

Bless the Generations to Come

The illustration depicts a young girl in a blue tunic and a purple plumed helmet, holding a glowing sword. She stands on a rocky, desolate landscape under a starry sky. A dark, dragon-like creature is visible in the background on the right. The overall tone is dramatic and hopeful.

HOPE OF THE FUTURE

Vichell Gudes

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DEDICATION

To my dearest son Lev. Through you, God taught me all these things and deepen my relationship with Him. You are the future and the legacy of our bloodline. You are destined to be a warrior—
one of the armies of God.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I praise my Father in Heaven, all that I have, all that I am, comes from Him. Jesus is all I have, He gives me all I need, my future is in His hands. And without the leading of the Holy Spirit, this book will not be possible. Thank you to my husband Gerard for all the support and time he had given me for me to be able to write this. Thank you to my mother, though our relationship is not perfect, she is the most generous person I have ever known. Thank you to Ms. Liza, I believe God has used her to reignite the fire within me for me to seek God directly from the Word. Thank you to all the Bible teachers and ministries who have inspired me: Derek Prince, John Paul Jackson, AoC Network, Lion of Judah, David Wilkerson, and John Ramirez. Lastly, thank you Lev, my son, for being so patient with me, I am not a perfect mom but I can see how joyful you are at all times; you are such a happy and lively child.

1 IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE

The Greek word for house is Oikos, which also means family or descendants through the male line. In the Old Testament, Israelites were defined by their fathers or in patrilineal terms. Family identity is strongly attached to the father of the house. In *Numbers 1:16*, the Bible recognizes men as leaders of the families, the head of the family, *“These were chosen from the congregation, leaders of their fathers’ tribes, heads of the divisions in Israel.”*

“For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.”

Ephesians 5:23 NKJV

The loss of head destroys life. Whether humans or animals, after cutting the head off, they die. Some animals can still operate for a couple of minutes to one hour or so like a snake after cutting their head off; you can say that these are the real zombies. Imagine a church without Christ, how lifeless their spirit could be. Jesus said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”* Jesus is the life of the church, and this also applies to every father in the family.

Fathers are the life of the family, for they provide for the whole family. God gave the role of leadership to the fathers of every family, and so the words that come from their mouth have weight on their children. Although this may not be always the case nowadays. Have you noticed that in most families, mothers have more authority than

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the father? It's because the enemy has corrupted the original design of God to mankind, women are now taking the place of men at home. When I say, "taking the place", I do not mean competition but exchanging roles. Both parents were given the responsibility to teach their children as Paul said in Ephesians, "Children, obey your parents." If we are commanded to obey our parents, then our parents must be teaching us something. But there are also some verses that pertain only to either mother or father.

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

Proverbs 1:8 NIV

My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

Proverbs 6:20 NIV

Instruction is slightly same as teaching but it's more on showing how the knowledge or information is done or applied. Instruction is also giving tools or specific task to something specific. So, if a father is giving specific task to do, in other words, they are giving commands. Command is something that must be obeyed while teaching is more on giving information or knowledge. These verses are telling us that fathers really do have a leadership role—someone to follow. Solomon has given us the difference between a mother and a father. It's not that we should obey more of our fathers because the Bible says, "Children, obey your parents," so we should obey both our mother and father. But, what I am trying to say here is that fathers should stand like what God had called them for—leadership. The kind of leadership that I am pertaining to is the one that pleases God. A person who is Christlike—has a life fully surrendered to God, full of love, compassionate, loves the presence of the Lord, hears the direction of the Lord, a builder, and a man after God's own heart. A father should be this kind of leader or the child will suffer the consequence and when the child rebels, the father suffers as well. It says in *Colossians 3:21 NIV*, "*Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*" The result of this is low self-esteem. Our God is a kind of Father who wants to fill us with hope. Paul commands in *Ephesians 6:4 NIV*, "*Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction*

of the Lord.”

