

“Another Generation Arose”

- A. **It is exciting** to read about what God accomplished for Israel through Moses & Joshua.
1. It's inspiring to read about the deliverance from Egyptian bondage, & the way God worked to bring the people into the Promised Land.
 2. It's astonishing how a people with so little military training could be so effective in battle against greater & more experienced armies ([Exo 17:8-16](#)).
 - a. But the reason for that success was stated by Joshua in the final days of his life ([Josh 23:1-10](#)).
- B. **But the day came** when Israel could no longer stand against her enemies, & the reason for that is stated in the Book of Judges.

1. First, Israel failed to complete the conquest of the land of promise ([Jud 1:27-36](#)); the Angel of the Lord said they would live to regret that ([Jud 2:1-6](#)).
2. But secondly, the reason they could not stand against their enemies is stated in those famous words, which are often read but seldom considered ([Jud 2:7-15](#)).

[Israel went into apostasy, renounced faith in the LORD God & abandoned loyalty to Him – just two generations removed from Joshua.]

I. THREE REASONS FOR ISRAEL'S DEPARTURE FROM GOD

A. They DID NOT know the Lord ([Jud 2:10](#)).

1. That He is jealous ([Exo 20:5](#); [34:14](#); [Deut 4:24](#)).

- a. So they intermarried with the heathens, which Moses & Joshua commanded them not to do, & they did what was right in their own eyes (Josh 23:11-13; Jud 17:6; 21:21).
- B. They DID NOT know the work of the Lord, which He had done for Israel (Jud 2:10).
- 1. That His right hand, glorious in power, had dashed their enemies into pieces (Exo 15:6).
 - a. So they never even called to mind the promise they made to Joshua (Josh 24:16-18).
- C. They forsook the Lord & served idols (Jud 2:11-15), just as Joshua said they would (Josh 24:19-21).

[Now these 3 reasons for Israel's departure from God imply their failure on at least 4 levels.]

II. FOUR LEVELS OF FAILURE THAT CAUSE DEPARTURE FROM GOD

- A. The Priests were to read the entire Law to the people every 7 years (Deut 31:9-13), when the nation gathered at the Tent to observe the Feast of Tabernacles (Sabbatical year, a year of release: debts, slaves).
- 1. The church is a **priesthood**; so at some level we must all be ready to teach (Heb 5:12-14).
 - 2. **Teachers** in the church are appointed for the equipping of the saints (Eph 4:11).
 - a. Examples (1 Tim 4:11-16; 2 Tim 2:15-26)
 - b. Whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27)
 - c. Favorable or unfavorable (2 Tim 4:1-4)
 - d. Please God, not men (Gal 1:9-10)
- B. The Elders were a governing body of older men appointed from each tribe to represent Moses to the nation (Num 11:16-17, 24-30).

1. **Elders** in the church are the Shepherd's of souls that belong to the Chief Shepherd (1 Pet 5:4).

- a. Take heed to self & to their flock (1 Pet 5:2-3)
- b. Spiritual nutrition & protection (Acts 20:28-29)

C. The **Parents** were to teach God's word diligently to their children (Deut 4:7-10; 6:4-9).

1. **Parents** in the church are to take charge of their children's spiritual upbringing (2 Tim 1:5; 3:14-17).

- a. "Bring them up" – train & educate
- b. "Training" – discipline
- c. "Admonition" – instruction, put into the mind

D. The **People** themselves should have desired to hear the word of God, & demanded to hear it from those who were authorized to bring it to them. There was even a witness against them; a stone (Josh 24:22-28).

1. **Christians**, the citizens of the Kingdom of God, should have a hunger & thirst for the Word.

- a. Abounding in the Lord's work (1 Cor 15:58)
- b. Demanding truth (John 17:17; 2 Cor 2:4-5).
- c. Denying ungodliness & worldly lusts (Ti 2:11-14)
- d. Loving God above all else (Mark 12:30)

CLOSING

A. **We must accept** our responsibilities today; the coming generation is depending on us.

B. **Our Father & Lord** is depending on us to pass on the knowledge of Him & His word.

C. **If we do not**, then there will arise a generation after us that does "*not know the Lord nor the work which He has done*" for His people.

- The “new generation” that arose after Joshua’s death was unable to appreciate the hardships, the sacrifices & the battles that the preceding generation experienced in order to establish Israel as God distinct and holy nation.
- I suspect it would have been hard to make them understand why the older generation was so strongly opposed to different kinds of worship to various gods.
- I suspect many of the younger generation wondered, *“Why must we worship as our parents do, if there can be found a way to lessen the friction that exists between us & our neighbors by accepting some of their worship customs & rituals.”*
- God’s people today, the church, have fought many spiritual battles over the years against false religion, false doctrine, false worship & unholy lifestyles.
- And after every battle, *“another generation [arises] after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done”* for His people.
- This was a generation that did not understand the sacrifices, toils & reasons why the preceding generation of *faithful* Christians took the actions they did.
- That “new generation” became all too willing to reach an accommodation with the very people whom their father’s & mothers battled to defend the Truth.
- That is why it is so vital that, in the church, Teachers, Elders & Parents instruct the coming generation on the reasons why we have resisted all unscriptural doctrines & practices over the years (give examples).
- When unscriptural “things” are introduced into the church it is an attempt, on man’s part, to improve on God’s plan & to build the church in the image of man’s intellect rather than on God’s all-wise & eternal word.
- Remember this, if there was a reason to oppose certain doctrines & practices back then, & demand a “thus says the Lord” for all we do, then that reason exists today (**Matt 28:20; Col 3:17; Phil 4:9**).