

## ~FATHER (419)

[Hebrew, 'av, Greek, pa-ter' ]

- Fathers Authority And Responsibilities
- Fatherly Concern For The Family Members
- Genealogical Use Of Fathers Name

• The Hebrew word 'av, translated father, is a mimetic or imitative word taken from the first and simplest sounds of infant lips. The Hebrew 'av, and the Greek pa-ter', are both used in various senses, as begetter, or progenitor, of an individual

- Listen to your father who caused your birth, and do not despise your mother just because she has grown old. (Proverbs 23:22)
- And it must occur that in case a man should prophesy anymore, his father and his mother, the ones who caused his birth, must also say to him, You will not live, because falsehood is what you have spoken in the name of Yehowah. And his father and his mother, the ones who caused his birth, must pierce him through because of his prophesying. (Zechariah 13:3)
- And Zechariah its father was filled with Holy Spirit, and he prophesied, saying; (Luke 1:67)
- The head of a household or ancestral family.
- Then he said to me, Yehowah, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and will certainly give success to your way, and you must take a wife for my son from my family and from the house of my father. (Genesis 24:40)
- These are the heads of the house of their fathers. The sons of Reuben, Israel's firstborn, were Hanoah and Pallu, Hezron and Carmi. These are the families of Reuben. (Exodus 6:14)
- An ancestor.
- And, look! There was Yehowah stationed above it, and he proceeded to say; I am Yehowah the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land upon which you are lying, to you I am going to give it and to your seed. (Genesis 28:13)

- You are not greater than our **father** Abraham, who died, are you? Also, the prophets died. Who do you claim to be? (**John 8:53**)
- **A founder of a nation,**
- And do not presume to say to yourselves, As a **father** we have Abraham. For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. (**Matthew 3:9**)
- **A founder of a class or profession,**
- In time Adah gave birth to Jabal. He proved to be the founder of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. (**Genesis 4:20**)
- And the name of his brother was Jubal. He proved to be the founder of all those who handle the harp and the pipe. (**Genesis 4:21**)
- **A protector,**
- I was a real **father** to the poor ones, and the legal case of one whom I did not know, I would examine it. (**Job 29:16**)
- A **father** of **fatherless** boys and a judge of widows is God in his holy dwelling. (**Psalms 68:5**)
- **The source of something,**
- Does there exist a **father** for the rain, or who gave birth to the dewdrops? (**Job 38:28**)
- **A term of respect,**
- His servants now approached and spoke to him and said; My **father**, had it been a great thing that the prophet himself had spoken to you, would you not do it? How much more, then, since he said to you; Bathe and be clean? (**2 Kings 5:13**)
- He said; Men, brothers and **fathers**, hear. The God of glory appeared to our forefather Abraham while he was in Mesopotamia, before he took up residence in Haran. (**Acts of Apostles 7:2**)
- **Yehowah God as Creator is called Father.**

- And now, O Yehowah, you are our **Father**. We are the clay, and you are our Potter, and all of us are the work of your hand. (**Isaiah 64:8**)
- For by him we have life and move and exist, even as certain ones of the poets among you have said; For we are also his progeny. (**Acts of Apostles 17:28**)
- Seeing, therefore, that we are the progeny of God, we ought not to imagine that the Divine Being is like gold or silver or stone, like something sculptured by the art and contrivance of man. (**Acts of Apostles 17:29**)
- He is also the **Father** of spirit-begotten Christians, the **Aramaic** term *'Ab-ba'* being used as an expression of respect and of close filial relationship.
- For you did not receive a spirit of slavery causing fear again, but you received a spirit of adoption as sons, by which spirit we cry out; Abba, **Father!** (**Romans 8:15**)
- All who express faith with a hope of everlasting life can address God as **Father**.
- You must pray, then, this way; Our **Father** in the heavens, let your name be sanctified. (**Matthew 6:9**)
- Jesus Christ, the Messiah, because of being God's Chief Agent of life, was prophetically called **Eternal Father**.
- For there has been a child born to us, there has been a son given to us. The princely rule will come to be upon his shoulder. His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, **Eternal Father**, Prince of Peace. (**Isaiah 9:6**)
- Also, anyone who has imitators and followers, or those who exhibit his qualities, is regarded as a **father** to them.
- However, I say to you. Continue to love your enemies and to pray for those persecuting you. (**Matthew 5:44**)
- That you may prove yourselves sons of your **Father** who is in the heavens, since he makes his sun rise upon wicked people and

good and makes it rain upon righteous people and unrighteous. (Matthew 5:45)

