

VERSES ON CHILDREN
(Childhood, Youth)

Ge 1:28 28 God said to [the man and woman]: Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. And rule over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.

Ge 3:15-16 15 I will put enmity between you [Satan] and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will bruise you on the head, and you will bruise him on the heel. 16 To the woman [Yahweh God] said: I will greatly multiply your hardship in conception. In pain you will bring forth children. Yet your desire will be for your man, and he will rule over you.

Ge 8:21 21 The intent of man's heart is evil from his youth (נְעוּרָיו).

Ex 20:12 12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land that Yahweh your God gives you.

Ex 34:7 7 ...Keeping loyal love for the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity, offense, and sin, yet by no means clearing the guilty, but visiting the iniquity of the parents upon the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.

Dt 5:16 16 Honor your father and your mother, as Yahweh your God commanded you, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land that Yahweh your God is giving you.

Dt 6:20-25 20 When your son asks you in time to come saying: What are the testimonies, the statutes, and the judgments that Yahweh our God commanded you? 21 then you will say to your son: We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, but Yahweh brought us from Egypt with a mighty hand. 22 Moreover Yahweh showed great and distressing signs and wonders before our eyes against Egypt, Pharaoh, and all his household. 23 He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, to give us the land which he had sworn to our fathers. 24 So Yahweh commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear Yahweh our God for our good always and for our survival, as today. 25 It will be righteousness for us if we are careful to observe all this commandment before Yahweh our God, just as he commanded us.

Dt 21:18-21 18 If any man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father or his mother, and when they chastise him, he will not even listen to them, 19 then his father and mother will seize (תִּפְּשׂוּ) him and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gateway of his hometown. 20 They will say to the elders of his city: This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a glutton and a drunkard. 21 Then all the men of his city will stone him to death. So you will remove the evil from your midst, and all Israel will hear and fear.

Dt 27:16 16 Cursed is he who dishonors his father or mother.

Jos 4:21-24 21 [Joshua] said to the sons of Israel: When your children ask their fathers in time to come saying: What are these stones? 22 then you will inform your children saying: Israel crossed this Jordan on dry ground. 23 For Yahweh your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed, just as Yahweh your God had done to the Red Sea that he dried up before us until we had crossed, 24 that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of Yahweh is mighty, so that you may fear Yahweh your God forever.

1 Sa 2:11 11 The boy [Samuel] was attending to the service (שרת) of Yahweh before Eli the priest.

1 Sa 2:21 21 The boy Samuel grew up (גדל) with Yahweh (עם־יְהוָה).

1 Sa 2:26 26 The boy Samuel was growing both in greatness (גָּדַל) and goodness (טוֹב) both with Yahweh (עם־יְהוָה) and also with men (עם־אֲנָשִׁים).

1 Sa 3:8-9 8 Yahweh called Samuel again for the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said: Here I am, for you called me. Then Eli understood (בין) that Yahweh was calling the boy (נֶעֱר). 9 And Eli said to Samuel: Go lie down. And it will be if he calls you, that you will say: Speak, Yahweh, for your servant (עֶבְדְּךָ) is listening. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.¹

1 Sa 3:19-21 19 Samuel grew, and Yahweh was with him and let none of his words fail. 20 All Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of Yahweh. 21 And Yahweh appeared again at Shiloh, because Yahweh revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word (דְּבַר) of Yahweh.

1 Sa 16:11-13 11 Samuel said to Jesse: Are these all the children? So he said: There remains yet the youngest, and look, he is tending the sheep. Then Samuel said to Jesse: Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here. 12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And Yahweh said: Arise, anoint him, for this is he. 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers, and the Spirit of Yahweh came mightily on David from that day forward.

1 Sa 16:18-19 18 One of [Saul's] young men said: Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is a skillful musician, a mighty man of valor, a warrior, one prudent in speech, and a handsome man, and Yahweh is with him. 19 So Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said: Send me your son David who is with the flock.

1 Sa 17:32-37 32 David said to Saul: Let no man's heart fail on account of [Goliath]. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine. 33 Then Saul said to David: You are not able to go

¹ God wants a direct, intimate, personal relationship with young men and women. The sooner they experience this direct, intimate, personal relationship the better.

against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth (נָעַר) while he has been a warrior from his youth. 34 But David said to Saul: Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I went out after him, attacked him, and rescued it from his mouth. And when he rose up against me, I seized him by his beard, struck him, and killed him. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear, and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them because he has taunted the armies of the living God. 37 And David said: Yahweh who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, he will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said to David: Go, and may Yahweh be with you.