Once children observed at home that their father is the leader in the house, the one that takes initiative, and protects their family, then, it will be easier for them to digest the truth that Jesus is the leader of the church, an initiator, and protector of the bride. Because our home should be a reflection of God’s truth. We parents, should not be the stumbling block in forming their identity, and nurturing their relationship with the Lord.

Light of the Home

Mothers are the light of the home, they give warmth and comfort to the family. I mostly hear from people that mothers are light of the home because they keep the home alive, they stay at home most of the time and keeping the whole household in order, clean and happy. But this God-given role is undervalued in these modern days. Some mothers have passed the buck to their helpers. I’m not generalizing; as a mother myself, I totally understand the hardships of motherhood.

When I gave birth to my son, even though we prepared the house for his coming, my motherhood journey still had many challenges. We had no helper or nanny for the first three months. My mother was only able to visit me once or twice a week the first month because she was only here for a vacation; she works abroad. My husband goes to work. I was alone in the house most of the time. I struggled to cook and eat on time, take a bath on time and there were days I even missed taking a bath, I was breastfeeding my baby crying, feeling worried I might not be able to give what he needs, feeling sorry to myself that I can’t eat and take a bath and feeling the weight of responsibility while I feel the criticism of people around me. By the fourth month, I needed to go back to work, so we hired a nanny to take care of my son during the day while I’m at work. I struggled to concentrate at work and I always hurry on my way home. I felt the need to watch over my son almost all the time because I felt like I am the only one he can lean on. So, I failed to perform at work as before. Conflicts arose, breast pumping became an issue, and work demanded more commitment from my end. We changed nanny twice until it left me no choice but to resign. That time, all I prayed

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was peace of mind. On my son's 7th month, I was already a full-time mom.

I felt the criticism here and there. All I wanted was to be a good mother, but the world around me made me feel like whatever I do, whether I go full time as a mom or as a working mom, I will never measure up. I had no support, my family was away and busy with their own life, although my father visited to play with my son for a number I can only count with my hands within a year. My friends are still single and were not visible. Although my husband was very supportive, he tried his best to give me "me" time. But one thing I started to do when I felt my world was so heavy and still fighting for my sanity, I withdrew from social media. I stopped posting pictures about my son, for me not to feel criticized and won't feel the pressure of competition. That process was so painful. But I have overcome by the grace of God, and still refining myself in this motherhood journey. That's why I am writing this, to help parents be the best they can be according to God's will.

I would like to raise this awareness of what the enemy has been doing to humanity, to each family, to every parent living on this Earth. I know some family where both parents really need to work; they need it so they could eat, pay the rent, or at least survive with the basic needs. Yet they try their best to attend to their kids, because they want to be with their kids, they know in their hearts that their kids need them physically. No nanny or granny or tita can substitute the love and care of a mother. Some even work from home, juggling work and taking care of their kids, because they want to be with their children. They've seen the value of their children.

On the other hand, there are some situations where there's no exigency for the mother to work yet they do. They may not be aware of this, but if they will just examine their hearts and minds, they will find any of the following reasons:

- work is an escape from reality
- undealt emotions of the past are stirring up as they deal with their own child
- materialism (or addiction), can't let go of acquiring possessions
- becoming indifferent to the child thinking they deserve

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to be a happy adult

- agreed to society's definition of success and fulfillment that can only come from work
- gone with the flow of competition
- they don't see their value in staying at home, longing to prove themselves worthy of respect and set the stage where people can look up to them
- this is an aftermath of what they have experienced from their parents
- they feel more relaxed in the office; can't fully enjoy being with their kids
- feeling inadequate, unequipped to take care of their kids
- to work far from their kids is to keep their sanity

You might be surprised to know that these are all valid reasons. We will come to understand this as we go along the following chapters. I've been there. But Jesus grabbed me out of that dark tunnel. No friends or family have ever offered that hand of help to get me out of that dark tunnel, only God. God has His ways to show me that light and be free from what's enslaving me. All those reasons above have rooted deeply from the self. The self, back in childhood, the emergence of self in childhood, and the brain as it matures. It has layers of story behind every reason you could think of why a mother cannot fulfill the role God has given to them. A person cannot be helped unless he admits he needs help. It can be a long road to treatment, but you need to start somewhere now. The church sometimes calls it inner healing, psychology calls it healing trauma, and neuroscience calls it rewiring of the brain.

