

~CHILD, CHILDREN (1133)

[Hebrew, *ye'ledh*, Child, Greek *te'knon*, child, *te-kni'on*, little child, *pai-di'on*, young child, and *ar'sen*, male child]

· Parental Authority

· Figurative Uses

· Hebrew and Greek terms conveying a variety of helpful details are used to refer to human offspring. The common Hebrew term for a child is *ye'ledh*.

· Now the **child** kept growing and came to be weaned, and Abraham then prepared a big feast on the day of Isaac's being weaned. (**Genesis 21:8**)

· The related *yal-dah'* refers to a **female child**, a **young lady**, or a **girl**.

· And for my people they kept casting lots, and they would give the male child for a prostitute, and the **female child** they sold for wine, that they might drink. (**Joel 3:3**)

· Finally Shechem said to Hamor his father; Get me this **young lady** as a wife. (**Genesis 34:4**)

· And the public squares of the city themselves will be filled with boys and **girls** playing in her public squares. (**Zechariah 8:5**)

· Both words come from the root *ya-ladh'*, meaning **bring forth**, **give birth to**, **bear**. Two other Hebrew words for a child Hebrew *'oh-lel'* and *'oh-lal'* come from the root verb *'ul*, meaning **give suck**.

· Even Nob the city of the priests he struck with the edge of the sword, man as well as **woman**, **child** as well as **suckling** and bull and ass and sheep with the edge of the sword. (**1 Samuel 22:19**)

· And with the rage of Yehowah I have become full. I have become weary with holding in. Pour it out upon the **child** in the street and upon the intimate group of young men at the same time, for they will also be caught, a man along with his wife, an old man along with one that is full of days. (**Jeremiah 6:11**)

· But he said to him; My lord is aware that the **children** are

delicate and sheep and cattle that are giving suck are in my charge, and should they drive them too quickly for one day, then the whole flock will certainly die. (**Genesis 33:13**)

- The usual **Hebrew** term for a boy or young man is *na'`ar*.
- Before they could lie down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, from **boy** to old man, all the people in one mob. (**Genesis 19:4**)
- Before they could lie down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, from **boy** to old man, all the people in one mob. (**Genesis 19:4**)
- However, the term is also used with reference to **infants** like three-month-old Moses.
- When she opened it she got to see the **child**, and here the boy was weeping. At that she felt compassion for him, although she said; This is one of the **children** of the Hebrews. (**Exodus 2:6**)
- And David began to seek the true God in behalf of the **boy**, and David went on a strict fast and came in and spent the night and lay down on the earth. (**2 Samuel 12:16**)
- **Hebrew** *taph* **little children, little ones** conveys the basic idea of one's walking **with tripping steps**.
- Finally Judah said to Israel his father; Send the boy with me, that we may get up and go and that we may keep alive and not die off, both we and you and our **little children**. (**Genesis 43:8**)
- And you yourself are commanded; Do this. Take for yourselves wagons from the land of Egypt for your **little ones** and your wives, and you must lift your father on one and come here. (**Genesis 45:19**)
- And Yehowah says; For the reason that the **daughters** of Zion have become haughty and they walk with their throats stretched forth and ogling with their eyes, they **go walking with tripping steps**, and with their feet they make a tinkling sound. (**Isaiah 3:16**)

- Among the Greek terms are *te'knon*, **child**, *te-kni'on*, **little child**, *pai-di'on*, **young child**, and *ar'sen*, **male child**.
- Further, brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his **child**, and **children** will rise up against parents and will have them put to death. (**Matthew 10:21**)
- **Little children**, I am with you a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I said to the Jews, Where I go you cannot come, I say also to you at present. (**John 13:33**)
- And, when sending them to Bethlehem, he said, Go make a careful search for the **young child**, and when you have found it report back to me, that I too may go and do it obeisance. (**Matthew 2:8**)
- Now when the dragon saw that it was hurled down to the earth, it persecuted the woman that gave birth to the **male child**. (**Revelation 12:13**)
- The Greek *ne'pi-os* refers to a **babe**.
- When I was a **babe**, I used to speak as a **babe**, to think as a babe, to reason as a **babe**, but now that I have become a man, I have done away with the traits of a **babe**. (**1 Corinthians 13:11**)
- And the Greek *bre'phos* refers to an **infant**.
- Well, as Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the **infant** in her womb leaped, and Elizabeth was filled with Holy Spirit. (**Luke 1:41**)
- At times the Hebrew and Greek words for **son** are rendered **child**.
- To the woman he said; I shall greatly increase the pain of your pregnancy; in birth pangs you will bring forth **children**, and your craving will be for your husband, and he will dominate you. (**Genesis 3:16**)
- Jesus said to them; The **children** of this system of things marry and are given in marriage. (**Luke 20:34**)

