



## Why Children?

### The Child in Biblical Perspective


 Releasing children from poverty  
**Compassion**  
 in Jesus' name

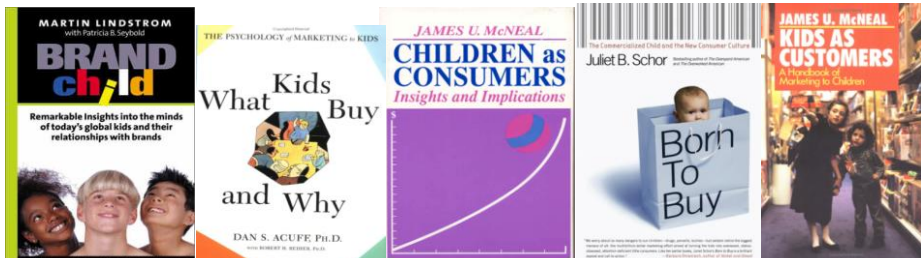
## THE CHILD IN BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

Key Verse: **Psalms 78:3-7**

“I will utter hidden things, things from of old--what we have heard and known, what our **fathers** have told us. We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes ... and established the law ..., which he commanded our **forefathers** to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.”

## Millions Of Children also suffer from Prosperity (and spiritual poverty)

- Lack of meaning and purpose: despair and hopelessness
- Post-modern rejection of the Biblical meta narrative - that is that there is any universal, overarching Truth that is true for all people in all places.
- This is how many children are viewed today:



## Millions Of Children also suffer from Prosperity (and spiritual poverty)

- **Adult Values Conflict / Parental neglect. More Work, Less Family.**
- The **Money Crunch**
- **Love** is spelled "**T-I-M-E!**"
- The Myth of "**Quality Time**"



## The Child in the Midst

The disciples' argument "Who is the Greatest?" Jesus placed a child in the midst.

Many are now reading Scripture with - the child in the midst.

And there are many - more than 1400 references to children and childhood and related issues. (See Zuck)

**Give me children or I'll die!**  
(Genesis 30:1)



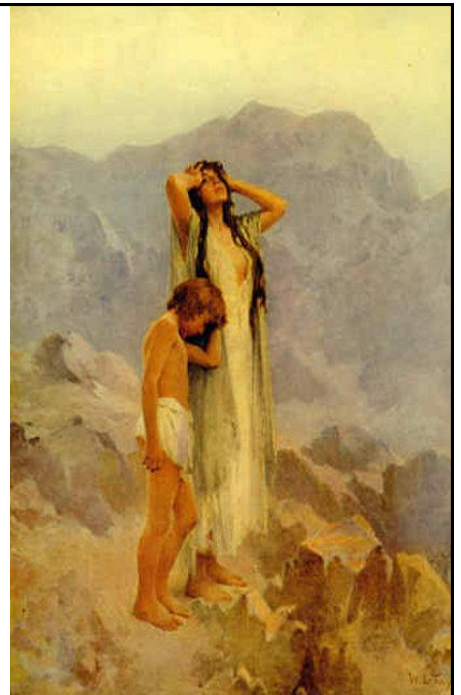
## God Hears the Children Crying

**17** God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there.

**18** Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation."

**19** Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

**20** God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer.

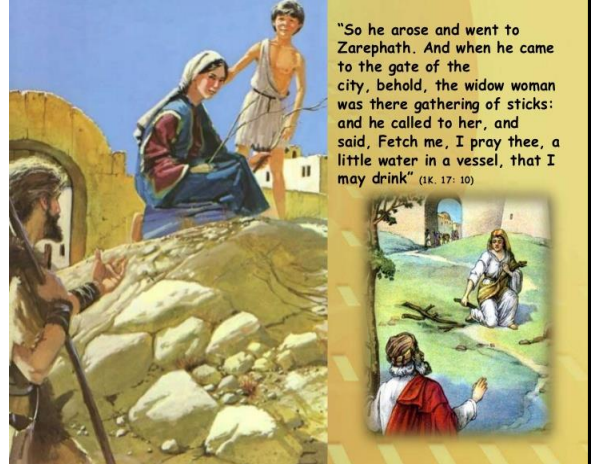


## “Now I know!” The Widow of Zerepath

**7** Some time later the brook dried up ...

**9** “Go at once to Zarephath ...” **10**. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, ... “Would you bring me ... please, a piece of bread.”

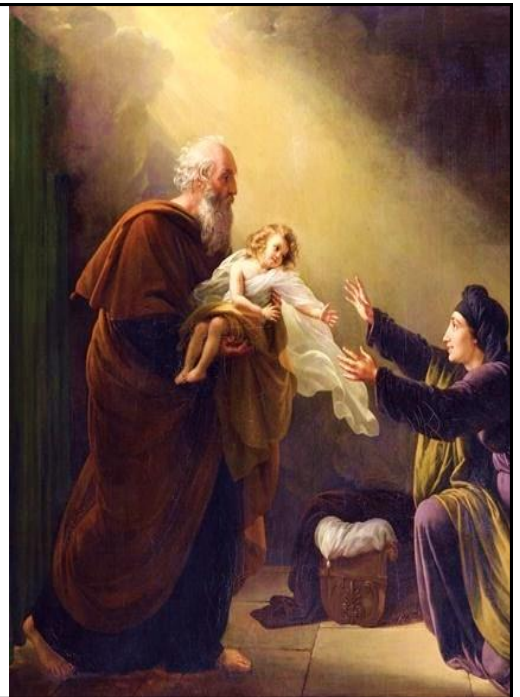
**12** “As surely as the LORD *your* God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—**and die.[!]**” ...



## “Now I know!” The Widow of Zerepath

**23** Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, “Look, your son is alive!”

**24** Then the woman said to Elijah, “**Now I know** that you are a man of God and that the word of the LORD from your mouth is the truth.”



**“Now I know!”**

### **Naaman's Servant Girl (2 Kings 5:1-19)**

**1** Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, ... He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

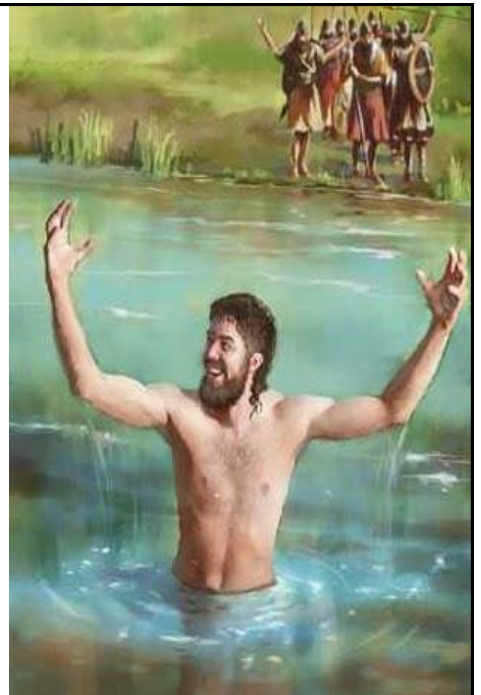
**2** Now bands of raiders ... had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. **3** She said to her mistress, **“If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.”**



**“Now I know!”**

### **Naaman's Servant Girl (2 Kings 5:1-19)**

**15** Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, **“Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel.”**



“From the lips of children  
and infants you have ordained  
praise because of your enemies,  
**to silence the foe and  
the avenger**” (Psalm 8:2)



## Malachi 4:6

**6** He will turn the hearts of  
the parents to their children,  
and the hearts of the children  
to their parents; **or else I will  
come and strike the land with  
a curse.**”