Just imagine yourself in the shoes of your child. Your parents leaving you every day to work, what would you feel? Of course, as time goes by, children get used to that situation, they don't have a voice to go against your plan. But how do we, as a person, feel important? Isn't when people spend time with us? How do we, as a person, feel loved? Isn't it when you feel people love our company, when they try to get to know us?

Why do some people look down on the nanny's job, or on the helper's job? While it was originally part of the mother's job? No

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wonder many mothers struggle with low self-esteem. We belittle our role, our responsibility; and because we want to deem ourselves as someone and earning society's respect, we turn our back on motherhood calling and devote ourselves outside the home. Let me rephrase the question. Why do some parents give little importance to their child? As if the child does not deserve their time and attention. Why do some people devalue the role of parents? As if there is no honor in raising kids at home. No wonder there is a growing number of insecure adults. These adults were raised in a home where they did not feel they are worthy of their parents' love; raised in a home where they did feel they are a waste of time; raised in a home where relationship means business and not family.

Having a nanny or helper became a status symbol as this world modernize. I'm not saying not to have a nanny at all. In fact, if possible, if your family can avail to have one, it will help you fulfill your role as a mother by giving you an extra hand. Because when mothers do all the house chores, the next issue is having no time with the child or showing hot temperament towards the child, which is also not healthy. I know how some moms can juggle home responsibilities that are usually done by 3 people. Mothers get tired too, and they need self-care as everyone else in the house. But to those who are having issues with low self-esteem or how they view themselves, I want you to challenge your reasoning of how you view your purpose as a mother and what thought is prodding you to decide or to act in a certain way in your family. Every family is different, what works for me doesn't mean it will also work to your family. Nevertheless, we all have to self-check. Because our perspective greatly affects our success in fulfilling God's purpose in our life and in blessing the next generation.

I think there is a correlation between the history of having nannies and feminism. More and more women wanting a job or a position that was freely available for men; leaving their job at home, especially with the kids 6-years-old below to prove their worth as a person. I'm not anti-feminist, there's nothing wrong with fighting for equal rights with men. I'm actually one of the women who believes that women are capable to do something great; as great as what man can do. Men and women are created equal in God's sight, but have differences in role or function. The quickest and the most

obvious answer to what difference that is, is childbirth. You might have read a lot during the time of your pregnancy how your body changes as the baby grows inside your womb. And according to science, it's a natural thing why women are much needed at home to take care of the baby because of their body; they are the ones who gave birth therefore the baby is more attached to them. I believe there is time for everything. A time will come, when your child is ready, probably around the 2nd plane of development, you can fulfill that other dream outside the walls of your home. Besides, family naturally spends less and less time together as the children grow up. If we'll pay close attention to the self-issue of a person of why do they need to work to prove their worth, we'll realize that the problem has rooted from childhood. And one area we could look at is how attached a person is to their parents; the kind of attachment they had with their parents during the early childhood, how they feel loved, how they were validated and the attention they have received.

My prayer to all the mothers of this generation is for God to awaken the spirit of motherhood within them according to God's purpose. May God rekindle love in every home and let the armies of the Lord arise.

The Corrupted Human

Satan has ruined the identity of men and women at home. He really knows where to start. Remember, he poisoned Adam & Eve by bringing in disobedience. The minds of first human parents were corrupted by having their own perception of right and wrong, good and evil that is far different from God's perspective. This has resulted to lawlessness. Humanity has created their own definition of what is right and what is good that is contrary to what God has given in the first place.

