

## **Introduction**

We are living at a time when the youth of our world are facing a crisis. They are facing a number of challenges which most of us older generation never even thought about. Let me mention a few:

**1 The BREAKDOWN of the FAMILY UNIT** – Living in a two biological parent home is no longer the norm. Children are having to learn to adapt to living in single parent, blended, multi-site, same-sex and even Child-Headed homes. Even when children are living with both biological parents, they are often faced with parents separated by employment opportunities, or absent parents because of longer work demands.

**2 The GROWING INFLUENCE of EXTERNAL PRESSURES** – Media, and particularly Social Media has exposed children and youth to shocking material which has led to a massive spike in mental and emotional illnesses never seen before. Issues like Self-Esteem challenges or Depression and Suicide are growing as the years go by.

**3 The AVAILABILITY of ILLICIT SUBSTANCES** – Alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco are the substances that are most commonly used by teens. However, adolescents also use prescription drugs, inhalants, and other illicit substances. The MASSIVE spike in “Petty Theft” is a clear sign of the growth in substance abuse as desperate young substance abusers need to find money to fund their habits.

**4 The REJECTION of BIBLICAL VALUES** – When HUMAN RIGHTS begin to REPLACE Biblical Norms and Standards, the moral fibre of the Society begins to fall. Even the “Modern Church” has replaced Bible with the “voice of the so-called Prophets” of our day. Even this last week we heard of a “so-called Ministry” where a group of adults were worshiping naked with ten naked children in their midst.

I want to draw our attention to the Book of Judges in the Old Testament at a time when Israel was A NATION THAT HAD TURNED THEIR BACK ON GOD.

After Joshua had conquered most of the Promised Land, and when he came to the end of his life, Israel entered this period of upheaval. Today I want us to look at the period just after Joshua had died, in Judges 2:6-3:6.

*Judges 2:6-3:6 v6 After Joshua had dismissed the Israelites, they went to take possession of the land, each to his own inheritance. v7 The people served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel. v8 Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of a hundred and ten. v9 And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Heres in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. v10 After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel. v11 Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. v12 They forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They provoked the LORD to anger v13 because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. v14 In his anger against Israel the LORD handed them over to raiders who plundered them. He sold them to their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. v15 Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the LORD was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress. v16 Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. v17 Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. Unlike their fathers, they quickly turned from the way in which their fathers had walked, the way of obedience to the LORD's commands. v18 Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the LORD had compassion on them as they groaned under those who oppressed and afflicted them. v19 But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways. v20 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and said, "Because this nation has violated the covenant that I laid down for their forefathers and has not listened to me, v21 I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died. v22 I will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the LORD and walk in it as their forefathers did." v23 The LORD had allowed those nations to remain; he did not drive them out at once by giving them into the hands of Joshua. v3:1 These are the nations the LORD left to test all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan v2 (he did this only to teach warfare to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience): v3 the five rulers of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites living in the Lebanon mountains from Mount Baal Hermon to Lebo Hamath. v4 They were left to test the Israelites to see whether they would obey the LORD's commands, which he had given their forefathers through Moses. v5 The Israelites lived among the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. v6 They took their daughters in marriage and gave their own daughters to their sons, and served their gods.*

I have called my message today

## **GOD DOES NOT HAVE GRANDCHILDREN**

In the passage I read, I want you to see the difference between those that FOLLOWED THE GOD OF THEIR FATHERS and THOSE THAT REJECTED GOD.

Notice, FIRSTLY:

## **THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THOSE THAT FOLLOW GOD.**

### **1. THEY HAD A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**

*v6 After Joshua had dismissed the Israelites, they went to take possession of the land, each to his own inheritance. v7 **The people** served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who **had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel.***

Faith cannot be transfused from one generation to the next. For faith to be genuine, a person must exercise that faith themselves. We are living at a time when even the old-fashioned Bible Stories are not being taught to children.