1 Ki 3:7-14 7 Now, Yahweh my God, you have made your servant [Solomon] king in place of my father David. Yet I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. 8 Your servant is in the midst of your people that you have chosen, a great people who are too many to be numbered or counted. 9 So give your servant an understanding heart to judge your people, to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of yours? 10 It was pleasing in the sight of Yahweh that Solomon had asked this thing. 11 God said to him: Because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself long life, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have you asked for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself discernment to understand justice, 12 look, I have done according to your words. Look, I have given you a wise and discerning heart so that there has been no one like you before you, nor will one like you arise after you. 13 I have also given you what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that there will not be any among the kings like you all your days. 14 If you walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and commandments, as your father David walked, then I will prolong your days.

1 Ki 11:6 6 Solomon did what was evil in the sight of Yahweh and did not follow Yahweh fully, as David his father had done.

2 Ki 22:1-2 1 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. ... 2 He did right in the sight of Yahweh and walked in all the way of his father David, nor did he turn aside to the right or to the left.

Ps 22:9-10 9 You are he who brought me forth from the womb. You made me trust on my mother's breasts. 10 Upon you I was cast from birth. You have been my God from my mother's womb.

Ps 25:7 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth (נְעוּרַיִם) or my offenses. According to your loyal love (חַסְדֶּךָ) remember me, for your goodness' (טוֹב) sake, Yahweh.

Ps 27:10 10 My father and my mother have abandoned (עָזַב) me, but Yahweh will receive (אָסַף) me.

Ps 34:11-14 11 Come, you children, listen to me. I will teach you the fear of Yahweh. 12 Who is the man who desires life and loves length of days that he may see good? 13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. 14 Depart from evil and do good. Seek peace (שְׁלוֹם) and pursue it.

Ps 71:5-6 5 You are my hope (תִּקְוָה), Lord Yahweh, my trust (מִבְטָח) from the time of my youth (נְעוּרַיִם). 6 By you I have been sustained from birth. You are he who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.

Ps 71:17 17 God, you have taught (לָמַד) me from my time of youth (נְעוּרַיִם), and I still declare (נִגַּד) your wondrous deeds.

Ps 90:16-17 16 Let your work appear to your servants and your majesty to their children (בְּנֵי).

Ps 103:1-5 1 Bless Yahweh, my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name. 2 Bless Yahweh, my soul, and forget none of his benefits...., 5 who satisfies your years with good things so that your youth (נְעוּרַיִם) is renewed like the eagle.

Ps 119:9 9 How can a young man (נָעַר) keep his way pure? By keeping it according to your word.

Ps 119:99-102 99 I have more insight than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. 100 I understand more than the aged, because I have observed your precepts. ...102 I have not turned aside from your ordinances, for you yourself have taught me.

Pr 13:24 24 He who spares the rod (שֵׁבֶט) hates (שָׂנֵא) his son (בֶּן), but he who loves (אָהַב) him searches him out for discipline (מִיָּסָר).

Pr 17:6 6 Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their parents.

Pr 19:18 18 Teach (יָסַר) your son while there is hope (תִּקְוָה), and do not lift up your soul to his death (מוֹת).

Pr 20:11 11 Even children make themselves known by their acts, by whether what they do is pure and right.

Pr 22:15 15 Foolishness (אִוִּילוּת) is bound up in the heart of a youth (בְּלִב־נָעַר). The rod of discipline will remove it from him.

Pr 29:15 15 The rod and reproof give wisdom (חָכְמָה), but a mother is disgraced by a neglected child.

Pr 29:17 17 Discipline your son, and he will give you rest (נוח). He will give delights (מְעֻדִים) to your soul (נַפְשִׁי).

Ec 11:9-10 9 Rejoice, young man (בְּחֹרֵךְ), during your early manhood (נְלָדוֹת), and let your heart do good (יֵטֵב) during the days of youth (בְּחַיֵּי הַיּוֹתָם). And follow the ways (דְּרָוֹת) of your heart and the vision (מַרְאֵה) of your eyes. Yet know that in all these things God will bring you to judgment (מִשְׁפָּט). 10 So remove vexation (כְּעֵס) from your heart and put away evil (רָעָה) from your body (בְּשָׂר), for early manhood (נְלָדוֹת) and the prime of youth (שְׁחָרִית) are a breath [vanity] (הֶבְלִי).

Ec 12:1 1 Remember your Creator (בְּרָא) in your youth (בְּחַיֵּי הַיּוֹתָם) until the days of evil (יְמֵי הַרְעָה) come, and the years draw near when you will say: There is no delight (חֵפְזִי) for me in them.

