

A Generation Which Knew Not God

- Thoughts About Israel's Forgetting
- Our Responsibilities Under Christ

The lesson is entitled, “**A Generation Which Knew Not God**”.

From [Judges 2:6-8](#), we find that Joshua is **DEAD**, and Israel is in **POSSESSION** of the Land.

The **NEXT** generation were allowed to grow up,

- **NOT** knowing the Law,
- **NOT** knowing Israel's past,
- And **NOT** knowing their purpose in the world.
 - [Judges 2:10](#) reads, “all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there **arose another generation after them, which knew NOT the Lord, NOR** yet the works which He had done for Israel.”

[Rom.15:4](#) says,

- “For whatsoever things were written aforetime, were written for our **LEARNING**”

So, It would do us good to consider some,

I. **Thoughts About Israel's Forgetting God.**

A. **They were NOT Appreciative of God's Mercies.**

- [Judges 2:1](#) reads, “an angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I **MADE** you to go up out of Egypt, and have **BROUGHT** you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you.”

Thoughts about Israel's Forgetting God...

B. **They Were Not Obedient To God's Will.**

- [Judges 2:2](#) reads, “ye shall make **NO** league (or covenant) with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall **throw DOWN** their altars: but ye have **NOT obeyed My Voice: WHY have ye done this?**”

Thoughts about Israel's Forgetting God...

C. **There Are Bad Consequences, of NOT Obeying God.**

- [Judges 2:3](#) reads, “Wherefore I also said, I will **NOT** drive them (that is, the inhabitants) **OUT** from before you; but they shall be **AS** thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you.”

God allows suffering in this life, because of **DISOBEDIENCE**.

Thoughts about Israel's Forgetting God...

D. **They Lifted Their Voices and Wept.**

A Golden Opportunity Was Lost; Sin now Repeated Until they were Destroyed.

- [Judges 2:4-5](#) reads, “And it came to pass, when the angel of the Lord spake these words unto all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept. ⁵ And they called the name of that place Bochim: and they sacrificed there unto the Lord.” (that’s [Judges 2:4-5](#))

Thoughts about Israel's Forgetting God...

E. They Had Forgotten of Their Deliverance, By God's Works.

- “all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which **knew NOT the Lord**, **NOR** yet the works which He had done for Israel.” ([Judges 2:10](#))

Thoughts about Israel's Forgetting God...

F. They Turned To the gods of pagans, Around Them.

- “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 bowed themselves unto them, and **PROVOKED The Lord to ANGER.**” (reads [Judges 2:12](#))

Thoughts about Israel's Forgetting God...

G. They Forsook The God, Who Had Saved Them.

- “the children of Israel **DID EVIL in the sight of the Lord**, and served Baalim:” ([Judges 2:11](#))
- “And they **FORSOOK the Lord**, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.” ([Judges 2:13](#))

Thoughts about Israel's Forgetting God...

H. They Did Evil In His Sight, Which Brought His wrath.

- “the **ANGER of the Lord was hot, AGAINST Israel**, and He delivered them into the hands of spoilers, that spoiled them, and He sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not, any longer, stand before their enemies.” (reads [Judges 2:14](#))

Thoughts about Israel's Forgetting God...

I. The Preceding Generations, Are Responsible, To PREVENT This:

Parents are responsible, as they are the basis of society.

- [Deut.4:9-10](#) reads, “Only **TAKE heed** to thyself, and **KEEP thy soul** diligently, lest thou **FORGET** the things, which thine eyes have seen, and lest they **DEPART** from thy heart, all the days of thy life: but **TEACH them** thy sons, and **thy sons’ sons** (that would be our grandchildren, by the way);¹⁰ specially the day that thou stoodest before the Lord thy God in Horeb, when the Lord said unto me, Gather Me the people together, and I will make them **HEAR My Words**, that they may **LEARN to FEAR Me**, all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may **TEACH their children.**” (that’s [Deut.4:9-10](#))

Religious leaders are Responsible, to PREVENT preceding generations, from FORGETTING God.

- “Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests, the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and unto **ALL the ELDERS of Israel.**” ([Deut.31:9](#))
- “when all Israel is come, to appear before the Lord thy God, in the place which He shall choose, thou shalt **READ this law before all** Israel, **in their HEARING.**¹² Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may **HEAR**, and that they may **LEARN**, and **FEAR** the Lord your God, and **OBSERVED to DO** all the Words of this law:¹³ and that their children, which have **NOT known** any thing, may **HEAR**, and **LEARN to FEAR** the Lord your God, as long as ye live in the land, whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.” (reads [Deut.31:11-13](#))
- “For the **LEADERS** of this people **CAUSE** them to **ERR**; and they that are led of them, are **DESTROYED.**” ([Isa.9:16](#))

Faithful men attempted reforms, through the years.

