

# Youth Mortality

1Kings 14:1-18

# Youth Mortality

- It is sad and tragic occasion when a young person dies
- 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
- 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

# Youth Mortality

- 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
- If they were good people, we are angry that they were taken while evil persons remain.
- But most often, people ask why they left the world so soon.

# Youth Mortality

- We cannot answer that question in individual cases; that is God's prerogative; He alone knows the reasons
- In my lifetime, Tomlinson Run has eleven sets of parents who have had to place children at rest in the Lord.
- It is not a natural act for a parent to have to bury a child. I can think of no greater traumatic event for a family; not in scripture, nor in my experience
- 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

# Sparing Children From Evil Times

- Isa. 57:1-2 - “The righteous perishes, And no man takes it to heart; Merciful men are taken away, While no one considers That the righteous is taken away from evil. 2 He shall enter into peace; They shall rest in their beds, Each one walking in his uprightness.”

# Sparing Children From Evil Times

- The death of Abijah
  - 1Kings 14:1-18
- The death of Josiah
  - 2Kings 22:2, 13, 18-20

# When Death Is Better Than Living

- Oppression can make living so miserable that death spares a person from greater suffering
  - Ecc. 4:1-3 - “Then I returned and considered all the oppression that is done under the sun: And look! The tears of the oppressed, But they have no comforter-On the side of their oppressors there is power, But they have no comforter. 2 Therefore I praised the dead who were already dead, More than the living who are still alive. 3 Yet, better than both is he who has never existed, Who has not seen the evil work that is done under the sun.”

# When Death Is Better Than Living

- Job was so miserable he wished he had never been born
  - Job 10:18-19 - “Why then have You brought me out of the womb? Oh, that I had perished and no eye had seen me! 19 I would have been as though I had not been. I would have been carried from the womb to the grave.”

# When Death Is Better Than Living

- Jeremiah saw so much sorrow that he wanted to see no more
  - Jer. 20:14-18 - “Cursed be the day in which I was born! Let the day not be blessed in which my mother bore me! 15 Let the man be cursed Who brought news to my father, saying, A male child has been born to you! Making him very glad. 16 And let that man be like the cities Which the LORD overthrew, and did not relent; Let him hear the cry in the morning And the shouting at noon, 17 Because he did not kill me from the womb, That my mother might have been my grave, And her womb always enlarged with me. 18 Why did I come forth from the womb to see labor and sorrow, That my days should be consumed with shame?”
- We may never know what suffering God is sparing a child from facing when the child dies in his youth.

## Wickedness Grows Faster Than Righteousness

- It is the way of this world; more people follow sin than righteousness
  - Matt. 7:13-14 - “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

## Wickedness Grows Faster Than Righteousness

- There are times when the righteous are few
  - In Noah's day, only eight were spared from the flood.
  - Only four fled Sodom and Gomorrah
  - 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

## Wickedness Grows Faster Than Righteousness

- The scriptures acknowledge the problem
  - Psalm 12:1 - “Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases! For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.”
  - Micah 7:2 - “The faithful man has perished from the earth, And there is no one upright among men. They all lie in wait for blood; Every man hunts his brother with a net.”

# Wickedness Grows Faster Than Righteousness

- What happens when the good die and there is none to take their place?
  - Jer. 5:1, 30-31 - “Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem; See now and know; And seek in her open places If you can find a man, If there is anyone who executes judgment, Who seeks the truth, And I will pardon her... An astonishing and horrible thing Has been committed in the land: 31 The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?”

## Wickedness Grows Faster Than Righteousness

- 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?
- 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
- 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?
- Is living in this world more important than living in heaven?

## Wickedness Grows Faster Than Righteousness

- When we teach the Gospel and souls respond to it, the end of the world is pushed forward a little longer. 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
  - 2Peter 3:9-10 - "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."