See Also SON

- The Creator, Yehowah, arranged for the multiplication of the human race by the birth of **children** who, in turn, would become adults and, in time, become parents themselves. The procreation mandate is expressed at
- Further, God blessed them and God said to them; Be fruitful and **become many and fill the earth and subdue it**, and have in subjection the fish of the sea and the flying creatures of the heavens and every living creature that is moving upon the earth. (**Genesis 1:28**)
- It is a normal desire of people to have **children**. The ancient Israelites were especially concerned about bringing forth **children** because of God's promise to make them a mighty nation and because through them would come the seed of Abraham by means of whom all the families of the earth would bless themselves.
- And your seed will certainly become like the dust particles of the earth, and you will certainly spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and by means of you and by means of your seed all the families of the ground will certainly bless themselves. (**Genesis 28:14**)
- Having many **children** was considered a blessing from God.
- Look! **Sons are an inheritance from Yehowah**, the fruitage of the belly is a reward. (**Psalms 127:3**)
- Like arrows in the hand of a mighty man, so are the sons of youth. (**Psalms 127:4**)
- Happy is the able-bodied man that has **filled his quiver** with them. They will not be ashamed, for they will speak with enemies in the gate. (**Psalms 127:5**)
- Your wife will be **like a fruit-bearing vine** in the innermost parts of your house. Your **sons will be like slips of olive trees** all around your table. (**Psalms 128:3**)
- Look! That is how the able-bodied man will be blessed who fears Yehowah. (**Psalms 128:4**)
- Yehowah will bless you out of Zion. See also the good of Jerusalem all the days of your life. (**Psalms 128:5**)

- And see the **sons of your sons**. May there be peace upon Israel. (**Psalms 128:6**)
- Sterility was looked on as a reproach.
- And she became pregnant and brought a son to birth. Then she said, **God has taken away my reproach!** (**Genesis 30:23**)
- In Bible times a **boys birth** was usually a happier occasion than a **girls**, although in the family circle a **girl** was loved by the parents just as much as the **boy**.
- The preference for a boy lay in the fact that it **assured a continuance of the family line and name**, and it **assured the holding of family property**. The priority of the male is also indicated by the fact that the purification period under the Law was twice as long for female births.
- Speak to the sons of Israel, saying; In case a woman conceives seed and does bear a **male**, she must be unclean seven days, as in the days of the impurity when she is menstruating she will be unclean. (**Leviticus 12:2**)
- And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin will be circumcised. (**Leviticus 12:3**)
- For thirty-three days more she will stay in the blood of purification. She should not touch any holy thing, and she should not come into the holy place until the fulfilling of the days of her purification. (**Leviticus 12:4**)
- Now if she should bear a **female**, she must then be unclean fourteen days, as during her menstruation. For sixty-six days more she will stay with the blood of purification. (**Leviticus 12:5**)
- The **firstborn son** belonged to Yehowah and was to be redeemed by an offering.
- Then you must devote **everyone that opens the womb to Yehowah**, and every firstling, the young of a beast, which will come to be yours. The males belong to Yehowah. (**Exodus 13:12**)
- And every firstling ass you are to redeem with a sheep, and if you

- will not redeem it, then you must break its neck. And **every firstborn of man among your sons you are to redeem.** (Exodus 13:13)
- Everything opening the womb, **of every sort of flesh**, which they will present to Yehowah, among man and among beast, should become yours. However, you should without fail redeem the firstborn of mankind, and the firstborn of the unclean beast you should redeem. (Numbers 18:15)
 - **Anciently, at birth the infant was first washed with water, then rubbed with salt.**
 - **And as regards your birth, on the day of your being born your navel string had not been cut, and in water you had not been washed for cleansing, and with salt you had not at all been rubbed, and by no means had you been swaddled.** (Ezekiel 16:4)
 - **This was done to make the skin dry, tight, and firm. Swaddling clothes or cloth bands were tightly wrapped around the infant.**
 - **When I put the cloud as its garment and thick gloom as its swaddling band.** (Job 38:9)
 - **And this is a sign for you, you will find an infant bound in cloth bands and lying in a manger.** (Luke 2:12)
 - **The mother breast-fed it for two and a half or three years, or longer. Under exceptional circumstances, such as a mothers dying or being unable to furnish milk, nurses were employed.**
 - **In earlier history names were given to children at birth, either by the father;**
 - **And he proceeded to call his name Noah, saying; This one will bring us comfort from our work and from the pain of our hands resulting from the ground which Yehowah has cursed.** (Genesis 5:29)
 - **Later on Hagar bore to Abram a son and Abram called the name of his son whom Hagar bore Ishmael.** (Genesis 16:15)
 - **Accordingly Abraham called the name of his son who had been born to him, whom Sarah had borne to him, Isaac.** (Genesis 21:3)

