

“Another Generation”

Judges 2:6-15

HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE BOOK OF JUDGES

1. Judges covers Israel’s history from the death of Joshua to the rise of the kings of Israel.

- Abraham (2000 BC) Moses (in desert 1446-1406 BC) Moses dies (Joshua 1:1); Joshua succeeds
- The first kings of Israel: Saul (1050-1010 BC), David (1010-970 BC), and Solomon (970-930 BC)
- The book of Judges records Israel’s decline and struggle because they failed to obey the Lord.

2. God made a covenant with Israel through Moses on Mt. Sanai. (Ref. Exodus 19-24)

- God promised Israel land (Canaan)—but even more His presence (Law, Ark, Tabernacle & Temple).
- Under Joshua’s leadership, they invaded Canaan—with only partial success.
- Part of Israel’s responsibility in the covenant was to destroy the Canaanites. Ref. 7:1-2; 20:16-20
- Israel largely failed to do this. Judges 1:1-2:5 records the faltering conquest of Canaan.

3. A recurring theme for much of the book is seen in a repetitive sequence of events (i.e., ‘cycles’).

- The Israelites do evil in the eyes of the LORD, turning to serve other gods.
- God delivers them over to oppression (by another nation, ruler, or king).
- Israel cries out in their suffering and God raises up a leader (“judge”) to deliver them.
- Peace is restored but the nation turns again to sin after the judge dies.

THE NEXT GENERATION. 2:6-10

1. “Another generation” came after them. v.10

- They did not know the LORD. (personal)
- They did not know the LORD’s work (factual, historical, redemptive).

2. How does a generation arise who does not know the LORD?

- Book: *How to Establish a Christian School to Restore the Republic* by Max Lyons
- What does it look like to reach generations... 20, 50, 100, 1000 years!

A PROVOKING PEOPLE. 2:11-15

1. The people did evil. v.11

2. They abandoned the LORD and served false gods. v.12-13

3. The fruit of their sin. v.14-15

- They were plundered by enemies. v. 14
- They were in terrible distress. v.15

4. The theme of the book of Judges → *Israel needs a godly king.*

- See Judges 21:25. (Ref. 17:6; 18:1; 19:1)
- The book of judges serves as an apologetic for the monarchy.
 - Without a king, Israel faltered in their conquest of the promised land.
 - No human king (like the judges) could bring lasting, permanent relief from the sinful cycles.
 - Without a godly king, there would be anarchy among God’s people. (Judges 17-21)
- Judges shows the failures of human leaders.
- Samuel, Kings & Chronicles show the failures of human kings.

→ *Ultimately, the King God’s people need is the Lord Jesus Christ.*

(Next week’s text: Judges 6:1-10)

“There can be no real prosperity or progress in a nation, a home, or a soul, unless there be peace. As not even a machine can do its work unless it be in rest, secured on a good foundation, quietness and assurance are indispensable to our moral and spiritual well-being. Sin had disturbed all our relations; we were out of harmony with ourselves, with men, and with God. The first requirement of a salvation that should really bring blessedness to us was peace. And peace can only come with right. Where everything is as God would have it, in God’s order and in harmony with His will, there alone can peace reign. Jesus Christ came to restore peace on earth and peace in the soul by restoring righteousness. Because He is Melchizedek, King of Righteousness, He reigns as King of Salem, King of Peace (Heb. 7:2).”

-Andrew Murray, *Abide in Christ* (Day 8)

“A popular government without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy, or perhaps both.”

-James Madison

“If you turn aside from God’s words by a hair’s breadth you know not where it will end. The rail diverges but a little where the switches are turned, but before long the branch line is miles away from the main track. Backslide a little and you are on the way to utter apostasy....The least wrong has in it an all but infinity of evil. You cannot say to sin, ‘Hitherto shalt thou go, and no farther, and here shall thy proud waves be stayed.’ Like the sea when the dyke is broken, it stretches forth its hand to grasp all the surrounding country. The beginning of sin is like the beginning of strife, and that is said to be as the letting out of water: no man knows what a flood may come when once the banks are burst. So Israel went aside farther and farther from God because they regarded not their way and did not in all things obey the Lord.”

-Charles Spurgeon