

**“THERE IS A GENERATION...”**  
**PROVERBS 30:11**

Wise Solomon lamented the condition of coming generations when he cried: *“There is a generation that curseth their father and doth not bless their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes and yet is not washed from their filthiness”* (Proverbs 30:11,12). This day is celebrated as Mother’s Day throughout our nation. Before the sun sets there will have been many acts of kindness shown to mothers and grandmothers across our land. Yet by Monday morning all of the attention will have ended and everyone will be back to their usual routines. In June we do the same thing again for our fathers. Perhaps we would do well to consider our respect for parents.

Without a doubt, respect is earned and can be easily lost. Consider the woman named Athaliah of 2 Chronicles 22. Here the Bible records of King Ahaziah, son of Athaliah: *“...His mother’s name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri. <sup>3</sup>He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly.”* ( 2 Chronicles 22:2,3). What a terrible thing to be said! Yet the Scriptures abound with records of evil women who influenced their children to do wickedly.

We must not be surprised that even in our day we find evil parents on every hand. They neglect and abuse their children and ignore their God required duty of Bible training. Perhaps parents would do well to ponder what would be said of them if they lived in ancient times and if their children were the subject of some Scriptural record.

However, what Solomon had in mind was not the evil parents like Athaliah. Rather the Royal Poet had in mind the imperfect, yet Godly parents who strive to raise their children in the fear of the Almighty. Even Jesus rebuked the Pharisee’s and the Scribes for failing to respect what Moses had written. They had developed a doctrine, absolutely foreign to the Law of Moses, which allowed them to avoid the financial support of their aged parents. Called *Corban* in Mark 7:11 it allowed a man to declare that his property was a gift or dedication to the Temple and therefore not to be used for the care of his parents. However, he could then continue to use the property as his own. This was a gross disrespect of parents which Jesus would not allow. Like Solomon said, these people were “pure in their own eyes.” So we see that the disrespect of parents is neither new nor changed much from ancient times.

Today, parents may face cursing from their children at virtually every age. Teens may be haughty and disrespectful while adults may be too busy with their own lives to bother much with aging parents. Perhaps the abuse of loneliness is so widespread now that we just expect it among the elderly. We may not absolve ourselves of the need to care for a respect parents thinking that the state will ensure their health and security. We are angered by those who do not care for their little children and require government agencies to take the place of parents. Likewise we should also be angry of those who expect government to take their place in providing the love, support and companionship that only a child can bring to a parent. Yes, there is a generation that does not honor their parents: I know, I live in it.

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