- And the result was that as her soul was going out, **because she died, she called his name Benoni, but his father called him Benjamin.** (Genesis 35:18)
- Or by the mother.
- And Adam proceeded to have intercourse again with his wife and so she gave birth to a son and called his name Seth, because, as she said; **God has appointed another seed in place of Abel, because Cain killed him.** (Genesis 4:25)
- And Leah became pregnant and brought a son to birth and then called his name Reuben, for she said; **It is because Yehowah has looked upon my wretchedness, in that now my husband will begin to love me.** (Genesis 29:32)
- So it came about at the rolling around of a year that Hannah became pregnant and brought a son to birth and proceeded to call his name Samuel, because, said she, **it is from Yehowah that I have asked him.** (1 Samuel 1:20)
- But in later times in Israel names were given to the **boys** at the **time of circumcision, which was on the eighth day.**
- And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the young **child,** and they were going **to call it by the name of its father, Zechariah.** (Luke 1:59)
- Now when eight days came to the full for circumcising him, **his name was also called Jesus,** the name called by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. (Luke 2:21)
- Sometimes the name of a boy was the same as that of his father, but usually the name had to do with circumstances preceding or accompanying the birth, or it was a name in connection with the name of Yehowah. As time elapsed, certain names became merely traditional and had nothing to do with the original meaning.
- Mothers used various methods to transport their young **children.** At times the **child** was bundled on the back or carried on the shoulder. Yehowah through Isaiah alludes to mothers clutching their **children** to their bosom, hoisting them on their shoulders, or carrying them on the flank, just above the hip.

- This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; Look! I shall raise up my hand even to the nations, and to the peoples I shall lift up my signal. And they will bring your **sons** in the **bosom**, and upon the shoulder they will carry your own **daughters**. (**Isaiah 49:22**)
- For this is what Yehowah has said; Here I am extending to her peace just like a river and the glory of nations just like a flooding torrent, and you will certainly **suck**. Upon the flank you will be carried, and upon the knees you will be **fondled**. (**Isaiah 66:12**)
- Also, the words of Moses indicate that **children** were carried in the bosom.
- Have I myself conceived all this people? Is it I who have given them birth, so that you should say to me; Carry them in your **bosom**, just as the **male nurse carries the suckling**, to the soil about which you swore to their forefathers? (**Numbers 11:12**)
- Boys were mainly cared for by the mother until about five years of age. Of course, the **father had the primary responsibility of teaching the child the Scriptures from its infancy**, and the mother assisted.
- And you must inculcate them in your son and speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up. (**Deuteronomy 6:7**)
- Listen, my son, to the discipline of your father, and do not forsake the Law of your mother. (**Proverbs 1:8**)
- And you, fathers, do not be irritating your children, but go on bringing them up in the discipline and mental-regulating of Yehowah. (**Ephesians 6:4**)
- And that **from infancy you have known the holy writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation** through the faith in connection with Christ Jesus. (**2 Timothy 3:15**)
- As **children** grew older they were given practical training by the father in agriculture, raising livestock, or a trade such as carpentry. Both Joseph and David were young shepherd lads.
- This is the history of Jacob. Joseph, when seventeen years old,

- happened to be tending sheep with his brothers among the flock, and, being but a boy, he was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, the wives of his father. So Joseph brought a bad report about them to their father. (**Genesis 37:2**)
- Finally Samuel said to Jesse; Are these all the boys? To this he said; The youngest one has till now been left out, and, look! He is pasturing the sheep. At that Samuel said to Jesse: Do send and fetch him, because we shall not sit down to meal until his coming here. (**1 Samuel 16:11**)
 - **Girls** were under the immediate care of the mother, subject, of course, to the **fathers jurisdiction**. While at home they were **taught the domestic arts that would be of value in adult life**. Rachel was a shepherdess.
 - At this he said to them; Is it all right with him? In turn they said; It is all right. And here is Rachel his daughter coming with the sheep! (**Genesis 29:6**)
 - And he went on to say; Why, it is yet full day. It is not the time for gathering the herds. Water the sheep, then go feed them. (**Genesis 29:7**)
 - To this they said; We are not allowed to do so until all the droves are gathered and they actually roll away the stone from off the mouth of the well. Then we must water the sheep. (**Genesis 29:8**)
 - While he was yet speaking with them, Rachel came with the sheep that belonged to her father, for she was a shepherdess. (**Genesis 29:9**)
 - **Young women worked in the fields during the grain harvest.**
 - Subsequently Boaz said to the young man who was set over the harvesters. To whom does this young woman belong? (**Ruth 2:5**)
 - So the young man set over the harvesters answered and said, The young woman is a Moabitess, who returned with Naomi from the field of Moab. (**Ruth 2:6**)
 - Then she said; Let me glean, please, and I shall certainly gather among the cut-off ears of grain behind the harvesters. So she