- And he received a sign, namely, circumcision, as a seal of the righteousness by the faith he had while in his uncircumcised state, that he might be the **father** of all those having faith while in uncircumcision, in order for righteousness to be counted to them. (Romans 4:11)
- And a **father** of circumcised offspring, not only to those who adhere to circumcision, but also to those who walk orderly in the footsteps of that faith while in the uncircumcised state which our father Abraham had. (Romans 4:12)
- In this sense the Devil is spoken of as a **father**.
- You are from your **father** the Devil, and you wish to do the desires of your **father**. That one was a manslayer when he began, and he did not stand fast in the truth, because truth is not in him. When he speaks the lie, he speaks according to his own disposition, because he is a liar and the **father** of the lie. (John 8:44)
- And I shall put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed. He will bruise you in the head and you will bruise him in the heel. (Genesis 3:15)

### See Also ABBA

- Applying **father** to men as a formalistic or religious **title** was forbidden by Jesus.
- Moreover, do not call anyone your **father** on earth, for one is your Father, the heavenly One. (Matthew 23:9)
- Because of Paul's bringing the Good News to certain Christians and nourishing them spiritually he was like a **father** to them, but in no scripture is **father** applied to him as a religious **title**.
- I am writing these things, not to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. (1 Corinthians 4:14)
- For though you may have ten thousand tutors in Christ, you certainly do not have many **fathers**, for in Christ Jesus I have

become your **father** through the Good News. (1 Corinthians 4:15)

- Paul likened himself to both a **father** and a **mother** in his relation to the Thessalonian Christians.
- To the contrary, we became gentle in the midst of you, as when a nursing mother cherishes her own children. (1 Thessalonians 2:7)
- In harmony with that you well know how, as a **father** does his children, we kept exhorting each one of you, and consoling and bearing witness to you. (1 Thessalonians 2:11)
- Whereas reference is made at;
- So he called and said; **Father** Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in anguish in this blazing fire. (Luke 16:24)
- Then he said; No, indeed, **father** Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them they will repent. (Luke 16:30)
- To **father** Abraham, this is basically in the sense of fleshly ancestry.

### •• **Father's Authority And Responsibilities**

- As described in the Bible, the **father** was the head of the household, being guardian, protector, the one making final decisions, and the judge of the family group.
- But I want you to know that the head of every man is the Christ, in turn the head of a woman is the man, in turn the head of the Christ is God. (1 Corinthians 11:3)
- Whoever it is with whom you may find your gods, let him not live. Before our brothers, examine for yourself what is with me and take them for yourself. But Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them. (Genesis 31:32)
- Among the patriarchs and in Israel before the selection of the Levitical priesthood, the **father** took the lead in representing his family in worship as a priest.

- Later he moved from there to the mountainous region to the east of Bethel and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. Then he built an altar there to Yehowah and began to call on the name of Yehowah. (**Genesis 12:8**)
- And it would occur that when the banquet days had gone round the circuit, Job would send and sanctify them, and he got up early in the morning and offered up burnt sacrifices according to the number of all of them, for, said Job, maybe my sons have sinned and have cursed God in their heart. That is the way Job would do always. (**Job 1:5**)
- And let the priests also who regularly come near to Yehowah sanctify themselves, that Yehowah may not break out upon them. (**Exodus 19:22**)
- The **father** had authority over his household until his death. If the son married and set up an independent household, then he became head over it, although due respect was still shown toward the **father**. When a daughter married, she came under the headship of her husband.
- 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**)
- However, if she at all happens to belong to a husband, and her vow is upon her or the thoughtless promise of her lips that she has bound upon her soul. (**Numbers 30:6**)
- And her husband actually hears it and keeps silent toward her on the day of his hearing it, her vows must also stand or her abstinence vows that she has bound upon her soul will stand. (**Numbers 30:7**)

- But if her husband on the day of hearing it forbids her, he has also annulled her vow that was upon her or the thoughtless promise of her lips that she bound upon her soul, and Yehowah will forgive her. (**Numbers 30:8**)
- In Bible times the **father** usually arranged for the marriage of his children. If he came into dire financial straits, he could sell his daughter into slavery, with certain restrictions for her protection.
- 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**)

