

The Fatherhood of God



**PANTAI BAPTIST CHURCH – COLLEGE & UNI
GROUP (CUG)**

18.3.2018



	Transliteration	Occurrences
אב	Ab (H1)	1212
Ἀββᾶ	Abba (G5)	3
πατήρ, πατρός	Pater (G3962)	418

George V. Wigram, *Englishman's Hebrew Concordance of the Old Testament* (1874) & *Englishman's Greek Concordance of the New Testament* (1839)



“[In the Old Testament] God is specifically called the Father of the nation of Israel (Deut 32:6; Isa 63:16; [twice] 64:8; Jeremiah 3:4; Jeremiah 3:19; 31:9; Mal 1:6; 2:10) or the Father of certain individuals (2 Sam 7:14; 1 Chron 17:13; 22:10; 28:6; Psalm 68:5; 89:26) **only fifteen times**. (At times the father imagery is present although the term “Father” is not used [Exod 4:22-23; Deut 1:31; 8:5; 14:1; Psalm 103:13; Jer 3:22; 31:20; Hosea 11:1-4; Mal 3:17]).”

Robert H. Stein, “Fatherhood of God” in *Baker’s Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology* (1997) eds. Walter A. Elwell



“It [i.e. the word “Father”] appears on [Jesus] lips some **sixty-five times in the Synoptic Gospels** and **over one hundred times in John.**”

Robert H. Stein, “Fatherhood of God” in *Baker’s Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology* (1997)
eds. Walter A. Elwell



"In the Pauline letters God is described as "Father" **over forty times**. It occurs in blessings (Rom 1:7; 1 Cor 1:3), doxologies (Rom 15:6), thanksgivings (2 Cor 1:3; 1 Thess 1:2-3), prayers (Col 1:12), exhortations (Eph 5:20), and creeds (1 Cor 8:6; Eph 4:6)."

Robert H. Stein, "Fatherhood of God" in *Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology* (1997)
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What do you think are some of the roles of a father?



"(1) Above all, the father is the source or origin of a family or clan, who as the founding father **provides an inheritance** to his children. (2) A father **protects and provides** for his children. (3) Obedience and honor are due to the father, and, hence when children disobey or go astray, they are **corrected or disciplined.**"

Marianne Meye Thompson, *The Promise of the Father: Jesus and God in the New Testament* (2000), p.39

Aspects of God's Fatherhood



i) In relation to Jesus

Q: How do we know Jesus is the Son?

E.g. Matthew 3:17 – and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”



ii) In relation to Israel

Q: How do we know Israel is God's son?

E.g. Exodus 4:22, Deuteronomy 32:18, Isaiah 64:8,
Malachi 1:6, 2:10



iii) In relation to Christians

Q: How do we know Christians are God's sons/children?

E.g. Matthew 6:9, John 1:12, Galatians 3:26,
Galatians 4:5-7



Deuteronomy 32:6

2 Kings 17

Jeremiah 3:19

Matthew 7:11

Matthew 11:27

John 8:29

Romans 8:17

2 Thessalonians 3:3

Hebrews 1:2

Hebrews 12:6



i) ...

Inheritance –

Protection & provision –

Correction & discipline –

Note: Do this for ii) and iii) as well

Answers



i) In relation to Jesus

Inheritance – Hebrews 1:2

Protection & provision – John 8:29,
Matthew 11:27



ii) In relation to Israel

Inheritance – Jeremiah 3:19

Protection & provision – Deuteronomy 32:6

Correction & discipline – 2 Kings 17



iii) In relation to Christians

Inheritance – Romans 8:17

Protection & provision – 2 Thessalonians 3:3;
Matthew 7:11

Correction & discipline – Hebrews 12:6

Implications for us



Character: children are to reflect the Father's likeness (**Matthew 5:48**)

Unity: one Father means one family (**Ephesians 4:3-6**)

Status: believers are related to Jesus Christ (**Matthew 12:50**)

Inheritance: believers are heirs of the Father's kingdom (**Romans 8:17**)

Submission: believers are to conduct themselves in fear (**1 Peter 1:17**)



"It is astounding that God wants us to call Him "Father." The implications are staggering. Having God as our Father means that He is a **living, personal being**, and **not an impersonal force**. It means we can get to know Him. It means we **can talk to Him and interact with Him**. It means we **can relate to Him** on a personal and even an intimate basis. I might not know how to relate to an Almighty One, a Most High, or the Great I Am, because I have not met anybody like that. I have no earthly frame of reference to do so. But relating to a father? That's different."

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, eds., Biblical Womanhood



“... the Puritans emphasized that adoption was both a **legal, positional status**, and also **an experience** to be cultivated in the Spirit of adoption. They were concerned that believers have an assurance that they are children of God, and that they enjoy fellowship with the Father in His love.”

Joel Beeke, author of *Heirs with Christ: The Puritans on Adoption* (2008), in his interview with Credo Magazine's Matthew Claridge

Issues in Scholarship



- i) The concept of “Fatherhood of God, brotherhood of man”
- ii) God and the Masculine Pronoun
- iii) Fatherhood in OT & NT – continuity or discontinuity?