- entered and kept on her feet from that time in the morning until her sitting down just now in the house a little while. (**Ruth 2:7**)
- **Later Boaz said to Ruth; You have heard, have you not, my daughter? Do not go away to glean in another field, and you must also not cross over from this place, and in that way you should keep close by my young women. (**Ruth 2:8**)**
 - **Let your eyes be on the field that they will harvest, and you must go with them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? When you are thirsty, you must also go to the vessels and drink from what the young men will draw. (**Ruth 2:9**)**
 - **And the Shulammitte **girl** says that her brothers made her keeper of the vineyards.**
 - **Do not you look at me because I am swarthy, because the sun has caught sight of me. The sons of my own mother grew angry with me, they appointed me the **keeper of the vineyards**, although my vineyard, one that was mine, I did not keep. (**Song of Solomon 1:6**)**
 - **Young children in Israel knew the **joy of relaxation and amusements, sometimes playing in the marketplace**, imitating things they had observed while watching grown-ups.**
 - **With whom shall I compare this generation? It is like young children sitting in the marketplaces who cry out to their playmates. (**Matthew 11:16**)**
 - **Saying; We **played the flute for you, but you did not dance**, we wailed, but you did not beat yourselves in grief. (**Matthew 11:17**)**
 - **And the public squares of the city themselves will be filled with **boys and girls playing in her public squares**. (**Zechariah 8:5**)**
 - **But the well-trained Israelite youths remembered their Creator in the days of their young manhood, and some even served him as ministers. **Samuel as a boy was used to minister to Yehowah at the tabernacle**.**
 - **Then Elkanah went to Ramah to his house, and as for the boy, he became a minister of Yehowah before Eli the priest. (**1 Samuel 2:11**)**

- **Jesus was very concerned with the service of his Father when he was only 12 years of age, learning all that he could by talking to the teachers in the temple.**
- **Now his parents were accustomed to go from year to year to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. (Luke 2:41)**
- **And when he became twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the festival. (Luke 2:42)**
- **And completed the days. But when they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, and his parents did not notice it. (Luke 2:43)**
- **Assuming that he was in the company traveling together, they covered a day's distance and then began to hunt him up among the relatives and acquaintances. (Luke 2:44)**
- **But, not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem, making a diligent search for him. (Luke 2:45)**
- **Well, after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers and listening to them and questioning them. (Luke 2:46)**
- **But all those listening to him were in constant amazement at his understanding and his answers. (Luke 2:47)**
- **Now when they saw him they were astounded, and his mother said to him; **Child**, why did you treat us this way? Here your father and I in mental distress have been looking for you. (Luke 2:48)**
- **But he said to them; Why did you have to go looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in the house of my Father? (Luke 2:49)**
- **A little Hebrew girl, who had implicit faith in Yehowah and his prophet Elisha, was the one responsible for directing Naaman to Elisha to be healed of leprosy.**
- **And the Syrians, for their part, had gone out as marauder bands, and they got to take captive from the land of Israel a little girl,**

- and she came to be before Naaman's wife. (2 Kings 5:2)
- In time she said to her mistress; If only my lord were before the prophet that is in Samaria! In that case he would recover him from his leprosy. (2 Kings 5:3)
 - You young men and also you virgins, you old men together with boys. (Psalms 148:12)
 - Let them praise the name of Yehowah, for his name alone is unreachably high. His dignity is above earth and heaven. (Psalms 148:13)
 - Both boys and girls are commanded to praise Yehowah. Because of their training in the Bible, boys were able to cry out when they saw Jesus at the temple, saying; Save, we pray, the Son of David! and Jesus commended them.
 - When the chief priests and the scribes saw the marvelous things he did and the boys that were crying out in the temple and saying, Save, we pray, the Son of David! They became indignant (Matthew 21:15)
 - And said to him; Do you hear what these are saying? Jesus said to them; Yes. Did you never read this; Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings you have furnished praise? (Matthew 21:16)
 - The parents were the ones responsible for the education and training of their children, they themselves being the instructors and guides, both by word and by example. The educational program was as follows:
 - (1) Fear of Yehowah was taught.
 - Come, you sons, listen to me, the fear of Yehowah is what I shall teach you. (Psalms 34:11)
 - The fear of Yehowah is the start of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Most Holy One is what understanding is. (Proverbs 9:10)
 - (2) The child was admonished to honor his father and mother.
 - Honor your father and your mother in order, that your days may prove long upon the ground that Yehowah your God is giving

you. (**Exodus 20:12**)

