

WHAT HAPPENED? JUDGES 2:1-23

Introduction

After wandering in the wilderness for 40 years (because their parents could not trust God to do what He said He would do), over 2 million Israelites had crossed Jordan with Joshua.

This was the spiritual highlight in the life of every person who participated in that accomplishment. They had witnessed the mighty power and wonder of God all throughout the conquest of Canaan. (vs 7)

However, we see **one generation later, this same whole nation in trouble!** (vs 10) What we see here begs for the answer to this question:
What happened? I want us to look see exactly what happened!

A follow up question: **Could what happened in Judges 2 happen again?**

Many of us have witnessed the mighty power and wonder of God since we've come to know the Lord. But, in your mind don't you question what is in store for the Church in the next generation? We should be concerned!

What happened? Who "failed" in this situation. Who or what caused this great tragedy that we see?

I. GOD DID NOT FAIL! (Judges 2:1)

A. God's Promises Never Fail!

1. God Redeemed Them From Egypt Just As He Promised!

Genesis 15:13-14—And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

2. God Brought Them To Canaan Land Just As He Promised!

a. God Promised The Land To Abraham.
(Genesis 13:14-17; 15:18; 17:6ff)

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- b. God Promised The Land To Isaac! (Genesis 26:1-5)
- c. God Promised The Land To Jacob! (Genesis 28:13-15; 46:3ff)
- d. God Promised The Land To The Children of Israel Through Joseph! (Genesis 50:24-25)
- e. God Promised The Land To The Children Of Israel Through Moses! (Exodus 3-4; 6)

3. God Kept His Covenant With Them Just As He Promised!

Aren't you glad God's promises never fail?
Romans 4:21 says that Abraham was "*fully persuaded that, what he [the LORD God] had promised, he was able also to perform.*"

Just as Israel had some promises, so do we as Christians!

We have God's promise of eternal life!

1 John 2:25—“And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.”

We have God's promise of the indwelling Holy Spirit!

Ephesians 1:13—“after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise”

We have God's promise that He is coming back one day!

2 Peter 3:4—“Where is the promise of his coming?”

2 Peter 3:9—“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

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Hebrews 10:36–37--“For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

We have God’s promise of a new heaven and a new earth!
2 Peter 3:13–“Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

God’s Promises Never Fail!

B. God’s Purpose Never Fails!

Isaiah 14:24, 27– 24 “The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:” 27 “For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?”

*Ephesians 1:11–“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, **being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:**”*

*2 Timothy 1:9–“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, **but according to his own purpose and grace**, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began”*

GOD DID NOT FAIL! (His Promises Nor His Purposes Ever Fail)

II. GOD’S PEOPLE DID FAIL!

A. The Grandparents Failed!

You would think that some valuable lessons would have been taught to their children and grandchildren while they wandered in the wilderness waiting to die. Here are a few lessons:

1. Trust God to do what He says He will do!

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2. To go against what God says to do is rebellion and God takes rebellion seriously!
3. Rebellion is sin and God will judge and chasten sin!
4. The wages of sin is death!

B. The Parents Failed!

1. They Failed In Their Task! (Judges 2:2-3)

They didn’t do what God told them to do!

They disobeyed the known will of God!

a. Their First Mistake Was Prayerlessness!

The Gibeonites came and *Joshua 9:14* declares that Israel “. . .asked not counsel at the mouth of the Lord.”

b. Their Second Mistake Was Unholy Alliances!

Joshua 9:15–“And Joshua made peace with them, and made a league with them, to let them live: and the princes of the congregation sware unto them.”

c. Their Third Mistake Was Continuing In Their Sin! (vs 2-3)

Rather than drive these inhabitants out, they dwelt with them and made agreements with them.

Judges 1:21, 27-35

God’s response is. . .“*why have ye done this?*”

God tells us today:

Romans 12:2–“Be not conformed to this world. . .”

How are we doing?

They Failed In Their Tasks!

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2. They Failed In Their Teaching! (Vs 10)
Deuteronomy 6

When we fail in our **TASKS**, there is a greater possibility that we will fail in our **TEACHING!**

When what parents say doesn't line up with what they do that is an inconsistency that children will pick up on!

