

# How Shall We Order the Child?

*A guide to help parents establish God's  
word in their child in the womb and  
through the first five years.*

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# Introduction

Never has there been a greater need for moms and dads to take up the responsibility of raising a godly seed than there is today. It is to that end that this book is written. Many well meaning, believing parents have made the commitment to raise a godly family, but they labor under the common misconception that the time to start is when the children reach five or so. However, our main textbook on life indicates that the starting point is, in fact, in the womb! We shall see that much is written in the Bible concerning this and the first 5 years of a child's life.

When Manoah found out that he and his wife were going to have Samson he asked the angel of the Lord, "How shall we order the child?" This is given to us in Judges 13. The only instruction the angel gave was directed to what the mother was not to eat during the pregnancy because the child was to be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death.

A Nazarite is defined by Unger's Dictionary as one who is set apart for the service of God. This is God's ultimate intention for all men and women. We were created for God. But how do we order ourselves and our children to be set apart for God? The Psalmist found God's answer. It is recorded for us in Psalm 119:133, "Order my steps in Thy Word; and let not any iniquity have dominion over me."

God's instruction for Samson's mother on ordering her child was not to eat anything that came from the vine or anything unclean. I believe God was instructing her to watch what she fed the baby inside of her and this refers to not only physical food, but spiritual food as well. God wants children fed spiritual food from His Word beginning in the womb.

In 1 Samuel 1, Elkanah realized the importance of the Word in his young child's life. Hannah would not leave Samuel until he was weaned which in those days was between 3 and 5 years of age. Elkanah gave her instructions on what to do while she stayed with him. He told her, "Only the Lord establish His Word."

When my husband and I found out we were going to have a child, we responded similarly to Manoah. We asked, "How can we teach him to have a heart for You, Lord?" God began to teach us the importance of saturating our minds with His Word during that time especially. As soon as our child was born, God further taught us that ordering our child in the Word during the first 5 years was foundational for his spiritual growth.

This book is written to every person who has a desire to have children set apart for God from the very beginning. Especially in a day when Satan is launching an all out attack for the minds of our children early in their lives, must children be set apart for God from the start. We would all like to prevent our children from ever falling into sins, rather than trying to recover them from

Satan's control in later years. God's only instruction for Manoah and his wife concerned the prenatal months. He lead Elkanah to instruct his wife to spend the first 3 to 5 years in having His Word established in Samuel. God wills that we have a preventive ministry, rather than a recovery ministry, with our children. His preventive plan is to order the child in His Word beginning in the prenatal months and the first 5 years. With this start, our children will be equipped for life and "iniquity will not have dominion over them."

# 1. If the Root Be Holy

*"For if the first fruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root be holy, so are the branches." Romans 11:16*

In order to start at the very beginning in the child's life to set him apart for God and to establish the Word in him, the parents' relationship to the Lord must be right. They must be set apart for God and have the Word in them, even before the child's conception. In order for the child to be holy, the parents must be holy.

The Old Testament is filled with examples of how the fathers' sins affected the children. It seems parents are condemning their children when they fail to heed God's word and glorify the Lord.

Deuteronomy 5:9 "You shall not bow down thyself unto them (idols), nor serve them: for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me."

Malachi 2:2-3 "If you will not hear, and if you will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings, yea, I have cursed them already because you do not lay it to heart. Behold I will corrupt your seed..."

Hosea 4:6 points out that if you forget God's Law, He will forget your children:

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing you have forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget your children."

This may not sound quite fair of our loving God, but God is simply stating the facts so we will be aware of the importance of His Word and desire Him above all, if only for our children's sakes.

Deuteronomy 5:29 "O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!"

Feel God's agonizing to get people to obey His Word because He knows it is for their good and the good of their children.