- You should fear each one his mother and his father, and my Sabbaths you should keep. I am Yehowah your God. (**Leviticus 19:3**)
- Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt. And all the people must say; Amen! (**Deuteronomy 27:16**)
- **(3) Discipline or instruction in the Law, its commandments and teachings, and education in the activities and revealed truths of Yehowah were diligently inculcated in the impressionable minds of the young offspring.**
- See, I have taught you regulations and judicial decisions, just as Yehowah my God has commanded me, for you to do that way in the midst of the land to which you are going to take possession of it. (**Deuteronomy 4:5**)
- Only watch out for yourself and take good care of your soul, that you may not forget the things that your eyes have seen and that they may not depart from your heart all the days of your life, and you must make them known to your sons and to your grandsons. (**Deuteronomy 4:9**)
- And you must inculcate them in your son and speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up. (**Deuteronomy 6:7**)
- And you must tie them as a sign upon your hand, and they must serve as a frontlet band between your eyes. (**Deuteronomy 6:8**)
- And you must write them upon the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (**Deuteronomy 6:9**)
- And it must occur that when Yehowah your God will bring you into the land that he swore to your forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to give you, great and good-looking cities that you did not build. (**Deuteronomy 6:10**)
- And houses full of all good things and that you did not fill, and cisterns hewn out that you did not hew out, vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant, and you shall have eaten and

become satisfied. (**Deuteronomy 6:11**)

- **Watch out for yourself that you may not forget Yehowah, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slaves. (**Deuteronomy 6:12**)**
- **Yehowah your God you should fear, and him you should serve, and by his name you should swear. (**Deuteronomy 6:13**)**
- **You must not walk after other gods, any gods of the peoples who are all around you. (**Deuteronomy 6:14**)**
- **For Yehowah your God in your midst is a God exacting exclusive devotion, for fear the anger of Yehowah your God may blaze against you and he must annihilate you from off the surface of the ground. (**Deuteronomy 6:15**)**
- **You must not put Yehowah your God to the test, the way you put him to the test at Massah. (**Deuteronomy 6:16**)**
- **You should by all means keep the commandments of Yehowah your God and his testimonies and his regulations that he has commanded you. (**Deuteronomy 6:17**)**
- **And you must do what is right and good in Yehowah's eyes, in order, that it may go well with you and you may indeed enter and take possession of the good land about which Yehowah has sworn to your forefathers. (**Deuteronomy 6:18**)**
- **By pushing away all your enemies from before you, just as Yehowah has promised. (**Deuteronomy 6:19**)**
- **In case your son should ask you in a future day, saying; What do the testimonies and the regulations and the judicial decisions mean that Yehowah our God has commanded you? (**Deuteronomy 6:20**)**
- **Then you must say to your son; We became slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, but Yehowah proceeded to bring us out of Egypt with a strong hand. (**Deuteronomy 6:21**)**
- **And he proceeded to raise up a reminder in Jacob, and a Law he set in Israel, things that he commanded our forefathers, to make them known to their sons. (**Psalms 78:5**)**

- **(4) Respect for older persons was stressed.**
- **Before gray hair you should rise up, and you must show consideration for the person of an old man, and you must be in fear of your God. I am Yehowah. (Leviticus 19:32)**
- **(5) The importance of obedience was indelibly stamped on the youngster's mind.**
- **Listen, O sons, to the discipline of a father and pay attention, so as to know understanding. (Proverbs 4:1)**
- **Listen to counsel and accept discipline, in order, that you may become wise in your future. (Proverbs 19:20)**
- **Listen to your father who caused your birth, and do not despise your mother just because she has grown old. (Proverbs 23:22)**
- **Buy truth itself and do not sell it, wisdom and discipline and understanding. (Proverbs 23:23)**
- **The father of a righteous one will without fail be joyful, the one becoming father to a wise one will also rejoice in him. (Proverbs 23:24)**
- **Your father and your mother will rejoice, and she that gave birth to you will be joyful. (Proverbs 23:25)**
- **(6) Stress was put on practical training for adult living, such as teaching **girls to do things around the home**, or teaching **boys the trade of the father or some other trade**.**
- **(7) Education in reading and writing was given.**
- **After the Babylonian exile, synagogues existed in most cities, and in later times **boys** were instructed by teachers there. Additionally, religious instruction was given as the parents took their **children** with them when going to the assemblies that were held for the purpose of worshiping and praising Yehowah.**
- **Congregate the people, the men and the women and the **little ones** and your alien resident who is within your gates, in order, that they may listen and in order, that they may learn, as they**

must fear Yehowah your God and take care to carry out all the words of this Law. (**Deuteronomy 31:12**)

