1) BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES FOR THE LAST DAYS

2) Jesus said we need to build our house on the solid rock, because the storms are coming!

 Mt.7:24-27 -We need to build our families strong, upon the rock of God’s word!

3) Christ also warned us that the world will have great trouble before His Second Coming- troubles that are already starting in some areas of the world!

“I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations” –Haggai 2:7

4) God’s blessings should be passed down thru the generations-an inheritance that will last

- Families seek to prepare natural blessings to help their children- a good education, house or land, etc- PARENTS SHOULD SEEK TO PREPARE SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS FOR THEIR DESCENDANTS!

PERSONAL EXAMPLE: before Linda & I had any children, we were praying about starting a family. God made a promise to us from Isaiah 59:21 “As for Me, this *is* My covenant with them, says the Lord; My Spirit that is on you, and My Words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, nor out of the mouth of your seed, nor out of the mouth of your seed's seed, says the Lord, from now on and forever.” Now, 40 years later, our children and their spouses are all preachers, and the hand of the Lord is on our grandchildren also!

5) THE LORD CAN HELP PARENTS WHO HAVE HAD FAILURES WITH THEIR CHILDREN

-The father of the Prodigal Son- he had to patiently pray, & await the opportunity to help his son. DO YOU HAVE A CHILD WHO HAS GONE ASTRAY? ITS NOT TOO LATE! PRAY! REACH OUT!

-God can even give new opportunities to parents who have seen their children fail: Samuel did not train his children to qualify as leaders- but a grandson became a great prophet in David’s kingdom! 14 of his great-grandsons became worship leaders in Solomon’s Temple!

-God can give you new opportunities to build in the younger generation! Eli was given a spiritual son, Samuel! GOD CAN GIVE YOU SPIRITUAL SONS & DAUGHTERS!

6) THE LORD CAN HELP CHILDREN WHO HAVE SEEN THEIR PARENTS FAIL!

 - Sometimes children have to suffer thru having parents that have big failures in their life-

 parents that sometimes even abuse their children!

 - Some children need to be rescued from bad situations- perhaps God will let your home

 be a refuge for some in your neighborhood! Sometimes the Church can help!

EXAMPLE: A teen age girl came to a youth meeting. She came for the invitation to pray at

 the end, she prayed and gave her life to Jesus. After the prayer, she told the youth pastor,

 “Now I don’t have to go and kill myself”

- She had been sexually abused by several men among her relatives- “All men are evil”

- Her heart seemed dark & her life was dead… “All men are evil”

- So she was planning to kill herself that night- but before she drank the poison she had

 prepared, she remembered, the man next door, he is not bad… he is a Christian… maybe

 the Christians can help me… went to church for the 1st time & gave her life to Christ!

“And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to their

 fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.” -Malachi 4:6

-God can also change the hearts of the parents!

EXAMPLE: JIM BAKKER with his son- he was too busy in the ministry and ignored his son- his son backslid. But after his father went to prison for his crimes, his son visited him. The press were there to ask him what he thought about visiting his father, the prisoner. He exclaimed “This has been the happiest day of my life- it was the first time I was able to spend a whole day with my dad!” Jim saw him many days, led his son back to Christ!

7) PRAY! “We do not fight against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers…against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” –Eph.6:12

8) Job protected his family with his prayers. Job.1:5 & 1:9-10

9) Even though Satan’s attack killed Job’s 10 children at the beginning of the book, Job’s prayers still helped them all to make it to heaven… NOW ALL OF JOB’S 20 CHILDREN ARE IN HEAVEN! (JOB GAINED A DOUBLE PORTION, Job 42:10)

10) We need to pray and CONTINUALLY SHARE GOD’S WORD

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart…. You shall teach My words diligently to your children, and talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk in the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up….You shall write them on your house and gates” –Deut.6:5-9

11) WHEN YOU SIT IN YOUR HOUSE: Pray & read Bible before meals, during family gatherings

- WHEN YOU WALK IN THE WAY: Talk about the Lord while you walk or travel together!

- WHEN YOU LIE DOWN: Read a bedtime Bible story every night… Mom or Dad!

- WHEN YOU RISE UP: Teach your children to read the Bible every morning.

- YOU SHALL WRITE THEM ON YOUR HOUSE AND GATES: Put Scriptures and Bible

 pictures in your house.

12) DISCIPLINE YOUR CHILDREN WITH WORDS & ACTIONS –Prov.29:15 says, The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.”

Don’t reward or ignore bad behavior (give them candy, or let them watch TV…) or you are teaching your children that doing bad things get a reward! LET BAD BEHAVIOR BE PUNISHED! DON’T IGNORE!

Giving a “TIME OUT” is an effective punishment, especially for your younger children. Make them sit quietly for the amount of time you have told them- it can calm them down and make them think about their disobedience. For older children withholding privileges can be effective (no cellphone, no internet or TV).

Spanking is a biblical form of punishment. Make sure you have a calm spirit and are not angry before you spank them- only spank them on their rear end, where there is plenty of fat and you can cause pain without causing them any physical damage. Use a stick or cooking spoon or something but do not use your hand- you want to use your hands to love your children, not to strike them.

Above all, explain to your child that you love them, and are spanking them so they will stop their disobedience- love them and pray with them afterwards!

13) Give your time- your heart- your love to your children! It will build them up! Make them confident!

PERSONAL EXAMPLE: A QUESTION WAS ASKED TO MY GROWN UP DAUGHTER, ESTHER: “WERE YOU EVER TEMPTED WHEN YOU BECAME A TEENAGER & THE BOYS STARTED TO TELL YOU THAT YOU WERE BEAUTIFUL?” HER REPLY WAS “NO, MY DAD ALWAYS TOLD ME I WAS BEAUTIFUL, I DID NOT NEED TO HEAR IT FROM THE BOYS, I DID NOT NEED THEIR APPROVAL”

-GIVE YOUR TIME- YOUR LOVE- YOUR LIFE!

**- JESUS GAVE HIS LIFE TO CHANGE US- TO SHOW US LOVE… TO SHOW US FORGIVENESS!**

14) **BUILD A STRONG FAMILY FILLED WITH GOD’S LOVE**

 **- PREPARED FOR ANY DIFFICULTY!**