



Sermon Notes

June 10, 2007
Tim Strickland

Journey Through Judges #2 *The Rebellion of a Generation* Judges 2:6-3:6

Judges 2:10-17 ¹⁰And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel.

¹¹And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals. ¹²And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger. ¹³They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. ¹⁴So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies. ¹⁵Whenever they marched out, the hand of the LORD was against them for harm, as the LORD had warned, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were in terrible distress.

¹⁶Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. ¹⁷Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the LORD, and they did not do so.

Overview of Judges: God's grace amidst Israel's increasing unfaithfulness

Last Week: Failure to Keep the Covenant

Today: The Rebellion of a Generation

Sermon Notes
June 10, 2007
Page 2

Journey Through Judges #2 *The Rebellion of a Generation* Judges 2:6-3:6

1. The Passing of Joshua and his Generation (2:6-10a)

a. Joshua sends the people to take their inheritance and charges them to serve the Lord

• **Joshua 24:1-31** ¹⁵...choose this day whom you will serve...
But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

• **Judges 2:7** *And the people served the LORD*

- *all the days of Joshua*
- *all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua*
 - *who had seen all the great work that the LORD had done for Israel.*

2. The Rebellion of Another Generation (2:10b-13)

a. *The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord* (11)

- *They abandoned the Lord* (12)
 - *the God of their fathers*
 - *who brought them out of the land of Egypt*
- *they went after other gods* (13)
 - *from among the gods of the people who were around them*
 - *and bowed down to them*
 - *they served the Baals and Ashtaroth*
 - Fertility Cult
 - Baal – storm/weather god
 - Astarte – love/war goddess, married to Baal

3. What Went Wrong with this Generation? (2:10b)

a. Another Generation (10b)

- those born in the wilderness and during the conquest

b. They did not... (10b)

i) know the Lord

- Exodus 33:11-23, Philip. 3:8-11, Eph 4:13, John 8:32, 17:3, 1 John 2:3-4, Ps. 139, 1 Cor. 13:12

ii) or the work he had done for Israel

- Ex. 15:11, 34:10, Deut. 3:24, 4:34, 11:7, Ps. 40:5, 72:18-19, 77:14, 86:10, 136:1-26, Rev 15:3

c. How did they not know the Lord or his work!!!!???

Sermon Notes
June 10, 2007
Page 3

Journey Through Judges #2
The Rebellion of a Generation
Judges 2:6-3:6

4. The Anger of the Lord (2:14-15)

- a. *So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel (14-15)*
- *and he gave them over to plunderers*
 - *who plundered them*
 - *he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies*
 - *so they could no longer withstand their enemies*
 - *Whenever they marched out, the hand of the Lord was against them for harm*
 - *as the Lord had warned, and*
 - *as the Lord had sworn to them*
 - *And they were in terrible distress*

5. The Mercy of the Lord (2:16-19)

- a. Despite Israel's repeated, stubborn rebellion...
- The Lord raised up judges to save them (16)
 - The Lord was moved to pity by their groaning (18)
- b. What does the term judge mean? (16-17)
- Saviour/Deliverer and Leader
 - Saviour from oppression & leader to walk with God
- c. The cyclical pattern of the judges (3:7-16:31)
- Israel does evil in the sight of the Lord
 - The Lord give Israel into their enemies' hands
 - Israel cries out to the Lord
 - The Lord hears and sends a judge to save them
 - The Spirit of the Lord is on the judge
 - The judge leads them to victory
 - There is peace in the land until the judge dies
 - The Cycle repeats

6. The Testing of the Lord (2:20-3:6)

- a. *in order to test Israel by them, whether they will take care to walk in the way of the Lord as their fathers did, or not. (2:22)*
- God tests us
- b. *it was in order that the generations of the people of Israel might know war, to teach war to those who had not known it before (3:2)*
- Tests involve warfare! (Ephesians 6:10-13)

Sermon Notes
June 10, 2007
Page 4

Journey Through Judges #2
The Rebellion of a Generation
Judges 2:6-3:6

Our Response

1. Do you know the Lord? Do you know His works? Are you teaching your family to know the Lord and His works?

Judges 2:10-11 ¹⁰*And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel.*

¹¹*And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals.*

2. Be aware: The Lord still tests us by letting us fight battles today, but they are spiritual in nature:

Ephesians 6:10-13 ¹⁰*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.*

Questions for Application

1. Have you seen spiritual decay between generations in your family or in a church? What do you think caused it?
2. How does the Lord respond to spiritual decay in a new generation?
3. Describe the cyclical pattern of the judges.
4. What spiritual battles are you facing? Is there something(s) you need to do to obey God but are not doing (perhaps due to lack of courage, lack of faith, etc...)? Encourage one another in your group.
5. Pray together as a group for faith in God's strength to fight the spiritual battles we all face, and for the Spirit's working in our church as we study Judges together.

Questions, Comments? - inthebeginning@look.ca

If you have questions or comments about today's message, please drop me an email to the address above. Thanks,

Tim



*Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
To learn more about the ESV, please visit www.esv.org*