76.**
- "The Scriptures are necessary as the foundation of all true religion; without them, we have no sure knowledge of God, no certain hope of salvation, no guide for holiness." — **William Gouge, Of Domestical Duties (London: John Haviland, 1622), 145.**
- "The beauty of God's Word is that it is a mirror of His glory, a lamp to our feet, and a song of His love, sung through the ages to His people." — **George Swinnock, The Christian Man's Calling, in The Works of George Swinnock, vol. 1 (London: J. D. for Thomas Parkhurst, 1661), 189.**
- "The comfort of the Scriptures is this: they are God's promises, sealed with His oath, confirmed by Christ's blood, and applied by His Spirit to the believing heart." — **Thomas Shepard, The Sincere Convert (London: Thomas Mabb, 1640), 67.**

- "God's Word is the only sure foundation for faith, the only true standard for life, and the only lasting comfort for the soul. To forsake it is to forsake life itself." — **Jeremiah Burroughs, The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment (London: Peter Cole, 1648), 134.**
- "The beauty of the Scriptures is their harmony; every part agrees with every other, revealing the one God, the one Christ, and the one way of salvation." — **Edward Reynolds, A Commentary on the Book of Ecclesiastes (London: John Clark, 1658), 98.**
- "The necessity of God's Word is that it is the only means whereby God reveals His will to us. Without it, we are left to the vain imaginations of our corrupt hearts." — **John Dod, A Plain and Familiar Exposition of the Ten Commandments (London: Thomas Man, 1604), 23.**
- "The comfort of God's Word is like a river of peace, flowing from the throne of God, refreshing the weary soul and quenching the thirst of the afflicted." — **Stephen Charnock, The Existence and Attributes of God, vol. 1 (London: Robert Carter & Brothers, 1853), 356.**
- "The Scriptures are a treasure house of divine truth, necessary for our salvation, beautiful in their revelation of God, and comforting in their promises of grace." — **Matthew Poole, A Commentary on the Holy Bible, vol. 2 (London: Henry G. Bohn, 1846), 45.**

STUDY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Introduction and Context

- **Personal Reflection:** Imagine you are David, on the run from King Saul, knowing you are the king-elect but facing constant danger. What emotions or concerns might you experience? How does David's concern for his parents reflect his priorities despite his circumstances?
- **Group Discussion:** Why do you think David prioritized caring for his parents during such a tumultuous time in his life? How does this reflect his faith and character?
- **For Children:** If you were David, hiding in a cave and afraid, what would you want to do to help your family? Why do you think David wanted his parents to be safe?

Key Points from 1 Samuel 22:3-5

- **Point 1: Honoring Parents (1 Samuel 22:3b)**

- How does David's action to secure safety for his parents demonstrate obedience to the Fifth Commandment (Exodus 20:12)?
- What are practical ways you can honor your parents today, especially in "retribution" (caring for their needs)?
- For those with difficult or "wicked" parents, how can you still honor them while maintaining biblical boundaries, as explained by Thomas Watson?
- **Point 2: Trusting God's Promise (1 Samuel 22:3c)**
 - David says, "till I know what God will do for me." What does this reveal about his trust in God's providence and timing?
 - How can you cultivate a similar attitude of trusting God's plan when you face uncertainty in your own life?
 - For Children: What does it mean to wait for God to show you what to do? Can you think of a time when you had to wait for something important?
- **Point 3: God's Providence Through Relationships (1 Samuel 22:4)**
 - Why might the king of Moab have been willing to shelter David's parents? How does David's family history (Ruth the Moabitess) illustrate God's providence?
 - Can you think of a time when God used unexpected relationships or circumstances in your life to provide for you? Share an example.
 - For Families: Discuss how God might use your family's history or connections to work out His plans in your life.
- **Point 4: Guidance Through God's Word (1 Samuel 22:5a)**
 - How does the prophet Gad's instruction to David contrast with Saul's lack of divine guidance (1 Samuel 15:34-35, 28:6)?
 - What does this teach us about the importance of staying receptive to God's Word?
 - For Children: Why is it important to listen to God's Word, like David listened to the prophet Gad?
- **Point 5: Obedience to God's Word (1 Samuel 22:5b)**
 - David immediately obeyed Gad's instruction to leave the stronghold and go to Judah. Why is prompt obedience to God's Word important?
 - What are some challenges you face in obeying God's commands, and how can you overcome them?
 - For Groups: Share an example of a time when obeying God's Word was difficult but rewarding. How did it strengthen your faith?

