



Grace Life Church *of Dallas*

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

JUDGES 2:6-3:6
THEY DID NOT KNOW THE LORD



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THE NEXT GENERATION

Judges 2:6-9 *When Joshua dismissed the people, the people of Israel went each to his inheritance to take possession of the land. 7 And 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 work that the LORD had done for Israel. 8 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of 110 years. 9 And they buried him within the boundaries of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of the mountain of Gaash.*

- Flackback/recapitulation – see Joshua 24:29-31
- Joshua generation – marked by obedience and serving Yahweh

Rest of the story:

Judges 2:10 *And 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.*

CYCLE IN JUDGES

Stage 1 - Yahweh's people rebel and follow after other "gods"

Judges 2:11-13 And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals. 12 And 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. 13 They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroath.

- Baal – Canaanite storm god that would bring rain for their crops
- Ashtoreth – Baal's female consort, fertility goddess.
- They were to be coerced rather than trusted.

CYCLE IN JUDGES

Stage 2 - Yahweh lovingly chastens his people

Judges 2:14-15 So 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. 15 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.

- Yahweh had warned and sworn to them – Deut. 28, Lev. 26
- His anger was kindled (burned) and His hand was against them for harm

CYCLE IN JUDGES

Stage 3 - Yahweh's people cry out to Him in their affliction (or groan under it) and He raises up a deliverer (judge)

Judges 2:16 Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them... 18 Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them.

- Godly grief or worldly grief (2 Cor. 7)?
- “God how could you show grace and mercy to them?”
- Romans 5:6-8 *For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die- 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

CYCLE IN JUDGES

Stage 4 - The deliverer (judge) succeeds for a time, but when the judge dies the people not only return to their apostasy, but become more corrupt than the previous generation

Judges 2:17 Yet 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...¹⁹ But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways.

- *Ephesians 5:32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.*
- *v19 - slaves of sin*
- *Romans 6:17-18 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.*

THE PATIENCE OF GOD

Judges 2:20-23 So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he said, "Because this people have transgressed my covenant that I commanded their fathers and have not obeyed my voice, 21 I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations that Joshua left when he died, 22 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." 23 So the LORD left those nations, not driving them out quickly, and he did not give them into the hand of Joshua.

Judges 3:1-4 Now these are the nations that the LORD left, to test Israel by them, that is, all in Israel who had not experienced all the wars in Canaan. 2 It was only 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 These are the nations: the five lords of the Philistines and all the Canaanites and the Sidonians and the Hivites who lived on Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal-hermon as far as Lebo-hamath. 4 They were for the testing of Israel, to know whether Israel would obey the commandments of the LORD, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

THE PATIENCE OF GOD

- 3:1-3 – explains the nature of the test
- These generations need to learn the nature and significance of the battle
- Test – will they understand they have been called to a Holy War with Yahweh as their commander-in-chief.
- War began in Genesis 3 – seed of the woman vs. seed of the serpent
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 *For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.*
 - We are in a war
 - God is our commander-in-chief
 - Our weapons are spiritual
 - The victory has been secured
 - Hebrews 10:12-13 *But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. (Psalm 110:1)*

CONSEQUENCES OF REMAINING IN SIN

Judges 3:5-6 So the people of Israel lived among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 6 And their daughters they took to themselves for wives, and their own daughters they gave to their sons, and they served their gods.

- The people of Israel lived among the Canaanites...
- Do we understand the significance of this?
- Next stage in the Canaanization of Israel
 - Did not drive them out
 - Canaanites lived among them
 - They lived among Canaanites
 - v6 - Now, intermarrying.
 - v6 - Now, serving their gods.
 - They have been one people - both politically and religiously.
- 2 Corinthians 6:14 *Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers...*

THEY DID NOT KNOW THE LORD...

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

Consequences we saw of them not knowing the LORD or the work that he had done:

- 2:14 - The anger of the Lord was kindled against them
- 2:14 - He gave them over to plunderers and sold them into the hand of surrounding nations
- 2:15 - Whenever they marched out, the hand of the Lord was against them for harm
- 2:18 - The oppression they were under moved them to groaning. They were miserable.
- 2:17 - Even though God raised up judges to deliver them, they were hardened in their sin and continued after other gods.
- 2:19 - They did not drop any of their practices or stubborn ways. They would not turn from their sin and wickedness.

THEY DID NOT KNOW THE LORD...

Deuteronomy 4:7-9 For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? 8 And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today? 9 "Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known (yada) to your children and your children's children--

v9 - lest you forget - The call for us to remember (or not forget) the works and Word of God is made throughout Scripture (Num 15:39-40, Deut 5:15, 7:18, 8:18, 15:15, 16:3, 16:12, 24:18, 24:22, 32:27, Josh 1:13, 1 Chr 16:12, 16:15, Neh 4:14, Ps 105:5, Ecc1 12:1, Jer 51:50, Mal 4:4, Acts 20:35, Eph 2:11-12, 2 Tim 2:8, Rev 2:5, 3:3).

Psal̄m 106

THEY DID NOT KNOW THE LORD...

God is sovereign, but works through means (parent's discipline and instruction in the Lord – Eph 6:4)

As parents, this understanding should drive us to two things

- Faithfulness in teaching our children the things of the Lord.
- Prayer, as we recognize our utter dependency upon the Lord, recognizing that our trust cannot be placed upon our parenting skills.

Deuteronomy 32:7 Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you.