

**BOOK OF JUDGES**  
**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A GENERATION IS LOST?**  
**JUDGES 2:1-23 (Vs. 10)**

**Introduction**

We have been seeing how that just **ONE GENERATION** after **JOSHUA** and the **ELDERS** that served with **JOSHUA** were all dead and gone, the whole nation of **ISRAEL** is in deep trouble. (*vs 10*)

The last two weeks we dealt with “*What Happened?*” to cause this.

If you remember, we looked at the fact that:

**GOD DID NOT FAIL!**

**God’s Promises Never Fail!**

**God’s Purpose Never Fails!**

**GOD’S PEOPLE DID FAIL!**

**The Grandparents Failed!**

**The Parents Failed!**

**They Failed In Their Tasks...Teaching...Testimony!**

**The Children Failed!**

**The Children Failed In Their Obligation.**

**(To Seek, Receive, Acknowledge, Obey and Serve  
The LORD!)**

**The Children Failed In Their Opportunities.**

**The Children Failed In Their Observance.**

So we see what happened to get them to this point in *Judges 2:10*, but what was the result?

**What happened when this generation arose that knew not the LORD?**

*(Illustration: Draw some parallels with our own nation.)*

**I. THEY DID EVIL IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD! (Vs 11)**

*(Cf. Deuteronomy 4:23-29)*

**This was FIRST and FOREMOST what happened to them!**

**I want you to note several important things about this phrase:**

**A. What They Did MAY NOT Have Been Considered Evil By:**

- 1. The CANAANITE NATIONS They Dwelled With  
And Had Learned From! (The World)**

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- 2. Nor The CIVIL AUTHORITIES Of The Nation Of  
Israel! (The Elders)**
- 3. Nor The RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES Of The  
Nation Of Israel! (The Priests)**
- 4. Nor Their FELLOW BRETHREN!(Other Israelites)**
- 5. Nor By THEM PERSONALLY!**

**(There is the sense that what they were doing had become  
GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE by all but the ONE WHO  
MATTERED MOST!)**

**B. What They Did WAS EVIL IN THE SIGHT OF THE  
LORD!**

- 1. The LORD Is The One Who Sets The Holy  
Standard!**  
*1 Peter 1:15-16—“But as he which hath called you is  
holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;  
16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”  
(Cf. Leviticus 11:44)*
- 2. The LORD’s Holy Standard Was Codified In The  
Law He Gave To His People! (Psalm 19:7-11)**
- 3. The LORD’s Holy Standard Was And Is An  
Immovable Standard!**  
*Psalm 119:89—“For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled  
in heaven.”  
GOD is not the ONE WHO needed to change!*
- 4. EVERYTHING that is done is done IN HIS SIGHT!**  
*Proverbs 15:3— “The eyes of the LORD are in every  
place, beholding the evil and the good.”*

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*Hebrews 4:13*—“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”

Throughout this **BOOK** and all the historical **BOOKS** of the **WORD OF GOD** we find that the phrase “*did evil in the sight of the LORD*” is a regular phrase.

It occurs seven times in the **BOOK OF JUDGES**, as descriptive of the **SIX APOSTASIES OF ISRAEL**, which drew down upon them the **SIX SERVITUDES** under various enemies! (*Judges 2:11; 3:7; 3:12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1*)

**C. They Forsook The LORD GOD! (Vs 12, 13)**  
*Forsook* = “to depart, to abandon, to loose.”  
By definition it was a **determined act**.

**D. They Served And Followed Other Gods! (Vs 11-13)**  
*“Served”* = “to worship, obey.”  
*“Followed”* = “to walk behind.”

Note the **plurality** of gods they turned to: (*Vs 12*) “*other gods*” **BAALIM** or **BAAL** (*Vs 11, 13*) - **BAALIM** is the plural for **BAAL**. **BAAL** was the chief god worshiped by the people of **CANAAN**.

**ASHTAROTH** (*Vs 13*) - plural of **ASHTORETH**, a **CANAANITE** fertility goddess.

The **CANAANITES** had gods for almost every **SEASON**, **ACTIVITY**, and **PLACE**.

The worship of **BAAL** was frequently connected with immorality, which is one of the reasons the **ISRAELITES** were so sorely tempted.

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But, the **CANAANITES** saw the **LORD GOD JEHOVAH** as just another god to add to all their other gods.

The problem for both the **ISRAELITES** and the **CANAANITES** was the first two commandments of the **LORD**:

*Exodus 20:3-4*—“Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.”

**E. They Provoked The LORD To Anger! (Vs 12, 14)**  
*“Provoked To Anger”* = “to vex, agitate, stir up, or provoke the heart to a heated condition which in turn leads to specific actions.”

When the **LORD’S COVENANT PEOPLE** became unfaithful to **HIM, HE**, by virtue of **HIS HOLINESS** and **JEALOUS LOVE** was provoked to anger and wrath against them.

**D. They Lost The Hedge Of Protection Of The LORD!**  
(*Vs 14, 15*)

**F. They Developed Stubborn Hearts! (Vs 16-19)**  
**SIN HARDENS** and **CALLOUSES THE HEART AGAINST GOD!**

I think we all understand stubbornness don’t we?

**II. THEY DID EVIL IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD!**  
**THEY DIDN’T EXPERIENCE THE DELIVERANCE THAT COULD HAVE AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN THEIRS!**  
(*VS 20-23*)

The **LORD** allowed the **CANAANITE** nations to remain in the land.

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**Two reasons why God allowed this to happen are:**

1. **HE** chose to punish **ISRAEL** for her **APOSTASY** in turning to idolatry.
  
2. The **LORD** left the **CANAANITES** in the land to **TEST ISRAEL'S FAITHFULNESS to HIMSELF!**  
This provided each generation with an opportunity to keep the way of the **LORD** or to continue in the rebellion of their immediate ancestors.

**III. THEY CONTINUED IN A DOWNWARD CYCLE THAT CONTINUED FOR MANY YEARS TO COME! (325 years)**  
**SIN-->SUFFERING & SERVITUDE-->SUPPLICATION--> SALVATION-->SILENCE**

There were **SIX CYCLES** of this with **TWELVE JUDGES MENTIONED** that **GOD** used to **DELIVER ISRAEL** from her oppressors.

What a waste!

**Conclusion**

**What happens when a GENERATION is lost for GOD?**

You wind up with a **GODLESS SOCIETY**, with **PAIN**, with **SUFFERING**, with **SERVITUDE** and all that comes with it!

But it all began with **INCOMPLETE OBEDIENCE** of the **PARENTS** and **GRANDPARENTS!** *(1:11-2:5)*

Oh how we need **REVIVAL** in our own land!

Oh may we see from this how that **SMALL COMPROMISES** can **LEAD TO GREAT SIN!**