

I. The Desire of God for Fathers (1-3a)

A. For us to cultivate a listening heart (1a) - “Give ear, O My people, to My teaching...”

B. For us to maintain a receptive heart (1b) - “...incline your ears to the words of My mouth.”

C. For us to prioritize a retaining heart (2-3a) - “...I will utter dark sayings from of old: things that we have heard and known...”

II. The Privilege God Offers Fathers (3b-5)

A. A long-standing pattern of influence (3b) - “...that our fathers have told us.”

B. A committed continuance (4a) - “...we will not hide them from their children...” **Deut. 4:9; Deut. 6:6-7**

C. A life-shaping witness (4b-5) - “...but tell them to the coming generation - the glorious deeds of the Lord, and His might, and the wonders that He has done. 5 He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers to teach to their children.”

III. How God Designs to Use Fathers (6-7)

A. Generational impartation (6) - “That the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children.”

B. Generational focus (7a) - “So that they should set their hope in God...”

C. Generational honor of His Word (7b) - “...and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments.”

IV. The Cautions God Releases to Fathers (8-11)

A. Learn from previous generational mistakes (8a) - “And that they should not be like their fathers...”

B. Never quit fighting for your children’s souls (8b-10) - “...a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart was not steadfast, whose spirit was not faithful to God. 9 The Ephraimites, armed with the bow, turned back on the day of battle. 10 They did not keep God’s covenant but refused to walk according to his law.”

C. Keep God’s ways & works central in your thoughts (11) - “They forgot his works and the wonders that he had shown them.”