La 3:27-32 27 It is good for a man that he should bear the yoke in the days of his youth (בְּנְעוּרָיו).² 28 Let him sit alone and be silent because he has laid it on him. 29 Let him put his mouth in the dust. Perhaps there is hope. 30 Let him give his cheek to the smiter. Let him be filled with reproach. 31 For Yahweh will not reject forever, 32 for if he causes grief, then he will have compassion (רַחֵם) according to his abundant loyal love (חֶסֶד).³

Da 1:3-6 3 The king [Nebuchadnezzar] ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the royal family and of the nobles, 4 youths (נְלָדִים) in whom was no defect, who were good-looking, showing intelligence (שִׂכְלִי) in every wisdom (חֵכְמָה), endowed with understanding (בִּינָה) and discerning knowledge (דַּעַת), and who had ability (כֹּחַ) for serving in the king's court, and to teach (לְמַד) them the literature (סֵפֶר) and language (לְשׁוֹן) of the Chaldeans. 5 The king appointed for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank, and that they should be educated three years, at the end of which they were to enter the king's personal service. 6 Now among them from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

Zec 8:5 5 The streets of the city [of Jerusalem] will be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.

Mt 4:21-22 21 [Jesus] saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. And he called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Mt 10:21-22 21 Brother will hand over brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. 22 You will be hated by all because of my name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

Mt 18:1-10 1 The disciples came to Jesus and said: Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven? 2 And he called a child to himself, set him before them 3 and said: Truly I say to you,

² As Jeremiah himself did when he was young.

³ Compassion is God's loyal love in action.

unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whoever receives one such child in my name receives me. 6 But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ...10 See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of my Father who is in heaven.

Mt 19:13-15 13 Children were brought to [Jesus] so that he might lay his hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 So Jesus said: Let the children alone and do not hinder them from coming to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. 15 After laying his hands on them, he departed from there.

Mk 10:13-16 13 They were bringing children to [Jesus] so that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them: Permit the children to come to me. Do not hinder them! For the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it. 16 And he took them in his arms and began blessing them, laying his hands on them.

Lk 1:80 80 The child [John] continued to grow and to become strong in spirit, and he lived in the deserts until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Lk 2:10-12 10 The angel said to [the shepherds]: Do not be afraid! For look, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people [of Israel]. 11 For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord. 12 This is a sign for you. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Lk 2:48-52 48 When [Joseph and Mary] saw [Jesus], they were astonished, and his mother said to him: Son, why have you treated us this way? Look, your father and I have been anxiously looking for you. 49 And he said to them: Why is it that you were looking for me? Did you not know that I had to be in my Father's house? 50 But they did not understand the statement that he had made to them. 51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and he continued in subjection to them. And his mother treasured all things in her heart. 52 Now Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Lk 18:15-17 15 People were bringing even infants (βρέφη) to [Jesus] that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. 16 But Jesus called for them and said: Let the little children (παιδιά) come to me and do not stop them. For it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. 17 Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child (παιδίον) will never enter it.

1 Co 13:11 11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, and reason like a child. When I became a man, I did away with childish things.

1 Co 14:20 20 Brothers and sisters, do not be children (παιδία) in your thinking. Yet in evil be as children (νηπιάζω, pres.), but in your thinking (φρήν) be mature (τέλειοι).

Eph 4:11-15 11 [Messiah] gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Messiah, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Messiah. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming. 15 But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into him who is the head, Messiah.

Eph 6:1-3 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord [Jesus], for this is right. 2 Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise) 3 so that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth.

Col 3:20 20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord [Jesus].

1 Ti 3:4-5 4 [An elder] must manage his own household well, keeping his children submissive and respectful in every way. 5 For if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church?

1 Ti 4:12 12 Let no one look down on your youth (νεότης), but be a model (τύπος)⁴ for believers in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.

2 Ti 1:5-6 5 I [Paul] am mindful of the sincere faith within you [Timothy], which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well. 6 For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God that is in you through the laying on of my hands.

2 Ti 2:22 22 Flee from youthful (νεωτερικός) desires and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

2 Ti 3:14-17 14 You [Timothy], ...continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from infancy (βρέφος) you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith that is in Messiah Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and

⁴ “[A]n archetype serving as a model, *type, pattern, model*” (BDAG, 1020).

profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be proficient (ἄρτιος),⁵ equipped for every good work.

Tt 2:6 6 Encourage the young men (νέος) to be sensible (σωφρονέω).⁶

Heb 5:12-13 12 Though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant.

1 Pe 5:5 5 You younger men (νεώτεροι) likewise be subordinate (ὑποτάσσω) to the older men (πρεσβυτέροις.).

Re 12:4-5 4 The dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. 5 And she gave birth to a son, a male, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. And her child was caught up to God and to his throne.

⁵ “Well fitted for some function, complete, capable, proficient, able to meet all demands” (BDAG, 136).

⁶ “(1) [T]o be able to think in a sound or sane manner, *be of sound mind*. of mental health...; (2) to be prudent, with focus on self-control, be reasonable, sensible, serious, keep one’s head” (BDAG, 986).