### •• **Fatherly Concern For The Family Members**

- As God's representative, the **father** is responsible to see that God's principles are taught to his household.
- For I have become acquainted with him in order, that he may command his sons and his household after him so that they shall keep Yehowah's way to do righteousness and judgment, in order, that Yehowah may certainly bring upon Abraham what he has spoken about him. (**Genesis 18:19**)
- 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 these words that I am commanding you today must prove to be on your heart. (**Deuteronomy 6:6**)
- 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**)
- His teaching and disciplinary duties also include personal instructions and commands, which the mother assists in carrying out.
- Listen, my son, to the discipline of your **father**, and do not forsake the Law of your mother. (**Proverbs 1:8**)
- Observe, O my son, the commandment of your **father**, and do not forsake the Law of your mother. (**Proverbs 6:20**)

- **The God-fearing **father** has great love for his children and exhorts and consoles them with great tenderness.**
- **In harmony with that you well know how, as a **father** does his children, we kept exhorting each one of you, and consoling and bearing witness to you. (1 Thessalonians 2:11)**
- **But as for me, I taught Ephraim to walk, taking them upon my arms, and they did not recognize that I had healed them. (Hosea 11:3)**
- **So that they might walk in the right way, he disciplines, corrects, and reproveth them.**
- **Furthermore, we used to have **fathers** who were of our flesh to discipline us, and we used to give them respect. Shall we not much more subject ourselves to the **Father** of our spiritual life and live? (Hebrews 12:9)**
- **Because the one whom Yehowah loves he reproveth, even as a **father** does a son in whom he finds pleasure. (Proverbs 3:12)**
- **He finds pleasure in his sons, and especially does he rejoice when they display wisdom.**
- **A wise son is the one that makes a **father** rejoice, and a stupid son is the grief of his mother. (Proverbs 10:1)**
- **On the other hand, he is deeply grieved and vexed by a course of stupidity on the part of his children.**
- **Anyone becoming **father** to a stupid child, it is a grief to him, and the **father** of a senseless child does not rejoice. (Proverbs 17:21)**
- **A stupid son is a vexation to his **father** and a bitterness to her that gave him birth. (Proverbs 17:25)**
- **He is to be compassionate and merciful.**
- **And they will certainly become mine, Yehowah of armies has said; at the day when I am producing a special property. And I will show compassion upon them, just as a man shows compassion upon his son who is serving him. (Malachi 3:17)**

- As a **father** shows mercy to his sons, Yehowah has shown mercy to those fearing him. (**Psalms 103:13**)
- He is to be considerate of their needs and requests.
- Indeed, who is the man among you whom his son asks for bread, he will not hand him a stone, will he? (**Matthew 7:9**)
- Or, perhaps, he will ask for a fish, he will not hand him a serpent, will he? (**Matthew 7:10**)
- Therefore, if you, although being wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more so will your **Father** who is in the heavens give good things to those asking him? (**Matthew 7:11**)
- A pattern for human **fathers** is provided in the many descriptions of God's love and care for his people.

#### •• Genealogical Use Of Father's Name

- Ancestry of a man was customarily traced back through the **father**, not through the mother. Thus, whereas there seems to be sound reason for believing that Luke presents Jesus genealogy through his mother, an exception to the general rule, Luke does not list her.
- Apparently he lists her husband Joseph as the son of Heli, evidently Mary's **father**. This would not be improper in the least, since Joseph would be Heli's son-in-law.

#### See Also GENEALOGY OF JESUS CHRIST

- In the absence of family names, or surnames, a man was regularly distinguished by being referred to as the son of So-and-so. For example, Isaac was called the son of Abraham.
- And this is the history of Isaac the son of Abraham. Abraham became **father** to Isaac. (**Genesis 25:19**)
- Many Hebrew names included the Hebrew *ben* or Aramaic *bar*, son, followed by the name of the **father** as a surname, such as Ben-hur.
- And these were their names; The son of Hur, in the mountainous region of Ephraim. (**1 Kings 4:8**)

- **RS** the son of Hur, **NW** and Simon Bar-jonah, or Simon son of Jonah. **KJ, NW**.
- In response Jesus said to him; Happy you are, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal it to you, but my Father who is in the heavens did. (**Matthew 16:17**)