

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

The Bible and a Loving Father

It's interesting how the Old Testament resembles the actions of a loving father...and a feisty child.

The Creation is like a birth...and the new father gives the new baby everything (like the proverbial baseball mitt when the baby is 4 hours old.)

The "fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil" is like the knobs on a stove...they're there for a reason (though the child hasn't the "slightest"), but they're dangerous, nonetheless, and the child is told not to touch them.

Banishment from the Garden of Eden is akin to a father saying to a spoiled child, "If that's the way you're going to act, then you're not going to have it so easy anymore...Go to your room!"

Noah's Flood is the "corporal" punishment (i.e. the spanking) that the older child gets for some major wrong-doing, while

The Ten Commandments is the "laying down the law!!"

To me, though, Prophecy is the most intriguing of all. It's like the times you've heard (or said), "Someday, when you get bigger...when you have a child of your own...then you'll understand."

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And, then, in the New Testament, along comes the son of man...the child that comes so that "man" will understand. And, lo and behold, just as children are prone to do, he tells us "grown-ups" the most basic and beautiful truth (something that man knew, long ago, when he was young and innocent)...that God is a loving Father.

(Written, May 4, 1979. Edited, November 4, 2012.)