

# **Youth Mortality**

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

## Introduction:

### A. 1Kings 14:1-18

1. It is sad and tragic occasion when a young person dies
2. We not only mourn the loss and grieve over the ended relationship, but we also sorrow of the potential life we believe could have been lived
3. We are troubled by the fact that they will never have the experiences we believe have made our lives meaningful, and feel like their lives were unfulfilled because they did not live to do those things
4. We feel robbed because we will not have the experiences with them we anticipated as they grew; the aged we miss because of experiences we shared; the young we miss because of what might have been
5. If they were good people, we are angry that they were taken while evil persons remain. "Only the good die young" (Billy Joel)
6. But most often, people ask why they left the world so soon.

### B. We cannot answer that question in individual cases; that is God's prerogative; He alone knows the reasons

1. However, let's consider some possibilities that may not be immediately apparent to most who are in sorrow
2. In my lifetime, Tomlinson Run has eleven sets of parents who have had to place children at rest in the Lord.
3. It is not a natural act for a parent to bury a child. I can think of no greater traumatic event for a family; not in scripture or in my experience
4. More than any other life event, this one presses our souls to cry out in anguish, "Why, God!" More than any other life event, this one leads many to doubt the faith and to lose their own faith
5. Why, God? Why?!

## **I. SPARING CHILDREN FROM EVIL TIMES**

### A. Isa. 57:1-2

### B. The death of Abijah - 1Kings 14:1-18

### C. The death of Josiah - 2Kings 22:2, 13, 18-20 - He died at the age of thirty-nine

## **II. WHEN DEATH IS BETTER THAN LIVING**

### A. Oppression can make living so miserable that death spares a person from greater suffering - Ecc. 4:1-3

1. This is not to suggest that one would be justified in taking the life of another or in taking his own life. It is putting the death in perspective with some forms of suffering; sometimes death is better.

### B. Job was so miserable he wished he had never been born - Job 10:18-19

1. He lost so much that he no longer viewed life worth living.

### C. Jeremiah saw so much sorrow that he wanted to see no more - Jer. 20:14-18

### D. We may never know what suffering God is sparing a child from facing when the child dies in his youth.

### III. WICKEDNESS GROWS FASTER THAN RIGHTEOUSNESS

- A. It is the way of this world; more people follow sin than righteousness
  - 1. Matt. 7:13-14
- B. There are times when the righteous are few
  - 1. In Noah's day, only eight were spared from the flood.
  - 2. Only four fled Sodom and Gomorrah
  - 3. Elijah thought he was the only one left, but God said there were still 7,000 righteous in the land. They were still vastly outnumbered by evil
- C. The scriptures acknowledge the problem - Psalm 12:1; Micah 7:2
- D. What happens when the good die and there is none to take their place?
  - 1. Jeremiah was sent on a mission to find a good man in Jerusalem so the city would be spared; He failed to locate one person - Jer. 5:1, 30-31
  - 2. If there are no righteous adults, how many righteous children will be produced? How many children will be abused, twisted, and corrupted as opposed to the few who might become righteous?
  - 3. Just as God knows when a man becomes so reprobate that he has no capacity for repentance, so He knows when a nation becomes so evil, that it is not possible for a good person to come out of it
  - 4. What is better for the souls of the children: that they die in their innocence and go to heaven, or that they live, and nearly without exception, grow up and lose their souls?
  - 5. Is living in this world more important than living in heaven?
- E. When we teach the Gospel and souls respond to it, the end of the world is pushed forward a little longer
  - 1. When the times comes that no one responds, God will know that the world has become as evil as it was in Noah's day, and that the Gospel no longer has the power to move men to be saved, and that all of the children will grow up evil. It will be time to end the world
  - 2. 2Peter 3:9-10
  - 3. While hope remains, we continue to instruct people in salvation.
  - 4. Given the history of man, the response will likely decrease over time
  - 5. One day, God will say, "Enough!" Meanwhile, the earth remains and there is still hope, for you and for your children.
  - 6. Will the Gospel have power in your life today?