

God as Father in the Old Testament

I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings (2 Sam. 7:14).

Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation (Ps. 68:5).

He shall cry to me, **'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'** I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth (Ps. 89:26).

As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him (Ps. 103:13).

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and **he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,** Prince of Peace (Is. 9:6).

For you are our father, though Abraham does not know us and Israel does not acknowledge us; **you, O LORD, are our father; our Redeemer** from of old is your name (Is. 63:16).

Yet, **O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay,** and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand (Is. 64:8).

I thought how I would set you among my children, and give you a pleasant land, the most beautiful heritage of all the nations. And **I thought you would call me, My Father, and would not turn from following me** (Jer. 3:19).

With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; **for I have become a father to Israel,** and Ephraim is my firstborn (Jer. 31:9).

A son honors his father, and servants their master. **If then I am a father, where is the honor due me?** And if I am a master, where is the respect due me? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. You say, "How have we despised your name?" (Mal. 1:6).

Have we not all one father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors? (Mal. 2:10).

He has shown you his greatness even there. Exalt him in the presence of every living being, because he is our Lord and he is our God; **he is our Father and he is God forever** (Tobit 13:4).

O Lord, Father and Master of my life, do not abandon me to their designs, and do not let me fall because of them! (Sir. 23:1).

We are considered by him as something base, and he avoids our ways as unclean; he calls the last end of the righteous happy, and **boasts that God is his father** (Wis. 2:16).

But it is your providence, O Father that steers its course, because you have given it a path in the sea, and a safe way through the waves (Wis. 14:3).

God's People as His Children in the Old Testament

I say, **"You are gods, children of the Most High**, all of you; nevertheless, you shall die like mortals (Ps. 82:6-7).

As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him (Ps. 103:13).

Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: **I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me** (Is. 1:2).

Ah, sinful nation, people laden with iniquity, **offspring who do evil, children who deal corruptly, who have forsaken the LORD**, who have despised the Holy One of Israel, who are utterly estranged! (Is. 1:4).

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the **young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel** (Is. 7:14).

Oh, rebellious children, says the LORD, who carry out a plan, but not mine; who make an alliance, but against my will, adding sin to sin (Is. 30:1).

For they are a rebellious people, faithless children, children who will not hear the instruction of the LORD (Is. 30:9).

Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker: **Will you question me about my children**, or command me concerning the work of my hands? (Is. 45:11).

Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet **I will not forget you** (Is. 49:15).

As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem (Is. 66:13).

Return, O faithless children, says the LORD, for I am your master; I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion (Jer. 3:14).

Return, O faithless children, I will heal your faithlessness. "Here we come to you; for you are the LORD our God (Jer. 3:22).

Is Ephraim my dear son? Is he the child I delight in? As often as I speak against him, I still remember him. Therefore I am deeply moved for him; I will surely have mercy on him, says the LORD (Jer. 31:20).

Yet the number of the people of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which can be neither measured nor numbered; and in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," **it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God."** (Hos. 1:10).

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son (Hos. 11:1).

He professes to have knowledge of God, and **calls himself a child of the Lord** (Wis. 2:13).

For if the righteous man is God's child, he will help him, and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries (Wis. 2:19).

Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and **you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins** (Wis. 12:19).