



INTRO TO THE JUDGES/RAISING A GODLY GENERATION

I. Where and when do the events of this book take place?

II. What is a judge?

Then the LORD raised up judges who delivered [Israel] from the hands of those who plundered them.

– Judges 2:16 (NASB)

And the Spirit of the Lord came upon [Othniel], and he judged Israel. When he went out to war, the LORD gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand....

– Judges 3:10 (NASB)

III. Why were the judges necessary?

A. Israel's failure to obey the Lord's commands: a story of two generations.

What will the next generation be? In our churches? In our families?

Joshua Generation

Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua and all the days of the elders who survived Joshua, and had known all the deeds of the Lord which He had done for Israel.

– Joshua 24:31 (NASB)

What will the next generation be? In our churches? In our families?

Judges Generation

*All [the generation of Israel under Joshua] also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them **who did not know the LORD, nor yet***

the work which He had done for Israel. Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals, and they forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed themselves down to them; thus they provoked the LORD to anger.

– Judges 2:10–12 (NASB)

- B. Did not know the Lord or his works
1. Mental
 2. Experiential: did not own their relationship with the Lord
 3. The result? Serious cultural compromise.

[These nations] were for testing Israel, to find out if they would obey the commandments of the LORD, which He had commanded their fathers through Moses. [But] The sons of Israel lived among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; and they took their daughters for themselves as wives, and gave their own daughters to their sons, and served their gods.”

– Judges 3:4–6 (NASB)

What will the next generation be? In our churches? In our families?

- C. So why were the judges necessary? Because this compromise led to the Lord’s judgment: bringing other nations up them.

So they forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtaroath. The anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He gave them into the hands of plunderers who plundered them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies around them, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. Wherever they went, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had spoken and as the LORD had sworn to them, so that they were severely distressed.

– Judges 2:13–15 (NASB)

IV. What do we learn of the Lord’s character?

His mercy → He hears when Israel cries out! Sends a deliverer.

- A. God’s heart desire is to have compassion on us.

*But when the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a **deliverer** for the people of Israel, who saved them....*

Judges 3:9a (ESV)

B. Met ultimately in Jesus

She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

– Matthew 1:21 (NASB)

V. Take-away questions

A. How can you help your kids/grandkids know about God?

B. How can you help your kids/grandkids know God?

C. How can you help your kids/grandkids evaluate culture?

Resource: www.ransomfellowship.org.