

The Final Generation- Part 2

Sunday, January 6, 2019
Mike Miller
Straight Paths Bible Church

One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever. Eccl. 1:4

And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel. And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, *being* an hundred and ten years old. And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnathheres, in the mount of Ephraim, on the north side of the hill Gaash. And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. **Judg. 2:7 through Judg. 2:10**

- I. We are always just one generation from apostasy.
 - A. When the people who saw the hand of God are gone God is forgotten and forsaken – unless that generation also sees his hand in their own lives.
 - B. The generation before Joshua had never known the hand of God as they were bondman in Egypt and had been for generations.
 1. They were full of unbelief in spite of the miracles and daily care God performed for them.
 - C. Joshua's generation was one that stepped out and trusted God – unlike their fathers.
 - D. But the next generation was another one that refused to believe God.
- II. When your motives are right God will be with you.
 - A. Joshua led the children of Israel into the promised land and they took it because of God's Word – because it was God's promise.
 1. It was not because Joshua was a better leader or closer to God than Moses.
 2. It was strictly because of the prevailing influence and the character of the people of each of those generations.
 - B. They could have continued to wander in the desert like their fathers had for 40 years, but they trusted and obeyed God and God wrought miraculous things for them.
 - C. That generation stayed with God who had done all these great things for them – they did not forget.
 1. They had special days to remember what God had done for them and what they had been through to bring them to this place.
 2. They taught their children about God and rehearsed to them what He had done for them to bring them to this place.
 3. These people of this generation knew what it was to be without a home and a country – that is the way they had spent their lives until they entered the promised land.
- III. The next generation did not know the Lord.
 - A. They had no first-hand knowledge of God and they had not seen his great works He had done.

- B. They turned away from God in spite of the fact that they were raised and taught right by their parents who trusted and obeyed God.
- C. To them it had become just a bunch of stories that the old people told.
- D. It was from another time and another world to them.
- E. They were focused on their day and their generation.
- F. They did as this present generation is doing and burned all the bridges behind them thinking they were antiquated and they would never need them again.
- G. Their motives became completely selfish and temporal – and therefore God could not be with them in their endeavors.
- H. The idea that God had given them this land and this freedom was lost to worldly views of why they were there and what their life was about.
 - 1. It became about their rights and their freedom to do wickedness.
 - 2. They did not forsake religion altogether, but simply changed it to fit their own views and purposes.
 - 3. They never denied their identity as Jews, but they changed what they were and what they were about completely from the generation of their fathers.
 - 4. They forgot their history and stopped teaching their children and began to learn the way of the heathen instead – so they became just like them.

And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth. Judg. 2:13

- 5. They REFUSED God and instead chose to serve a god that was immoral and sensual, and that broke down the divine order of male and female.
- 6. They adopted the universal codes and character of idolatry: nakedness, no morals concerning relations between men and women, abolishing the distinction and natural order of the genders, and humanizing and worship of animals, among other things – all of which are abominations to God.

- IV. God does not like to be rejected and forgotten – which is easy to understand because we don't either – no one likes to be forsaken by someone he loves and has given himself to.
 - A. God does not sit still and do nothing when He is forgotten and thrown in the trash by a proud, unthankful, and wicked generation whose fathers He has blessed and helped.
 - 1. This is a huge error that every untoward generation such as this makes – they think God is not going to do anything about it, but...

And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies. Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed. Judg. 2:14-15

- B. Spoilers were those who plundered, robbed, and destroyed their land and their stuff.
 - 1. What has happened to America's wealth and industrial strength?
 - 2. It has been spoiled by the spoilers.
 - 3. What are all these illegal aliens doing receiving social security and free health care and education?
- C. They could no longer stand before their enemies.
 - 1. What has happened to the America that stood against the British Empire, and won?

2. What has happened to the America that stood against the evil powers of the world in WWI and WWII and won?
 3. We cannot stop a bunch of desert nomads on camels from terrorizing and killing everywhere.
 4. We can't stand against a Korea, or a Vietnam, or an Iran, or a Libya.
 5. We can't even stop the foreigners from walking across our borders freely.
 6. The enemies can threaten us openly, murder and rape, destroy and desecrate our flag and flaunt our law in our own land and we cannot stop them.
- D. Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil.
1. Where have we went out to fight in the years since we kicked God out of our culture that we have not saw the hand of the Lord against us?
 2. Are we gaining ground or losing ground with all our wars and endeavors around the world?

V. This generation that refuses God is stubborn and full of themselves.

And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them. And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, *that* they returned, and corrupted *themselves* more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way. **Judg. 2:18-19**

- A. There seems to be no cure for them outside of destruction.
- B. No matter what God does from that time on it seems to have no lasting affect on them.
- C. Although they appear to repent and turn back to God for brief periods of time, they just keep turning back to their own doings and their stubborn way.
 1. There are always those who explain God away and credit the evil and the good to chance or to their own doings or someone else's.
- D. Do not think that everyone in Israel was a part of this apostasy and madness.
 1. There were always those few who stayed faithful to God in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation.
 2. There are still those few today who have not refused God and who have not forsaken Him.
 3. God always makes provision for those and watches out for them when He judges the nation.
- E. So in this evil time in which we live when we know the judgment of God is at hand for our nation which has forsaken God, those who are the faithful people of God need to be listening intently to what God says to them now.
- F. They need to be honest and face the truth about the situation.
 1. We need to prepare for the judgement of God and not be expecting things to continue as they are.
 2. Don't expect a great revival to sweep the land – that generation is gone, and this is a generation that knows not the Lord.
 3. What our country has become today is nothing to be proud of.
 4. Our present condition and circumstances do not give us much to celebrate about.
- G. Let's honor our goodly heritage and not forget those whose faith in God and courage, and self-sacrifice bought for their children and grandchildren great freedom and opportunity to glorify God.

H. Read your Bible and get to know God and his ways well and look beyond the present circumstances because they will soon change.