

'IN THE BEGINNING'

(The Origins of All Things Coming to Pass in These Last Days)

Studies in Genesis 1-11

Jonathan Edwards' Powerful Example of Leaving a Godly Legacy

October 5, 1703 – March 22, 1758



Leaving a godly legacy for your children should be the goal of all Christian parenting. Although the faith and godliness of your children is ultimately the work of the Holy Spirit, God often uses the influence of parents to make a great impact on their children.

A great example of this is Jonathan Edwards, the Puritan Preacher. Jonathan and his wife Sarah left a great godly legacy for their 11 children. Born in East Windsor, Connecticut, he received his master's degree from Yale in 1722.

When he was 20, he met Sarah Pierrepont. Their wedding followed four years of often agonizing courtship for the gawky and intense Edwards, but in the end, their marriage proved deeply satisfying to both. Edwards described it as an "uncommon union."

In 1734 Edwards's preaching on justification by faith sparked a spiritual revival in his church. There were six sudden conversions but by spring there were about thirty a week. "It was not due to theatrics. He scarcely gestured or even moved, and he made no attempt by the elegance of his style or the beauty of his pictures to gratify the taste and fascinate the imagination." Instead he convinced "with overwhelming weight of argument and with such intensesness of feeling." Quotes from him are below:

- "Resolution 1: I will live for God. Resolution 2: If no one else does, I still will."
- "Resolved, never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life."
- "Grace is but glory begun, and glory is but grace perfected."
- "To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than most pleasant accommodations here."
- "Prayer is as natural an expression of faith as breathing is of life."

At the turn of the 20th century, American educator and pastor A.E. Winship decided to trace out the descendants of Jonathan Edwards almost 150 years after his death. His findings are astounding, especially when compared to a man known as Max Jukes. Jukes' legacy came to the forefront when the family trees of 42 different men in the New York prison system traced back to him.

<p>Jonathan Edwards' godly legacy includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 U.S. Vice-President 3 U.S. Senators 3 governors 3 mayors 13 college presidents 30 judges 65 professors 80 public office holders 100 lawyers and 100 missionaries 	<p>Max Jukes' descendants included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 murderers 60 thieves 50 women of debauchery 130 other convicts 310 paupers (with over 2,300 combined years living in poorhouses) 400 physically wrecked by indulgent living Estimated cost to the state for his descendants was more than \$1,250,000
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This is a powerful example showing how a parent's leadership can have a profound effect on their children.

'The Beginning of The End'
(The World before the Flood)
Genesis 4 & 5

Seeds of the Serpent	The Seed of the Savior
<p><i>Cain's Lineage</i> 4:16-24 <i>An urban alternative</i> <i>A marital alternative</i> <i>A humanist culture</i></p>	<p><i>Seth's Lineage</i> 4:25-26 <i>The garden of Eden</i> <i>Traditional marriage</i> <i>A holiness culture</i></p>
<p><u>Lamech, Jabal, Jubal, Tubal</u> <i>Men forgetting about the LORD</i></p>	<p><u>Seth ('appointed'), Enosh ('mortal finite man')</u> <i>Men calling on the Name of the LORD</i></p>
<p><u>Lamech – 7th from Adam</u> <i>Genesis 4:19-24</i> <i>Romans 5:12-14</i> <i>Genesis 6:11-12</i> <u>Matthew 24:38-39</u> <i>(secular & spiritually apathetic)</i> <u>Luke 17:26-30</u> <i>(sinful & morally decadent)</i></p>	<p><u>Enoch -7th from Adam</u> <i>Genesis 5:21-24</i> <i>Hebrews 11:5-6</i> <u>Jude 14-15</u> <i>"lived (2x) & died" "sons & daughters"</i> <u>Methuselah (21-25)</u> <i>('when he dies, it comes')</i> <u>Noah (29-32)</u> <i>('rest, comfort, consolation')</i></p>

Discussion Group Questions

In the world before the flood, unbelievers were getting more and more decadent (*Genesis 6:9-12*).

2 Timothy 3:1-5 & 3:12-13 predict this will also be true in the last days of the Church Age.

- What do you see in your daily life that indicates a gradual increase in sinfulness, decreasing interest in spiritual things and hostility toward God, Christ, the Bible and Christians?
- Describe the homes and parents that produces the declining spiritual environment of our day.
- Discuss the godly prophets and their families that God raised up in the last 4 generations before the flood.
 - What kind of values, priorities and standards must their parents have impressed upon their children (*Genesis 4:26, 5:21-24, 5:28-29, 6:7-9*)?
 - How can serious Christians be sure to have such homes with godly values in these last days before God's judgment comes?
- Discuss the lifestyles/ministries of Enoch (*Hebrews 11:5-6, Jude 14-15*) & Noah (*2 Peter 2:5*).
- In these last days how important is it to have modern day believers and families like this in the world (*2 Peter 3:11-15*)?
- Do you want to be a 'last days' Enoch or Noah for God in these last days? (*Isaiah 59:19-20*)
 - If so, what sort of life experience can you expect for you and your family?