### **2. THEY HAD LEADERS WHO SET A GOOD EXAMPLE.**

*v6 After Joshua had dismissed the Israelites, they went to take possession of the land, each to his own inheritance. ... v8 Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of a hundred and ten. V9 And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Heres in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.*

Joshua was one of the two spies of the twelve that initially entered the Promised Land, that believed that they could defeat the people that lived there, if they trusted God to help them. Caleb was the other. The Book of Joshua tells the story of how Joshua lead Israel into the Land Promised to them by God.

His famous statement, given to the Nation of Israel at the end of his life is found in

*Joshua 24:14-15 "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. v15 But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. **But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.**"*

### **3. THEY LIVED A LIFE OF SERVICE.**

*v6 After Joshua had dismissed the Israelites, they went to take possession of the land, each to his own inheritance. v7 **The people served the LORD** throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him*

*v8 Joshua son of Nun, **the servant of the LORD**, died at the age of a hundred and ten.*

*v17 ... Unlike their fathers, they quickly turned from the way in which their fathers had walked, **the way of obedience to the LORD's commands***

The heart of a true believe is a heart of SERVICE. The heart of the sinner is SELF-SERVICE. Me-First theology.

Notice, SECONDLY:

## **THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THOSE THAT REJECT GOD.**

### **1. THEY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF GOD OR HIS WAYS.**

*v10 After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, **who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.***

We can blame them for not knowing or not seeking the Lord.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE FAILURE OF THOSE WHO KNEW THE LORD WHO DID NOT TELL THEM ABOUT THE LORD!!!

Paul reminds us that EVERYBODY CAN KNOW THE LORD IN  
*Romans 10:13 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

BUT SAYS THIS IN THE NEXT VERSE

*Romans 10:14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? v15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*

Friends, THE NATION MAY BE IN A STATE BECAUSE CHRISTIANS ARE TOO QUIET OR TOO COMPROMISED!!

### **2. THEY QUESTION LEADERS AND LEADERSHIP.**

*v16 Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. v17 **Yet they would not listen to their judges .***

For me one of the signs that we may be a Nation in danger of failure is the MULTIPLICATION of Different Organisations. In the Political field it is obvious as you look at everybody wanting to start their own Political Party.

SADLY, IT IS NO DIFFERENT IN THE RELIGIOUS ENVIRONMENT. The number of FALSE PROPHETS claiming Titles and Positions they have neither earned or deserved is frightening.

NO WONDER THE YOUTH IS REJECTING TO CHURCH. One of the characteristics that define the generations born since the year 2000 or so is AUTHENTICITY.

### **3. THEY QUESTION THE BELIEFS OF THEIR FOREFATHERS.**

*v20 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and said, "Because **this nation has violated the covenant that I laid down for their forefathers and has not listened to me***

For two reasons:

1. When our walk does not match our talk.
2. When Satan has darkened their hearts.

#### **4. THEY NEVER EXPERIENCED THE TESTING OF THEIR FAITH.**

*v6 After Joshua had dismissed the Israelites, they went to take possession of the land, each to his own inheritance*

I see many children of Godly Parents reject God, because their parents have been able to provide their every need and they have not had to depend on God to “supply all their needs”

#### **5. THEY COMPROMISED REGARDING OTHER FAITHS.**

*v10 After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel.*

*v11 Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals.*

*v19 But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.*

*v5 The Israelites lived among the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. v6 They took their daughters in marriage and gave their own daughters to their sons, and served their gods.*

There is a great difference between religious tolerance and religious compromise. God is jealous for his NAME. As Christians we have very quickly tried to accommodate all religions.

### **CONCLUSION**

What is the SOLUTION? Like in the Book of Judges, God provided a Judge to save the Nation of Israel each time they messed up.

Well, LET ME REMIND YOU.

GOD HAS PROVIDED ONE FINAL JUDGE.

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. v12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. v13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. v14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. v15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

**Revelation 20:11-15**

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