

# The Old-Time Evangelistic News

Evangelist W. Paul Redmond Sr.

Volume 6, Issue 4

September 2009

## What Will Happen to the Next Generation? (Part 3) Judges 2:8-15

We continue this month with the message “What Will Happen to the Next Generation?” Verse 10 places the blame for the rebellion of this new generation on the parents who failed to teach them. However, the blame does not stop there. Verses 11 and 12 begin to talk directly about this new generation. Many people like to blame their parents or others for the way that they are. To be sure, as we have seen, parents are responsible to teach their children. If they do not teach them correctly, then they will bear the consequences. But the failure of the parents is not an excuse to do anything that you want to do. Just because your parents may not have been the Biblical model, does not mean that you are not responsible for your actions. God does talk about The Failure of the Parents, but He also describes **The Forsaking of the Posterity.**

I have seen and heard, as I am sure others have, young people and young adults blame their parents for the way that they turned out. Perhaps the parents were two-faced—acting one way at church and another way at home. Perhaps the parents committed some gross sin upon their children. There could be many other possibilities and excuses laid out. But it does not matter what the parents did or did not do, when you stand before God, you will answer for yourself. You will not be able to cast up before God the excuse that it is your parents’ fault. You will stand there alone. If you reject Jesus Christ as your Savior, at the Great White Throne Judgment you will stand before Jesus and He will cast you into Hell because you rejected Him. You will not be allowed to go free because your parents are hypocrites or because they were mean to you or they lied to you. You will be cast into Hell because you yourself rejected Christ.

-2-

If you are saved, you will stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ to give an account of how you served Jesus after your salvation. You will not be able to say, “My dad and mom were poor examples,” or something else like that. You will stand before Jesus on your own and will tell Him how you served Him. Your parents may have been hypocrites, they may have sinned against you, but that will not matter. You will be rewarded for how you served Jesus. At that time, all excuses will be forsaken and forgotten. You will admit, “I was not faithful, because I did not want to be. I wanted the things of this world more than I wanted to serve You.” Listen, young people, your parents may not have been the model parents. They may have been hypocrites. They may have sinned against you in a terrible way. But that does not mean that you cannot serve God faithfully. That does not mean that you cannot rear up children in the right way. If your parents have failed you, then determine, by the grace of God, to be the model parents to the children that you will have. Determine in your heart to have a family that is patterned after the Word of God.

Now let me say a word to those children who have been brought up in a good Christian home. Do not rely on your parents’ faith to get you into heaven. You are not saved just because your parents are saved. You yourself must trust in Jesus as your own Savior. Also, do not think, “I need to have a time in the world, so I can know both sides.” That is a lie straight out of the devil’s mouth. This world has nothing to offer. Jesus said in Mark 9:36, “*For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*” Sometimes young people who have been brought up in good homes naively say, “I need to sow some wild oats.” As some wise person pointed out years ago, sowing will yield a harvest. The “wild oats” will yield a harvest that you will later regret. If you have good parents, give the glory to God, and determine to live your life in obedience to God as well.

Does God hold each generation responsible for themselves? Yes, He does! Notice from Judges 2:12 that the new generation had forsaken The Person of God. The verse says, “*And they forsook the*

*LORD God of their fathers.*” Could any other sentence sound so awful and catastrophic? This new generation had not just turned their back on anyone. They had left the LORD God of their fathers. The word forsook means to loosen, to relinquish, to fail, to leave. To follow up on the meaning of this word, this new generation had “loosened” their claim to God and they were wanting God to “loosen” His claim on them. The generation before had willingly and gladly claimed this God as theirs, but the new generation wanted something else.

They also “relinquished” their hold on God. Whereas Moses had wholly followed God, and taught the previous generation that Jehovah was the only true God, this new generation wanted to “relinquish” the truth that there is only one God. They wanted to try new ideas, even if they were contrary to the revealed Word of God. The word also means to fail. They “failed” to keep following God and listening to Him. They “failed” to obey the Word of God. They “failed” to remain true to Him. Lastly, they “left” the LORD God of their fathers. Instead of staying where God wanted them to stay, they wandered away from Him. How terribly tragic the deeds of this new generation—they forsook the Person of God! Instead of staying with the truth of God, they forsook—loosened, relinquished, failed, wandered away from, left—it. May God help us, who have been given the truth of God’s Word, to stay with it.

We have focused on the verb forsook, and the different meanings of it, but notice Who this generation forsook. It was not some false god, it was the “LORD God of their fathers.” The word LORD is in all capital letters indicating the personal name of God. This is the name that we sometimes call Jehovah. It is the name that God revealed to Moses at the burning bush—I AM THAT I AM. This name describes God as the self-existent One Who keeps His word. It also describes Him as the One Who can be trusted. This is the One that this new generation wanted nothing to do with. They wanted their own way and their own gods, but did not want the true God. It is amazing to me that they would forsake the true God for a false god.

They would forsake the all-powerful God for a powerless god. They would forsake the God Who can hear and answer prayer for a god that is deaf and cannot hear.

Combined with LORD (Jehovah) is the word God. This is a plural word—Elohim. Extension, magnitude, and dignity are expressed in the Hebrew language by use of the plural form. This was no third-rate god that they rejected. This was the awesome Creator of the universe. I like to express it this way—they forsook the Majestic One who is always faithful. This makes absolutely no sense. If it were the other way around and they were forsaking a false god, I could understand it. But they were forsaking the God Who had never lied, Who had never disappointed, Who had never made a mistake, Who had never failed to hear them, Who had always provided for them, and on and on. They forsook the true God Who had made them, for idols that they had made.

Notice the last part of this sentence—“of their fathers.” Now their parents may have neglected to teach them properly, as we have noticed in discussing the word knew, and others, in the generations before, may have doubted God from time to time, but here God is describing Israel as a whole. The Lord may even be going back to the very beginning of the nation, as is so often found in the Old Testament, and using this phrase to refer to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God had chosen Israel out of all the nations to be His people. He had blessed them and given them this land, but one generation into the Promised Land, they forsook Him. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the One Who kept His word to each of them; the One Who promised and always kept His promise—was now being rejected by this new generation.

Not only did they forsake the Person of God, but they also forsook The Performance of God. Judges 2:12 says, “*Which brought them out of the land of Egypt.*” God does not list a whole series of great things that He had done for Israel. He could have listed a multitude of things, but He lists only one—their deliverance from

Egypt. At this time it was not that far removed, just 70-80 years—40 years in the wilderness and 30-40 years spent conquering the land. It was not a great deal of time, but this new generation had already turned away from, and forsaken, what God had done for them. They needed to remember that only God could have delivered them. They did not have the strength nor the resources to escape and overpower Egypt. But God did have the power, and He did deliver them. For that they should be eternally grateful. But here, just two generations after the deliverance, they forsook the true God for some false idols.

What about you, friend? Are you still following the God of your fathers? Have you been washed in the blood of Jesus? Have you accepted Him as your Savior? If He is your Savior, are you faithfully serving Him? Are you attending church faithfully? Are you reading your Bible every day and desiring to grow in Him? It does not matter what your parents were like. They will be held responsible for their own actions. You are responsible for yourself.