- **And their sons who have not known should listen, and they must learn to fear Yehowah your God all the days that you are living upon the soil to which you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of it. (**Deuteronomy 31:13**)**
- **And they proceeded to sacrifice on that day great sacrifices and to rejoice, for the true God himself caused them to rejoice with great joy. And also the women and the **children** themselves rejoiced, so that the rejoicing of Jerusalem could be heard far away. (**Nehemiah 12:43**)**
- **Jesus parents had taken him up to Jerusalem for the Passover. When on the return trip, they missed him and found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers and listening to them and questioning them.**
- **Now his parents were accustomed to go from year to year to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. (**Luke 2:41**)**
- **And when he became twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the festival (**Luke 2:42**)**
- **And completed the days. But when they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, and his parents did not notice it. (**Luke 2:43**)**
- **Assuming that he was in the company traveling together, they covered a day's distance and then began to hunt him up among the relatives and acquaintances. (**Luke 2:44**)**
- **But, not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem, making a diligent search for him. (**Luke 2:45**)**
- **Well, after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers and listening to them and questioning them. (**Luke 2:46**)**
- **But all those listening to him were in constant amazement at his understanding and his answers. (**Luke 2:47**)**
- **Now when they saw him they were astounded, and his mother**

- said to him, **Child**, why did you treat us this way? Here your father and I in mental distress have been looking for you. ([Luke 2:48](#))
- But he said to them; Why did you have to go looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in the house of my Father? ([Luke 2:49](#))
 - However, they did not grasp the saying that he spoke to them. ([Luke 2:50](#))

See Also EDUCATION

- If an occasion arose where a **son** became absolutely rebellious and incorrigible after repeated warnings and the necessary discipline, a still sterner measure was taken.
- The **son** was brought before the older men of the city, and after testimony from the parents that he was an irreformable offender, the delinquent suffered capital punishment by stoning.
- Such arrangement evidently had reference to a **son** beyond the age of what is usually considered a young **child**, for this one the Scriptures describe as a glutton and a drunkard.
- In case a man happens to have a **son** who is stubborn and rebellious, he not listening to the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and they have corrected him but he will not listen to them. ([Deuteronomy 21:18](#))
- His father and his mother must also take hold of him and bring him out to the older men of his city and to the gate of his place. ([Deuteronomy 21:19](#))
- And they must say to the older men of his city; This **son** of ours is stubborn and rebellious, he is not listening to our voice, being a glutton and a drunkard. ([Deuteronomy 21:20](#))
- Then all the men of his city must pelt him with stones, and he must die. So you must clear away what is bad from your midst, and all Israel will hear and indeed become afraid. ([Deuteronomy 21:21](#))

- **One striking his father or mother, or calling down evil upon his parents, was put to death. The reason for such strong measures was that the nation might clear away what was bad from their midst and so that all Israel would hear and indeed become afraid.**
- **Therefore, any tendency in the nation toward juvenile delinquency or disrespect of parental authority would be greatly retarded by the punishment inflicted upon such offenders.**
- **And one who strikes his father and his mother is to be put to death without fail. (Exodus 21:15)**
- **And one who calls down evil upon his father and his mother is to be put to death without fail. (Exodus 21:17)**
- **For example, God said; Honor your father and your mother, and, Let him that reviles father or mother end up in death. (Matthew 15:4)**
- **For example, Moses said; Honor your father and your mother, and: Let him that reviles father or mother end up in death. (Mark 7:10)**
- **Great disrespect was shown to God's appointed prophet Elisha by a group of small boys who derided him, crying out:**
 - **And it came about that as they were walking along, speaking as they walked, why, look! A fiery war chariot and fiery horses, and they proceeded to make a separation between them both, and Elijah went ascending in the windstorm to the heavens. (2 Kings 2:11)**
 - **They did not want him around. Elisha finally turned and called down evil upon them in the name of Yehowah. Then two she-bears came out from the woods and went tearing to pieces forty-two children of their number.**
 - **And he proceeded to go up from there to Bethel. As he was going up on the way, there were small boys that came out from the city and began to jeer him and that kept saying to him; Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead! (2 Kings 2:23)**
 - **Finally he turned behind him and saw them and called down evil upon them in the name of Yehowah. Then two she-bears came**

out from the woods and went tearing to pieces **forty-two children** of their number. (2 Kings 2:24)