But warnings were drowned in error, and God's people finally became like the unbelievers.

- [1Sam.8:5-7](#) reads, "Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk **NOT** in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us, like all the nations.
⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the Lord. ⁷ And the Lord said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have **REJECTED Me**, that I should not reign over them." (that's [1Sam.8:5-7](#))

All the People in General, were Responsible:

They Should have **DESIRED**, that the LAW OF GOD be **READ** to them!

They OWED allegiance, to God alone.

- They were told, "Thou shalt **FEAR** the Lord thy God, and **SERVE** Him, and shalt swear by His name.
¹⁴ Ye shall **NOT** go after other gods, of the gods of the people, which are round about you;
¹⁵ (for the Lord thy God is a **JEALOUS** God among you)
lest the **ANGER** of the Lord thy God, be kindled **AGAINST** thee, and **DESTROY** thee, from off the face of the earth." (reads [Deut.6:13-15](#))

Instead, They Followed Their Own Impulses.

- "In those days, there was no king in Israel, but **EVERY MAN DID** that which was right in his **OWN EYES**." (reads [Judges 17:6](#))

ALL Failed in Responsibilities, which Resulted in,

- "another generation after them, which knew **NOT** the Lord, **NOR** yet the works, which He had done for Israel." ([Judges 2:10](#))

Thoughts about Israel's Forgetting God...

J. It Establishes The Fact, That God's People CAN "A-pos-ta-tize".

In history, we have gone from faithful Israel; to the Dark Ages;

And from the 19th century, when men had an interest in restoring New Testament Christianity; to the 21st Century, when religious traditions of men rule religious society.

In Just a short time, the restored church in the U.S. has gone backwards,

In support and promotion, of a whole host of unscriptural practices, teachings, and institutions.

But the Bible says now and forever more, that

- "the **CHURCH** of the living God" IS "the **PILLAR** and **GROUND** of the **TRUTH**." ([1Tim.3:15](#))
- **NOT** the multiple institutions of men.

Thoughts about Israel's Forgetting God...

K. What About The Church TODAY?

The church once existed in Jerusalem, Corinth, and Ephesus; **Where are they NOW?**

Any assurance this church in Fort Towson will remain solid?

What about the second generation removed from us?

Sobering thoughts of responsibility, indeed.

That question leads us to think seriously of:

II. Our Responsibilities Under Christ (As Heavy of a burden, as Israel's)

A. Where Scriptural Elders are Serving (Be considerate of them; and Appreciative).

...They Should Heed the flock's NEEDS.

- "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to FEED the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood." ([Acts 20:28](#))
- "OBEY them that have the RULE over you, and SUBMIT yourselves: for they WATCH for your souls, AS they that must GIVE account, that they may DO it, with JOY, and NOT with grief: for that is UNprofitable for you." ([Heb.13:17](#))

Elders should, Watch, Warn, and Exhort.

- "holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine, both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers." ([Titus 1:9](#))
- "For I know this, that after my departing, shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock." ([Acts 20:29](#))

Our Responsibilities Under Christ...

B. Teachers (both public and private).

Live the Truth, and Teach the Truth.

- "Take HEED unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; CONTINUE in them: for in doing this thou shalt both SAVE thyself, AND them that HEAR thee." ([1Tim.4:16](#))

- "PREACH the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." ([2Tim.4:2](#))

- "IF any man SPEAK, let him speak AS the ORACLES of God (and that means, the literal or actual Words of God); IF any man MINISTER, let him DO it, as of the ABILITY which God GIVETH: that God in ALL things may be GLORIFIED through Jesus Christ," ([1Pet.4:11](#)) (NOT to the glory of self, or to any man).

One who Teaches others, is a True Friend.

- Paul said, "AM I therefore become your ENEMY, because I TELL you the TRUTH?" ([Gal.4:16](#))

Teaching involves, Teaching the Lost.

- And so they need to be taught, [1Pet.3:21](#), which says, "The like figure whereunto even BAPTISM doth also now SAVE us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:" (that's [1Pet.3:21](#))
- "There is ONE body (not many), and ONE Spirit, even as ye are called in ONE hope of your calling; ⁵ ONE Lord, ONE faith, ONE baptism, ⁶ ONE God and Father of all, Who is ABOVE all, and THROUGH all, and IN you all." (reads [Eph.4:4-6](#))

Saints

- "Seek ye FIRST the kingdom of God, and His righteousness (NOT our own righteousness); and all these things shall be ADDED unto you." ([Matt.6:33](#)), that is, the things we are in Need of (added).

