

## A New Generation Judges 2:7-10

So the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD which He had done for Israel.<sup>8</sup> Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died when he was one hundred and ten years old.<sup>9</sup> And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.<sup>10</sup> When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel. NKJV

The beginning of the book of Judges is a great time for the nation. They have taken the land and possess it now.

They have destroyed the terribly immoral people that God wanted them to drive out of the land for the most part. And they have the means to finish the job if they trust God and follow through.

But it is also a sad day. For about 45 years these people have been under the ministry of Moses, the great miracle worker of God and Joshua his successor. But now they are gone. Moses some few years before and now Joshua has died.

But there is a whole generation that have grown up under that influence and it will continue until their deaths.

But what will happen when those people who have witnessed the crossing of the Jordan are gone. God had the people set up a memorial in Joshua for the purpose of reminding the children of their great heritage and how God had worked for them.

- I. Godly leaders have great influence. V-7
  - A. We see that under the leadership of Joshua the people did what he challenged them to do.
    - 1. The challenge Josh 24:14-18; 14 "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!<sup>15</sup> And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
    - 2. The response; 16 So the people answered and said: "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods;<sup>17</sup> for the LORD our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed.<sup>18</sup> And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. We also will serve

the LORD, for He is our God." NKJV

3. But Joshua knew people and he knew the tendency toward sin and rebellion.

B. The period of the judges marks some of the darkest days of Israel's history.

1. It was the beginning of things for the nation.
2. And as a nation begins so will it develop.
3. If a tree grows crooked for 30 years you will not straighten it.

C. Although they have some great judges, this period has some of the most sinister plots found anywhere in the Bible.

1. • Othniel - Judges 3:7-11.
2. • Ehud and Shamgar - Judges 3:12-31.
3. • Deborah and Barak - Judges 4:1-5:31.
4. • Gideon, Tola, and Jair - Judges 6:1-10:5.
5. • Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon - Judges 10:6-12:15.
6. • Samson - Judges 13:1-16:31.
7. And then finally Samuel
8. But in between these times of revival there were dark days of disobedience.
9. It is not that they forsook YAHWEH completely.
10. Rather it was that they became a nation of religious diversity.
11. Did you know that the greatest diversity at the restaurant is found in the garbage can out back.
12. Diversity when it come to truth is not a good thing.
13. And diversity when it comes to which god you worship is not a good thing either.
14. But the people began to worship all the gods of the pagans that were in the land before them.

II. Trusting God brings godliness.

A. As long as the people trusted the LORD and lived according to His word they had success.

1. God had promised, as we read some weeks ago, that He would prosper them if they followed His word.

- a. Deut 7:12 "Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the LORD your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers.<sup>13</sup> And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flock, in the land of which He swore to your fathers to give you.<sup>14</sup> You shall be blessed above all peoples; there shall not be a male or female barren among you or among your livestock.<sup>15</sup> And the LORD will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you. NKJV
  2. But He also promised He would curse them if they forsook Him for other gods. Deut. 28:15-68
- B. This is a general principle applied to all nations.
1. Rom 1:26-32 26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.<sup>27</sup> Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.
    - a. What we need to see from Romans 1 is that the end is not the culmination of sinful character. A society that openly and forcefully advocates immoral life styles is the sign of the curse of a sovereign righteous God
  2. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;<sup>29</sup> being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,<sup>30</sup> backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,<sup>31</sup> undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;<sup>32</sup> who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. NKJV
    - a. As to this last verse, I read an account of the parents of a little boy who was being indoctrinated concerning homosexual marriage in Massachusetts. They called the school to object and were told that since it was the law of the state they could not object or opt their child out.

III. Forgetting God tends toward immorality.

A. Our final point this morning is that when a nation turns from God, they can expect an explosion of immorality.

The JORDAN DIVIDED, so that Israel passed over dryshod near the city of Adam (Josh. 3:14-17)

The WALLS OF JERICHO fall down at God's command, after the Israelites prove their faith in Him (Josh. 6:6-20)

The SUN AND MOON STAYED MOTIONLESS (longer day) to enable the Israelites to win a crucial battle (Josh. 10:12-14)—Can we explain the “long days” of Joshua and Hezekiah? Answer

MEGA HAILSTORM destroys the Amorite army in a battle with Joshua (Josh. 10:12-14)