What parents do speaks so loud that what they say can't be heard.

a. These Parents Were Commanded By God To Teach Their Children. (Deuteronomy 6:1-3)

Verses 4-9 are known to the Jews as the "*Shema.*"

1. It was the most important of all of the Old Testament!
2. Every Jewish child had to memorize it!
3. God warned them what would happen! (Deuteronomy 6:10-12)

b. They Were To Love The Lord With All Their Being! (Vs. 5)

c. They Were To Have No Other Gods! (Vs. 14-15)

d. They Were Not To Tempt The Lord! (Vs. 16)

e. They Were To Keep All The Commandments Of The Lord! (Vs. 17)

f. They Were To Do Right And Good In The Sight Of The Lord! (Vs. 18-19)

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Somehow they failed in their teaching—they may have failed with their lips, but they definitely failed with their lives!

3. They Failed In Their Testimony. (Judges 2: 10)
Deuteronomy 6:20-25

A failure in **teaching** is related to failure in **testimony.**

a. A Testimony Lives As Long As It Is Told And Shown!

Parents must tell and show their kids what God has done for them!

b. Parents Must Continue To Tell The Testimony Of Christ!

1. Virgin Birth Of Christ!
2. Sinless Perfection Of Christ!
3. Substitutionary Death Of Christ!
4. The Resurrection Of Christ!
5. The Second Coming Of Christ!

c. Parents Must Continue To Tell Their Testimony!

1. We Realized We Were Lost In Sin!
2. We Realized Our Hopeless Position!
3. We Realized That Christ Died For Us!
4. We Repented Of Our Sin And Trusted Christ As Lord And Saviour!
5. Christ Changed Our Lives!

d. Parents Must Live Their Testimony! (Judges 2:4-5)

1. Showing Their Children How Christ Has Made A Difference In Their Lives!
2. Showing Them Christianity Is Real!

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3. What Parents ARE Speaks So Loudly That Their Children Can't Hear What They Say!

**The Grandparents Failed...The Parents Failed...
The Children Failed!**

C.

**1. The Children Failed In Their Obligations!
(Judges 2:11-13)**

God holds each of us personally responsible though our parents may fail in their responsibility.

Children Have A Personal Responsibility:

- To Seek** The Lord!
- To Receive** The Lord!
- To Acknowledge** The Lord!
- To Obey** The Lord!
- To Serve** The Lord!

**2. The Children Failed In Their Opportunities!
(Judges 2:14-17)**

They did not learn from God's dealings in their lives!

**3. The Children Failed In Their Observance!
(Judges 2:17-20)**

They did more wickedly than their fathers.

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What Will Become Of This Next Generation Depends Partly Upon Those Who Are Parents Performing Their Responsibilities!

- By being good stewards of the manifold grace of God!
- By not failing in their task—but, being obedient to God!
- By not failing in their teaching—children must be taught what is right in the sight of God!
- By not failing in their testimony—a legacy of right doctrine and right living must be passed on to the children!

What Will Become Of This Next Generation Also Depends Partly Upon What Children Do About Their Responsibilities Before God?

- Their obligations to seek, receive, acknowledge, obey, and serve God!
- Finding God's will for their lives and performing it!
- Not failing in the opportunities God puts before them!
(Learning from the mistakes of the past—not repeating them!)
- Not failing in their observance! (Obeying what they know to be right—It is what God requires!)

What kind of a stewards are we being of what we have been given?

Our Children and grandchildren are a part of our stewardship! Parents are a part of a child's stewardship!

1 Corinthians 4:1-2—“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

1 Peter 4:10—“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

What happens when a generation is lost for God? We'll come back next week Lord willing and look at that!

Conclusion

So in closing:

What Will Become Of This Next Generation Depends Partly Upon What Kind Of Legacy That Grandparents Are Leaving Their Grandchildren!

- Will it be a legacy of obedience or disobedience?
- Will it be a legacy of righteousness or unrighteousness?
- Will it be a legacy of wisdom or worldliness?
- Will it be a legacy of faithfulness or unfaithfulness?