Satan knew how vital parents' roles are. He's been destroying the lives of our parents, and their ancestors for a very, very long time. Through hundreds, even thousands of years our parents have been battling with life-war, famine, poverty, exodus, slavery and disaster. These things have greatly affected how kids were parented during that time. These had made the dynamics inside every home shaky and miserable. Have you noticed some children's bedtime stories

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like Little Red Riding Hood and Hansel and Gretel written between 14th and 19th century, how odd the story was? Because these stories are true stories of the past, it creatively tells their story when famine came, they needed to abandon their children and how war made every home fatherless. It's heartbreaking. It really was a challenge for both parents and children. And this has developed children to high survival mode. The world now is facing this same situation and even worse. Everything that had happened to the parents in the past has an effect to what is happening today. The increasing growth of atheism, sexual identity crisis, divorce, addiction, mental illness and violence are directly related to home and parenting. The truth is, the dreadful situation of homes in the past has led today's children growing up living with their father wound.

Father wound is the absence of love from your father; this can also happen with mothers. But the effect of the father's has a different and certain psychological impact compared to a mother's. Father-child interactions provide children with enriching experiences that are unique from mother-child interactions. Based on the attachment theory of Grossman, Kindler, and Zimmermann, unpredictable play facilitated by father-figures may be an important context for practicing self-regulation skills. If the wound is from both parents, how hard that must be for a child? As I study researches about child development, I realized that it is possible to trace back childhood by the person's behavior and personality. You might have heard people say, "behavior reflect how their parents raised them." Although, no matter how good or bad we are raised, at the end of the day we decide who we want to be. Both my maternal grandfather and my father had a painful experience with their disciplinarian violent father, but they didn't end up the same way.

Based on research, most Atheist have father wound. It is because they have this tainted image of fatherhood. It's hard to comprehend God as a Father when you yourself are fatherless or were unloved by your own father, or worse is molested or maltreated to the point that you are almost killed. I can't relate to people who were molested, but of all my siblings I was the one who experienced maltreatment; I was tortured at an early age. So I know the feeling of being sensitive to pain and full of hatred. My father even told me

during my teen years that he hates me and can't explain why. And still I forgave him, and as we go along the chapters, you'll know the importance of forgiveness.

Derek Prince said in his book *Fatherhood*: “When we come into the fullness of this revelation of God and into that direct relationship with God as Father, it supplies certain things which are conspicuously lacking in the emotional experience of perhaps the majority of the people in our culture. The three things which come out of this revelation and this relationship are: identity, self-worth, and security.”

Sadly, these three things faded as the father wound grew deeper. And now you wonder why youth even adults find themselves in the cycle of finding themselves, insecurity, and seeking validation. And why our culture is full of unnecessary competition yet leaving their hearts empty. The cravings of our society are never satisfied, they only go with the flow of whoever is driving the economy and social media, never fulfilling their own destiny; running the race of others.

Family Influences, Types of Houses

Normally, when we make friends, it's either we ask what they do for a living or their surname to see if we are connected or somehow connected through a friend. Knowing the surname also gives us a picture of their personality or understands why they behave in a certain way.

You probably have seen doctors who came from the family of doctors, lawyers who came from the family of lawyers, pastors who came from a religious family, business owners who came from the family of entrepreneurs, and so on. And you probably have heard people saying, “I was born poor, I'm gonna die poor.” Or someone telling others, “you're born rich so you don't have to worry about your future.” This is called intergenerational transmission, the transfer of social or economic status across generations. But what if the thing that is being transferred is violence? The first intergenerational transmission of violence ever documented was in 1940. When a husband-and-wife team at Harvard Law School found that 67% of boys in the area of Boston are sent by a court to a

reformatory had a father who had been arrested.