- Jesus prophesied that **children** would rise up against their parents and parents against their **children** because of the stand that they would take as followers of him.
- Further, brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his **child**, and **children** will rise up against parents and will have them put to death. (Matthew 10:21)
- Furthermore, brother will deliver brother over to death, and a father a **child**, and **children** will rise up against parents and have them put to death. (Mark 13:12)
- The apostle Paul foretold that the major problems marking the last days would include **children** who would be disobedient to parents and an absence of natural affection.
- But know this, that in the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here. (2 Timothy 3:1)
- For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, self-assuming, haughty, blasphemers, **disobedient to parents**, unthankful, disloyal. (2 Timothy 3:2)
- Having no natural affection, not open to any agreement, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, without love of goodness. (2 Timothy 3:3)
- In setting forth the qualifications for overseers and ministerial servants in the Christian congregation, the apostle Paul specified that men selected for these positions were to have **believing children** that were **not under a charge of debauchery nor unruly**, and that they must be in subjection with all seriousness, for, says Paul, if indeed any man does not know how to preside over his own household, how will he take care of God's congregation?
- If there is any man free from accusation, a husband of one wife, having **believing children** that were not under a charge of debauchery nor unruly. (Titus 1:6)
- A man presiding over his own household in a fine manner, having children in subjection with all seriousness. (1 Timothy 3:4)

- If indeed any man does not know how to preside over his own household, how will he take care of God's congregation? (**1 Timothy 3:5**)
- Let ministerial servants be husbands of one wife, presiding in a fine manner over children and their own households. (**1 Timothy 3:12**)

• Parental Authority

- The authority of the parents, particularly the father in the family, was quite broad in scope. As long as the father was alive and able to manage the household, the sons were subject to him.
- However, if a **son** finally set up an independent home, then he **became the head of his own household**. **Children** could be sold into temporary bondage by a father for the payment of debts contracted.
- And in case a man should **sell his daughter as a slave girl**, she will not go out in the way that the slave men go out. (**Exodus 21:7**)
- Now there was a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets that cried out to Elisha, saying; Your servant, my husband, is dead, and you yourself well know that your own servant had continually feared Yehowah, and the creditor himself has come to **take both my children for his slaves**. (**2 Kings 4:1**)
- But because he did not have the means to pay it back, his master ordered him and **his wife and his children** and all the things he had to be sold and payment to be made. (**Matthew 18:25**)
- The fathers authority over the **daughter** was such that he could **annul a vow made by the daughter**. However, his authority could not be used to forbid his daughters worship of Yehowah or cause failure to obey Yehowah's commands, for the reason that the father as a member of the nation of Israel was dedicated to God and fully under God's Law.
- And in case a woman makes a vow to Yehowah or she does bind herself with a vow of abstinence in the house of her father in her youth. (**Numbers 30:3**)
- And her father actually hears her vow or her abstinence vow that she has bound upon her soul and her father does keep silent

- toward her, all her vows must also stand, and every abstinence vow that she has bound upon her soul will stand. (**Numbers 30:4**)
- **But if her father has forbidden her on the day of his hearing all her vows or her abstinence vows that she has bound upon her soul, it will not stand, but Yehowah will forgive her, because her father forbade her. (**Numbers 30:5**)**
 - **These are the regulations that Yehowah commanded Moses as between a husband and his wife, as between a father and his daughter in her youth in the house of her father. (**Numbers 30:16**)**
 - **Parental authority was also manifest in marriage inasmuch as the parents selected wives for their sons or made arrangements for the marriage.**
 - **And he took up dwelling in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother proceeded to take a wife for him from the land of Egypt. (**Genesis 21:21**)**
 - **If she is displeasing in the eyes of her master so that he does not designate her as a concubine but causes her to be redeemed, he will not be entitled to sell her to a foreign people in his treacherously dealing with her. (**Exodus 21:8**)**
 - **And if it should be to his son that he designates her, he is to do to her according to the due right of daughters. (**Exodus 21:9**)**
 - **If he should take another wife for himself, her sustenance, her clothing and her marriage due are not to be diminished. (**Exodus 21:10**)**
 - **If he will not render these three things to her, then she must go out for nothing, without money. (**Exodus 21:11**)**
 - **Then Samson went down to Timnah and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines. (**Judges 14:1**)**
 - **So he went up and told his father and his mother and said; There is a woman that I have seen in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines, and now get her for me as a wife. (**Judges 14:2**)**
 - **But his father and his mother said to him; Is there not among**

the daughters of your brothers and among all my people a woman, so that you are going to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines? Still Samson said to his father; Get just her for me, because she is the one just right in my eyes. **(Judges 14:3)**

- **A widow or a divorced woman could return to her father's house and again become subject to him.**
- **So Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law; Dwell as a widow in the house of your father until Shelah my son grows up. For he said to himself; He too may die like his brothers. Accordingly Tamar went and continued to dwell at her own father's house. **(Genesis 38:11)****
- **The inheritance rights came through the father. At the birth of twins, great care was exercised to distinguish the child that came into the world first**
- **Further, it turned out that when she was giving birth one extended his hand, and the midwife at once took and tied a scarlet piece about his hand, saying; **This one came out first.** **(Genesis 38:28)****
- **Since the firstborn son received two portions of his father's inheritance, while the other son received only one portion.**
- **For he should recognize as the firstborn the hated ones son by giving him two parts in everything he is found to have, because that one is the beginning of his generative power. The right of the firstborns position belongs to him. **(Deuteronomy 21:17)****
- **Furthermore, Abraham again took a wife, and her name was Keturah. **(Genesis 25:1)****
- **In time she bore him Zimran and Jokshan and Medan and Midian and Ishbak and Shuah. **(Genesis 25:2)****
- **And Jokshan became father to Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan became Asshurim and Letushim and Leummim. **(Genesis 25:3)****
- **And the sons of Midian were Ephah and Epher and Hanoch and Abida and Eldaah. All these were the sons of Keturah. **(Genesis****