C. Every Christian Should

- Be a "**LIGHT** of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.
¹⁵ Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel,
but on a candlestick; and it **GIVETH LIGHT** unto all that are in the house.
¹⁶ **LET your LIGHT so SHINE** before men, that they may **SEE your GOOD works**,
and **GLORIFY** your **Father** which is **IN** heaven." ([Matt.5:14-16](#))

Every christian should,

- "be ye **STEDFAST**, UNmoveable, always abounding **IN** the work of the Lord,
forasmuch as ye know, that your labour is not in vain, **IN** the Lord." ([1Cor.15:58](#))

Every christian should, **Trust in the Lord.**

- "For **ALL** the promises of God **IN** Him are **YEA**, and **IN** Him **AMEN**,
unto the **GLORY** of God by us." ([2Cor.1:20](#))

Every christian should...

Demand Truth, Regardless of the Consequences.

- [Acts 17:6](#) says, "they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying,
These that have turned the world upside down, are come hither also;"

Every christian should, **Shun all that might bring apostasy.**

- "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth **NOT**,
IN the doctrine of Christ, hath **NOT** God.
He that abideth **IN** the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son." ([2Jn vs.9](#))

Every christian should, **Desire to please God.**

- "that he **NO** longer should live the rest of his time **IN** the flesh, **TO** the lusts of men,
but **TO** the **WILL** of God." ([1Pet.4:2](#))
- "Let us **HEAR** the conclusion of the whole matter:
FEAR God, and **KEEP** His **commandments**: for this is the **WHOLE** of man." ([Ecc.12:13](#))

Looking to our OWN past...

Consider what a work, the Lord performed in **RESCUING** us, and with what **PRICE**, it was **DONE**.

- "know ye not that **YOUR** body **IS** the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is **IN** you,
which ye **HAVE OF GOD**, and ye are **NOT** your **OWN**? ²⁰ For ye are **BOUGHT** with a **PRICE**:
therefore **GLORIFY** God **IN** your body, and **IN** your spirit, which **ARE** God's." ([1Cor.6:19-20](#))

D. The Challenge of Our Responsibility:

...Is that the Next generation's knowledge of God's will,
IN PART, depends on our ACCEPTING Responsibility NOW.

- "ye fathers, provoke **NOT** your children to wrath:
but **BRING** them up, **IN** the nurture and admonition **OF** the Lord." ([Eph.6:4](#))
- "**TELL** ye, your children **OF** it,
and **LET** your children, **TELL** their children,
and their children, **ANOTHER** generation." (reads [Joel 1:3](#))

Consider a fine secular poem, by an unknown author, entitled,

E. "THE BUILDER."

- "I saw them tearing a building **DOWN**
A team of men, in my **HOMETOWN**.

With a heave and a ho, and a yes, yes, **YELL**,
they swung a beam, and a sidewall **FELL**.

And I said to the foreman, "Are these men **SKILLED**?"
"Like the ones you would use, if you had to **BUILD**?"

And he laughed and said, "Oh no, **INDEED**...
the most common labor, is all I **NEED**...

for I can destroy, in a day or **TWO**
what takes a builder, ten years to **DO**."

So I thought to myself, as I went on my **WAY**...
Which one of these roles, am I willing to **PLAY**?

Am I one, who is tearing **DOWN**
as I carelessly make, my way **AROUND**?

Or am I one, who builds with **CARE**,
in order to make the world a little better... because I was **THERE**?"

III. IN-CONCLUSION

May God Help us, to **Not forget about HIM**,

And Be responsible to the next generation, in Teaching them to **HEAR, LEARN, and FEAR** God and His Eternal Word.

Some of our human peers in life, have never known God in forgiveness.

Invite some to salvation, before the sands of time run out.

If you have a spiritual **NEED**, won't you **COME**,

- **Believing** ([Jn.8:24](#); [Heb.11:6](#)),
- **Repenting** ([Lk.13:3](#); [Acts 17:30](#); [2Pet.3:9](#); [1Jn.1:9](#); [Jn.8:11](#)),
- **Confessing** ([Acts 8:37](#); [Matt.10:32-33](#); [Rom.10:9-10](#)),
- Be **Baptized** INTO Christ ([Gal.3:26-27](#); [Rom.6:3-5](#); [Mk.16:16](#); [1Pet.3:21](#); [Acts 22:16](#))
...Where **ALL** "spiritual blessings" exist ([Eph.1:3](#))
- And Remain **Faithful** ([Rev.2:10](#)), or **Endure** until the end ([Matt.24:13](#))?

Don't Delay, COME Now, as together we stand and sing.

Source: Sermon Outline by Derrel Shaw
His Sources: Arnold Watson; Bill Cavendar; Alexander Maclaren;
Three Outlines from SERMON OUTLINE BIBLE [page 376ff]
Edited & Formatted: by Michael Wright