A criminal of the year 2002 was interviewed and shared what happens in a criminal family. He said, “what you are raised with, you grow to become.” He doesn’t like toys when he was young, and the only thing that’s fun for him was stealing. He learned by imitating his father, his brothers, and his uncles, this is called social learning-copying the behaviors of those around them. As he grows up, stealing has become a dare and his way to please and make his father proud. He even described his family as loving and supportive, which became the very reason why he is unrepentant. Researchers have discovered that the family’s history of criminality stretches back to 1920. It started with one crime committed by the parents and since then it has become a family affair. This family has raised four generations of criminals.

Contrast to that story is of Esther Wojcicki’s, a Russian-Jewish mother who raised two successful CEOs, 23AndMe and YouTube. She wrote a book entitled, “How to Raise Successful People.” Many people were curious about how she did raise her daughters to be that successful. So she wrote a book to help parents understand why we need to think consciously about our parenting, not just using parental instinct because sometimes that instinct we have is rooted in our broken childhood.

If you think you are the type of person who has a painful childhood and a product of anger and control, most probably, you don’t want to repeat the way you were raised, then you really should be conscious and intentional in your parenting. But do not fret, you are not alone. The Devil might say to you that you’re the only person who has that kind of problem, that if God loves you, why did He put you in that place but that is all a lie. The Devil has been operating as a killer, destroyer, and stealer for a very, very long time, since the time of the garden of Eden. When the Devil first spoke to our first parents, Adam and Eve, the first thing he did was to bring confusion in their minds. Trust in God was destroyed; their peace was stolen; selfish desires were fueled. And the penalty for that sin is death, disobedience has changed the future of entire humanity.

If you had bad childhood experiences at home, chances are, your

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parents are on the same boat. Many people might call it a cycle, some call it a generational curse, but not everyone realized that forgiveness and doing the will of God can stop the works of the evil one.

Esther Wojcicki even wrote her own painful experiences and learned how to make peace with it. She said, "I accept it, and I'm not mad about it. I just want to make it better for other kids." She grew up with a father she realized is dealing with his own issues, his own demons, but that did not stop her to dream for a happy home and change the future of the next generation. By taking that brave and effortful step, her kids had a great future.

Whatever we put on the table, the children eat. If we are continually eating anger of the past, our children suffer and carry that anger probably for the rest of their lives. So whatever status you are in right now, take the smart way to live or else you're just mad all your life.

House as a Temple

House is also interpreted as a temple. Remember when God spoke to prophet Nathan in 2 Samuel 7 He said, "*Go and tell My servant David, Thus says the Lord: "Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?"*" Because a house is a place where we stay or live in. God longs to be with us. So, Solomon built the first temple. It says in 1 Kings 6:1, "*...he began to build the house of the Lord.*"

But when the era of the New Testament came, the meaning of the temple changed. From a physical building to the man himself.

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 3:16, NKJV

But why did that happen? Because from the very beginning, God has always wanted to dwell amongst His people. But Sin gets in the way. God hates sin because He is holy. He hates sin for it has separated us from Him; it blinds us from the Truth; it enslaves us and eventually destroys us. That is what happened back in the garden of Eden; Adam and Eve's disobedience separated them from God and eventually suffers the consequence—death.

“The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,” says the Lord of hosts. ‘And in this place I will give peace,’ says the Lord of hosts.”
Haggai 2:9, NKJV

Now, let's look at this same verse from other translations. Here, we'll see that the temple God is talking about is also called the house of God.

‘The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘And in this place I will grant peace,’ declares the Lord Almighty.
Haggai 2:9, NIV

In verse 13, Haggai asked the priests, *“If one who is unclean because of a dead body touches any of these, will it be unclean?”* He analogizes this to the process of building the temple. This is something we can relate even today, that due to touching impure or unclean things which are usually identified as sin, the works of our hands or the fruit of our works are impure as well. So imagine if you are cultivating the sin of unforgiveness, you are building your home based on that sin. Haggai also raised a question of priorities that people are more interested in satisfying their own pleasures than doing the work of God or building a temple for God. Again, our body is also called the temple of God, and we build this temple by letting God refine our character. You will know what matters to a person by looking at their priorities.

