

The Spirit of Adoption
Winning the Battle for Children
Adoption is the next frontier for those who call themselves pro-life.
Randy & Kelsey Bohlender

Review by Barbara Buzzard

In the foreword Lou Engle causes us to catch our breath for a moment when he tells us that Roe v. Wade, that infamous court case that legalized abortion on-demand in America, took place on January 22, 1973. The date 1/22, he believes, is not without great significance. This was nothing less than a *decree of death*, disguised as ‘the right to choose.’ There was another decree of death issued on a 1:22. Exodus 1:22: “So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying ‘Every son who is born you shall cast into the river...’”¹ Destruction of children is as old as Satan himself. God’s opposite way is utterly brilliant: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders” (Isa. 9:6).

Also profound is Malachi 4:6: “And he [Elijah] will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers.” Apparently society is at a breaking point; intervention is necessary to save the children. On this basis, the authors say that the most prophetic/biblical thing you can do in this present age is to adopt a child. Prophecy or commandment or both? Where will the children find deliverance and rescue? Where will the children learn the Truth?

Turning our hearts toward the children — what does this mean? The Bohlenders’ answer: “the art of becoming a son or daughter of the living God and extending sonship to the next generation.” Consider this: ***without a link to you and your teaching, some children may never discover their link to God.***

The New Underground Railway

The authors feel that God is sounding a call in our day for revolutionaries who will look at adoption as an act of spiritual warfare. “Adoption is to abortion what the Underground Railroad was to slavery...Adoption is not much different from freeing slaves. It’s hard work. It’s inconvenient. It’s costly. It’s far easier to simply give verbal assent to the idea of being pro-life than it is to be a safe house and take in those for whom we are praying to be set free.”² The heroic actions of Schindler or Raoul Wallenberg and so many others are a testament to the bravery of the human spirit when moved to do the right thing.

The Battle for the Children

“In a storyline that only God could orchestrate,” we review the story of Moses’ adoption, i.e. God fashioning a deliverer for the Hebrew people. Then we look at the adoption of Esther — a Jewish adoptee raised up to be a deliverer. Had she not had the influence of her adoptive father, she might not have had the courage to risk her life and save the Jewish people. With very different circumstances, Joseph adopted the Son of God and therefore played a role in the salvation of the human race.

Currently 1 in 3 pregnancies end in doctor-administered death (abortion). But **note this**: “one of the fastest-growing segments of adoption are those that place children with gay or lesbian couples...Unable to have children by normal means and desperately wanting the trappings of a ‘normal family’ in order to more integrate themselves into society, homosexual couples extend

¹ *The Spirit of Adoption*, Randy & Kelsey Bohlender, p. 11

² *Ibid.*, pp. 27, 28

their influence through adoption.” And then, of course, there are the child traffickers. The battle for the children is sobering indeed!

The authors speculate: “There will be a great eschatological adoption movement at the end of the age. Even a cursory study of end-time events will reveal war, disasters, and judgments that will kill a significant percentage of human beings. This will lead to a huge number of orphans wandering the face of the earth, looking for a home. The church of Jesus will rise to the occasion and embrace this border-less nation of children. In doing so, the children’s needs will be met and the cause of Jesus will be moved forward as a generation learns that God is their ultimate Father and He will fight for them.”³

Myths About Adoption

- 1) *There are no babies to adopt in the U.S.* Every day babies are born here and go straight into foster care.
- 2) *It’s too risky.* Some risks are worth the payoff as thousands of adoptive parents will testify.
- 3) *Adoption takes too long.* (Not always.)
- 4) *Adoption is too expensive.* (The Bohlenders are working to change this and have made significant headway.)
- 5) *We already have enough kids.* Should you not ask God about this?

Everything You Thought You Knew...

“Much has been made of the idea of ‘going to heaven.’ As children, many of us were told that would be the end of all days. We were never given a lot of details but assumed it involved some harp playing and cloud riding. We smiled and pretended to be excited. Inwardly, we wondered, ‘Is that all there is?’ This idea of escaping to a cloud sells short the full plan of God, which is not that we all go to heaven, but rather that heaven comes to earth. Ephesians 1:9-10 promises that He’ll make known to us the mystery of His will, which will come into fulfillment as he brings all things in heaven and on earth together under one head even Christ.”

Romans 8:17 (NIV) goes on to say, ‘If we are His children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.’ He’s not making a way for us to escape this realm; He’s preparing to reign over the nations and invites us to join Him! He will rule the earth in righteousness and justice and we will serve at His side.”⁴

The Master Plan

“Believers have a universal command to pass on wholehearted devotion to the Lord to the next generation. This is not a new command; it’s as old as time itself. The mandate is not trendy, it’s difficult, time-consuming, and overwhelmingly unpopular in a microwave world that cannot pay attention long enough to see the cause and effect. Nevertheless, it is a command so important for the human race to understand that God took Moses to a mountain, manifested His presence with fire and wrote it on his heart so that he could carry it to the nation. ‘Hear, O Israel, The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart with all your soul, and with all your strength.’ (Deut. 6:4, 5) Jesus calls this the ‘greatest commandment.’”⁵

³ Ibid., p. 42

⁴ Ibid., pp. 50, 51

⁵ Ibid., pp. 100, 101

We *are* to tell the story. It's a command, a mandate, a non-negotiable. So too, the exercising of compassion and mercy. This call to action, specifically with regard to adoption can be obeyed in a variety of ways: financial sponsorship, practical help and involvement, volunteering in all manner of capacities. I am moved to hear adoptive parents say with all the sincerity that is in them that "it is without a shadow of a doubt, the best thing we have ever done." One adoptive father makes a profound point when he says: if we can only love those who are biologically ours, that is awfully shallow.

Getting Personal — A Call to Action

How does one conquer a stagnant status quo? 3,000 to possibly 4,500 babies a day are torn from their mother's wombs in an exceedingly painful death. **Ask yourself: Is this OK with me?** Randy and Kelsey Bohlender have written this book as a call to action. "This is your cue to move. If you've been waiting like David for the wind in the tops of the mulberry trees, the wind is blowing right now. It's time for action. Ask God what it means for you to be involved in caring for orphans, and then listen...may an adoption revolution begin in your heart that sweeps around the world until there is no memory of a time when children were called unwanted."⁶

"In having children, naturally born or adopted, you extend your influence beyond the seventy-some years that most people spend on this earth...Few will come right out and say they don't want children, but fewer still will pay the price of having them. Consciously or unconsciously, people are most often choosing between children and ease."⁷

This is a bold and beautiful book, provoking and honest. I am very grateful to the authors. It is a reality check, perhaps even a measuring device whereby we might compare ourselves to the biblical standards. The compelling issue and question is that of mercy and compassion on the fatherless, an integral part of true and lasting religion (James 1:27). As per Ps. 10:14b, "You are the defender of orphans."

Pro-child, Pro-Life, Pro-Coming of the King

Adoption is often a selfless act of love, mirroring God's love, grace and goodness. Adoption is pro-child, pro-life, love in action. It is pro-future and as the authors so incisively put it: it is "pro-Coming of the King. We are not in this arena to rescue children only in the present, but to give them access to the Throne of God for all eternity."⁸ It is about *extending* the very blessings that we have been granted. It is about stepping up so that a child might know the LORD.

⁶ Ibid., pp. 134, 5

⁷ Ibid., pp. 80, 81

⁸ Ibid., p. 85