Doctrine and Application

- **Doctrine: Honoring Parents, Trusting Providence, Obeying God's Word**

- The sermon summarizes the passage with this doctrine: "It is important for Christians to honor their parents, trust God's providence, and pay attention to the prophetic Word." How do these three elements work together in a believer's life?
- Which of these three areas (honoring parents, trusting providence, obeying God's Word) do you find most challenging, and why?
- For Families: How can your family encourage one another to live out these three principles in daily life?
- **Application I: Honoring Parents (1 Samuel 22:3-4)**
 - Ezekiel Hopkins lists four ways to honor parents: reverence, obedience, retribution, and imitation. Which of these do you practice well, and which could you improve?
 - How do the biblical examples of Joseph (Genesis 47:12), Jesus (John 19:26-27), and David (1 Samuel 22:3) inspire you to care for your parents or family members?
 - For Children: What is one way you can show respect or help your parents this week?
- **Application II: Trusting God's Mysterious Providence (1 Samuel 22:3-4)**
 - David trusted God's providence while waiting for His promise to be fulfilled. How can you grow in trusting God's timing when His plans seem unclear or delayed?
 - Thomas Boston says, "God sits in his secret place, surrounded with clouds and darkness, holding the rudder of the world in his hand." How does this imagery encourage you to trust God's sovereignty?
 - For Groups: Discuss a time when God's providence worked in a way you did not expect. How did it shape your understanding of His care?
- **Application III: Receiving and Obeying the Prophetic Word (1 Samuel 22:5)**
 - The sermon emphasizes that the prophetic Word (now contained in Scripture) must be received and obeyed in faith. How can you make sure you are regularly engaging with Scripture to hear God's voice?
 - What are some practical steps you can take to obey God's Word, even when it is challenging or countercultural?
 - For Children: If God's Word tells you to do something, like be kind or tell the truth, why is it important to obey right away?

Conclusion and Psalm 57

- **Reflection on Psalm 57:** The sermon concludes by pointing to Psalm 57, which David likely wrote during this period of distress. Read Psalm 57 aloud as a group or individually. How does this psalm reflect David's trust

in God's providence and his reliance on God's Word during his time in the cave?

- Which verses in Psalm 57 resonate most with you, and why?
- How can you apply David's example of praising God in the midst of trials to your own life?
- For Families: Choose one verse from Psalm 57 to memorize as a family this week. Discuss how it can encourage you in tough times.

Use for Exhortation and Comfort

• Exhortation: Honoring Parents

- The sermon cites John Dod, Thomas Boston, John Owen, and Thomas Watson to emphasize the duty of caring for aging parents. Why is this "reciprocal duty" a beautiful reflection of God's design for families?
- How can you encourage others (friends, siblings, or church members) to honor their parents, especially in practical ways like "retribution"?
- For Children: What is one thing your parents do for you that you are thankful for? How can you show them you are grateful?

• Comfort: The Promise of Long Life and Blessing

- Ephesians 6:2-3 connects honoring parents to the promise of long life and blessing. How does this promise encourage you to prioritize honoring your parents, even when it is difficult?
- How can you find comfort in knowing that God rewards obedience to His commands, even when the results are not immediate?
- For Groups: Share a testimony of how God has blessed you or someone you know for honoring their parents.

• Warning: Receiving the Prophetic Word

- The sermon warns that rejecting God's Word, like Saul did, can lead to losing access to His guidance. Why is it urgent to respond to God's Word today (1 Corinthians 6:2)?
- How can you guard against a heart that becomes hardened to Scripture's call to repentance and faith?
- For Families: Discuss how you can make time to read and talk about God's Word together to stay open to His guidance.