Jesus, the Temple Builder

Thousands of years passed by and still, man cannot save himself from sin. Religious acts did not change the course of human eternity. You can imagine how very few are the number of people whom God

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delights and you might say, could only be the heroes of the Bible or worst—none of us. Religion has no power to change a heart, only the power of God, the power of His love, by His Spirit. Following a set of rules can never take you to heaven and can never achieve righteousness with God. We will never be good enough to earn it. Only the love of God can save us from our sins, not our works, but by His grace. Jesus took away the curse of death; this is exactly what happened on the cross that through the blood of Jesus Christ our spirit comes to life. This is God’s gift to us, the only way is to receive it by faith.

*“O Death, where is your sting?
O Hades, where is your victory?
The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
1 Corinthians 15:55-57 NKJV*

Derek Prince said, “The absolute perfection of the redemptive work of Jesus on the cross. It was a perfect work. Through it, Jesus administered a total eternal, irrevocable defeat to Satan and his kingdom.” Only Jesus has the power to change and purify a heart. That only happens when we surrender everything upon the cross. It is the only act of surrender where you win; it is called the great exchange. Let Jesus be the center of our lives, the chief leader of our house, this body, the Holy Spirit as the master of our spirit, and pronounce that He is our Lord and Savior. Hosanna. Selah.

*“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
1 John 1:9 NKJV*

It is natural if you feel distant from God because of sin but He is just right there waiting, and ready to forgive; just ask God to. We don’t have to worry because God is not like the man who remembers the sin of the past; he is not like Satan, who condemns and makes you feel guilty of your sins. It says in *Hebrews 8:12 ESV*, “*For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.*”

We also play a part in building a house that pleases God. It requires our “Yeses” to all He has commanded us, to whatever He

may call us to do.

Scripture says in *Joshua 24:15 NKJV*, “*And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*” If your fathers have served other gods; wooden gods, cults & mysticism practices, money, worldly leaders and even themselves to achieve their own selfish desires, and God is opening your awareness to His truth? Choose to serve the Lord. You are born for such a time as this. To stop the cycle, to stop the curse and start off the blessings that God has been longing for you to possess. The parents of today are the generation whom God has promised a vision of the future and the beginning of deliverance upon our homes.

Let us start with ourselves, this body, to set as good examples inside our homes. That as we follow Jesus, our children will follow our example. Remember, our home is the headwaters of mission, this is where warriors or the armies of God are born. Let us be encouraged with this truth, if you build God’s house He will build yours. The Lord promised David of his offspring in *2 Samuel 7:13 NIV*, “*He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*” Let us build our home for God’s glory.

With such truth, how are we building our houses? How you answer that question will reflect what type of home you are giving your family. And that is a significant determinant for your children’s future. We will discover how parenthood and parenting greatly affect the future of a child as we move along this book.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Vichell Gudes was born and raised in Manila, Philippines. She used to work in the corporate world as a programmer until she gave birth to a son, and that changed her life. Since then, God has been pruning her to be the kind of mother He intended her to be.

Now, she is sharing her journey as a parent and the spiritual warfare in every home.

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BREAK-OFF GENERATIONAL CURSES IN YOUR FAMILY

Do you feel trapped in a life you never wanted? Or perhaps you think you have all the financial blessings yet something in you is screaming for freedom, for healing or miracle? You want to change yourself, change your life, change your world but you feel powerless, and hard to feel happiness and satisfaction in this life. Vichell has asked the same question, has felt the same way but God was so gracious and did amazing things in her life. And now she wants to share what she has learned along this journey of parenthood -the season when God revealed about generational curses. This readable book will help you understand the spiritual warfare every parent has in their homes -the reason behind curses, the releasing of blessings, devil schemes since the Garden of Eden, and the Lord's divine plan in your life.



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