25:4)

- Later on Abraham gave everything he had to Isaac. (**Genesis 25:5**)
- But to the sons of the concubines that Abraham had Abraham gave gifts. Then he sent them away from Isaac his son, while he was still alive, eastward, to the land of the East. (**Genesis 25:6**)
- Usually the older son assumed the responsibility of supporting the females in the family after his father had died. A son born through levirate marriage was raised up as the son of the dead man and inherited his property.
- And it must occur that the firstborn whom she will bear should succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be wiped out of Israel. (**Deuteronomy 25:6**)
- And also Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, I do buy for myself as a wife to cause the name of the dead man to rise upon his inheritance and that the name of the dead man may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his place. You are witnesses today. (**Ruth 4:10**)
- Then the neighbor ladies gave it a name, saying; A son has been born to Naomi. And they began to call his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, David's father. (**Ruth 4:17**)

·· **Figurative Uses**

- The words **child** and **children** as used in the Bible have considerable latitude in meaning. The descendants of Israel are referred to as **children in the flesh**, also as **children of transgression** by Isaiah because of their rebellious ways against Yehowah.
- That is, the **children in the flesh** are not really the **children** of God, but the **children by the promise** are counted as the seed. (**Romans 9:8**)
- Over whom is it that you have a jolly good time? Against whom do you keep opening wide the mouth, keep sticking out the tongue? Are you not the **children of transgression**, the seed of falsehood. (**Isaiah 57:4**)

- In the days of the apostles, wicked persons were classified as **accursed children and children of the Devil.**
- They have eyes full of adultery and unable to desist from sin, and they entice unsteady souls. They have a heart trained in covetousness. They are **accursed children.** (2 Peter 2:14)
- The children of God and the **children of the Devil** are evident by this fact: Everyone who does not carry on righteousness does not originate with God, neither does he who does not love his brother. (1 John 3:10)
- In contrast, persons exercising faith in Christ and becoming spirit-begotten ones are called **God's children.**
- However, as many as did receive him, to them he gave authority to become **God's children**, because they were exercising faith in his name. (John 1:12)
- The spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are **God's children.** (Romans 8:16)
- **Disciples** are often called **children.**
- **Little children**, I am with you a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I said to the Jews, Where I go you cannot come, I say also to you at present. (John 13:33)
- And again; I will have my trust in him. And again; Look! I and the **young children**, whom Yehowah gave me. (Hebrews 2:13)
- Individuals privileged to receive a resurrection from the dead are spoken of as **children of the resurrection**
- In fact, neither can they die anymore, for they are like the angels, and they are God's **children** by being **children of the resurrection.** (Luke 20:36)
- Also those who are joint heirs with Christ are **the children by the promise.**
- That is, the **children in the flesh** are not really the **children** of God, but the **children by the promise** are counted as the seed. (Romans 9:8)

- Or children of the free woman,
- Wherefore, brothers, we are **children**, not of a servant girl, **but of the free woman**. (**Galatians 4:31**)
- All those desiring to attain life in the Kingdom of heaven must display the **childlike qualities of humility, receptiveness, and trust**.
- So, calling a **young child** to him, he set it in their midst. (**Matthew 18:2**)
- And said; Truly I say to you, unless you turn around and **become as young children**, you will by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens. (**Matthew 18:3**)
- Therefore, whoever will **humble himself** like this **young child** is the one that is the greatest in the kingdom of the heavens. (**Matthew 18:4**)
- Men and women who strive to obey God by manifesting the light of truth in their lives are described as **obedient children** and as **children of light**.
- As **obedient children**, quit being fashioned according to the desires you formerly had in your ignorance. (**1 Peter 1:14**)
- For you were once darkness, but you are now light in connection with the Lord. Go on walking as **children of light**. (**Ephesians 5:8**)
- Paul counseled the congregation at Corinth as he would **children**, to widen out in affection, prior to this he had encouraged them not to become children in powers of understanding.
- So, as a recompense in return, I speak as to **children**, you, too, widen out. (**2 Corinthians 6:13**)
- Brothers, do not become **young children** in powers of understanding, but be **babes** as to badness, yet become full-grown in powers of understanding. (**1 Corinthians 14:20**)