

“ANOTHER GENERATION, WHICH KNEW NOT THE LORD”

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**“And also all that generation were gathered to their fathers: And there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor the works which he had done for Israel. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, And served Baalim: And they forsook the LORD GOD of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and provoked the LORD to anger. And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.”
Judges 2:10-13**

THESIS: People come and they go, but the LORD GOD remains and HE is always here, or there for Guidance, Strength and Deliverance.

BODY: Joshua is the last of the OT leaders of Israel. “And Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the LORD, that he had done” (Joshua 24:31). When Joshua and the elders died, there arose another generation, which knew not the LORD, nor the works which he had done for Israel. The book of Joshua is viewed as a book of victory: victories for Israel which came through the mighty Hand of The LORD. The book of Judges is seen as a book of defeat and deliverance. Judges records the failures of Israel during the period of Judges. It makes known the wide-spread sinfulness and iniquity within the Hebrew nation. Their sin(s) resulted in defeat: their backsliding, their downfall and their seduction by Satan. Common in Israel’s history, there appears to be a fourfold cycle: “rebellion; retribution; repentance; and restoration.” Since The LORD remains and is always available for Guidance, Strength and Deliverance, there is no need for defeat.

***“There is no defeat in life;
Save from within.
Unless you are beaten there
You are bound to win.”
Henry Austin***

With The LORD GOD any and all defeat can be turned into victory. The backslidden can recover and return to GOD’s Favor. The downfallen can arise from the pit of problems and the magnetic misguidance of materialism. There are so many seduced by the influence of Satan, however, continuing daily in The Word of God, and gaining understanding breaks the influence and control of evil, iniquity and unrighteousness.

Christianity today in many ways is like the tribes of Israel in this text. The Israelites could not be what they were not. They were Israelites in name only. They knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. This goes back to the Abram Covenant and ultimately the beginning Covenant with Adam. They rejected, or rebelled against the commandments and judgments of GOD. They took lightly HIS warnings. They neglected the Divine Counsel.

Notice what is said regarding this generation that knew not the LORD and consistently brought on themselves defeat.

- A. They did "Evil" in the sight of the LORD (v. 11b) - they were full of sin and iniquity. Evil here denotes wickedness; moral badness; wrongdoing.
 - 1. They were Dishonorable
 - 2. They were Unprincipled
 - 3. They were Lawless

- B. And they "Served Baal" (v. 11c) – Baal is the chief deity of Canaan. The struggle between Baal and Jehovah came to a dramatic head on Mt. Carmel under Elijah (1 Kings 18:17-40).
 - 1. Blind god
 - 2. Ignorant god
 - 3. Powerless god

- C. And they "Forsook" the LORD GOD... (v. 12a) – when they forsook the LORD GOD, they essentially were guilty of backsliding. There was a relapse into disobedience to the LORD GOD. Thinking, reasoning and behavior were bad. Standards of self-control and discipline were influenced by the imagination of a deceitful heart (Jer. 17:9).
 - 1. They Gave Up
 - 2. They Rejected God
 - 3. They Abandoned God

