

Another Generation Cometh

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

- I. Another generation cometh ...
 - A. This is a fact that is obvious from the crowd that is here right now – another generation cometh.
 - 1. We can count among us here tonight four generations.
 - 2. It's possible that within only a very few years we could see five generations here together.
 - 3. It is hard for young people to realize how profound this fact is.
 - B. Each generation is the product of the generation before them – and the influences they were subject to.

PROF'LIGATE, The word then signifies dashed, broken or ruined in morals. Abandoned to vice; lost to principle, virtue or decency; extremely vicious; shameless in wickedness; as a profligate man or wretch.

From the **profligate** Max-Jukes family in New York there have come more than two thousand descendants, six hundred of whom were feeble-minded or epileptic, three hundred and ten paupers, three hundred immoral women, and one hundred and forty-seven criminals, seven of whom were murderers. Only twenty had a trade, ten of these learning it in prison, and there has not been a soldier or common school graduate among them. The family has cost society over \$2,500,000.

In contrast with the above we find in an adjoining state nearly fourteen hundred descendants of Jonathan Edwards, a famous minister and college president, with not a pauper among them. Instead, there were two hundred and ninety-five college graduates, one hundred lawyers, one hundred or more ministers and missionaries, seventy-five army officers, sixty or more authors, sixty physicians, and thirteen college presidents.

Other studies have revealed similar results; for instance, the family tree of John Sebastian Bach, the famous organist and composer, shows in six generations fifty-seven musicians of repute, twenty-nine of whom were really noted. The father of Charles Wesley, the hymn-writer, was both musician and poet. Seven generations of ministers preceded the noted Ralph Waldo Emerson. So both good and bad results are seen from biological heredity.

2 Tim 1:5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

- C. The generation that cometh will surely be influenced by the one that is passing away.
 - 1. But each generation has to face and answer the question about what they are going to do about God.
 - 2. It is not a certainty that a godless generation will produce another godless generation.
 - 3. The Bible proves that fact, and shows us that the children of an evil generation sometimes turn to God and throw off the evil ways of their ancestors.

- II. God is always looking to the future generations and making mention of them in his promises.
 - A. God has that long view of things and is never caught up in only the present.
 - B. Even in the time of an ungodly generation that has forsaken and forgotten God, He is speaking to those of the future generations who will remember Him and turn back to him.

Jeremiah 31:3-4 The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry.

- C. Who is this “virgin of Israel?”
 - 1. It is certainly not the older people who have been so wicked that God has sent another king to carry them away to another land.
 - 2. This “virgin” of Israel has to be the young people among them.
 - 3. It is God speaking to those of the future generations that do not defile themselves as their forefathers have done.
 - 4. Although God has had to put an end to their nation because of their wickedness, it is not the end of God’s promises to those who will love Him and serve Him in the future.

Jeremiah 31:6 For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the LORD our God.

Jeremiah 31:10 Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.

Jeremiah 31:13-17 Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow. And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the LORD. Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not. Thus saith the LORD; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the LORD; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy. And there is hope in thine end, saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again to their own border.

- D. If you want to know the rest of that story read the 9th chapter of Nehemiah as they confess the sins of their fathers and sign and seal a covenant in writing that they will serve God and not do as their fathers did.

- III. Because of the fact that another generation cometh we have some responsibilities.
 - A. When we are young it is hard to realize that we will be the old generation very shortly, and we will be looking at the “generation that cometh” with hope or with despair.
 - 1. We will have regrets or we will be filled with joy by what they become.

3 John 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

- B. We are sowing with our children and we shall reap.
 - 1. We may be changing their diapers now, but they may be changing ours in a few short years.

2. We may be spoon feeding them now, but they may be spoon feeding us one day soon – another generation cometh.
 - C. We are making roads for our children and grandchildren to travel on.
 - D. Where are we leading those who are following behind us?
 - E. Even if you have no children, there are others who are going to follow you.
- IV. The mindset and character of the next generation will be affected by the circumstances the previous generation had to live with.
- A. Poverty or wealth
 - B. Indulgence and laziness
 - C. Sickness and suffering
 - D. Comfort and ease
 - E. All these will deeply affect the generation that is born and raised under these circumstances.
- V. The choices and decisions of a generation or multiple generations will set the course for those that follow.
- A. Their choice to marry or to divorce
 - B. Their choices concerning the place they live
 - C. Their choices concerning if and where they go to church and who they fellowship with.
 - D. Their choices concerning their occupation
 - E. Their choices concerning morality and worldliness.
- VI. The generation that cometh will be affected greatly by the way the previous generation looked at and treated their offspring.
- A. People who live self-indulgent lives and ignore their children will reap what they have sown.
 - B. People who are too busy for their children will find that their children are too busy for them when they are old.
 - C. People who fail to teach respect by their example will find that their children will not respect them down the road.
 - D. A child left to himself will bring his mother to shame – if parents are not diligent about instructing and watching after their children the devil and evil people will steal their minds and hearts and their lives will be wrecked.
 1. Many folks just have a false confidence about their children and fail to guard them as they should.
- VII. The generation that cometh will learn from the previous generation how to treat their parents.
- A. If we dishonor our parents we will reap the consequences when we are old.
- 1 Tim 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.
- VIII. What kind of generation is coming?
- A. It depends on what part of the cycle we are in.
 - B. In my opinion, it looks like we are in the final generation before God does what He always does when things reach the point that there is no remedy.

Prov 30:11 There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.

Prov 30:12 There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

Prov 30:13 There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.

Prov 30:14 There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.

1. I believe these verses are describing that final generation – not a progression.

C. If that is correct then we have great reason to hope for the next generation.

Jeremiah 31:16-17 Thus saith the LORD; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the LORD; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy. And there is hope in thine end, saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again to their own border.

D. In the very worst times this world has ever known there was always a remnant of God's people who were loving and serving God and training up the children who would lead the way back to God for the next generation after the judgement of God had fallen.

IX. So no matter what our age we have a responsibility to the next generation.

A. What they are depends very much on how we conduct our lives before them.

1. Our choices
2. Our affections
3. The things we teach them to value and cherish
4. The heritage we leave for them
5. By how well we protect them from the influence of Satan and this evil world around us.
6. By how well we teach them to love God and keep his commandments.