

A Generation That Did Not Know God (Judges 2:10)

Michael L. Riddle

1. **Judges 2:10** – Another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which he had done for Israel...
2. A Generation That Did Not Know God
3. The Result of a generation that did not Know God – **Judges 2:1-19**
4. Just because you know and serve the Lord does not mean the next generation (your children) will know and serve the Lord!

Discussion:

I. THE PREVIOUS GENERATION DID KNOW GOD

- A. The influence of good leaders (Joshua [Moses' assistant] and the elders [those under 20 during the time of the spies]):
 1. **Judges 2:7-10** – they had seen all the great works which the Lord had done for Israel
 2. **Joshua 24:29-31** – they had known all the works of the Lord
 3. As long as these leaders lived, the people served the Lord
- B. They had witnessed the “great works of the Lord” which He had done for Israel (**Deut. 11:1-9**) – they saw, believed, and feared
 1. Plagues in Egypt (:3; Exo. 7-12)
 2. Crossing the Red Sea (:4; Exo. 14)
 3. Events in the wilderness (:5; Exo. 16, 17, 19)
 - Bread (manna) from heaven (Exo. 16)
 - Water from the rock (Exo. 17)
 - Victory over Amalek (Exo. 17)
 - All the events at Mt. Sinai (Exo. 19)
 4. Earth swallowing Dathan and Abiram (:6; Num. 16)
- C. Yet, there arose a generation who did not know God... **Judges 2:10**
- D. Why?

II. HOW COULD THEY GET THE NEXT GENERATION TO KNOW GOD?

- A. Was it impossible for them to know God because they had not seen the ‘great works of God’?
 1. Some see ... and yet do not believe or obey God
 - Pharaoh not moved by the plagues/miracles
 - Pharisees acknowledged, but not moved (**John 11:47**)
 - Many saw signs, but did not believe in Christ (**John 12:37**)
 2. Some do not see ... and yet believe/obey (**Jn. 20:29; 1 Pt. 1:6-9**)

= So there must be a way to impress them with the power of God without them seeing the great works of God! How?
- B. By teaching them from the law!
 1. **Deuteronomy 4:9-10** – Don't forget what YOU have seen, and TEACH them to YOUR CHILDREN that THEY may fear!
 2. **Deuteronomy 6:6-7** – repeat the law to your children often

3. **Psalm 78:1-8** – teach them the law, that they might set their hope in Him, not forget His works, and keep His commands
- C. Trust that the Scriptures are sufficient for them to know God!
 1. **Romans 10:17** – faith comes from hearing the word of God
 2. **John 20:30-31** – miracles recorded that we might believe
 3. **Romans 1:16-17** – gospel is the power of God to salvation
- D. Remember that knowing God is the goal : teach them to desire to draw near to God (a close relationship, as dear children, adopted as sons), to Love the Lord with all their heart & soul & strength (as their dear Father), to place their full trust in the Lord (Heb. 11:6 – faith that He is and He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him),

III. WHAT IS INVOLVED IN TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATION TO KNOW GOD? (Deuteronomy 6:1-12)

- A. Make sure we are handling the commandments properly (:1-6)
 1. Fear the Lord (:2)
 2. Keep all the commandments (:2)
 3. Be careful to observe the commands (:1,3)
 4. Love the Lord with all our heart, soul, strength (:4-5)
 5. Keep the word in our heart (:6)
- B. Then, teach them to our children (:6-9)
 1. Must first be in our heart (can't teach our children if we don't know) (:6)
 2. Be **diligent** in teaching them (:7a)
 3. Speak of them *often* (:7b-9; **Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4; 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15**) – the majority of teaching is in the home!
- C. Be watchful for distractions complacency/affluence (:10-12)
 1. Not a problem in the wilderness, but would be in Canaan
 2. Would be even greater problem for their children
 3. Today, this is a major distraction! (entertainment, sports, schooling, computers, friends, tv, etc.)
- D. Be prepared to explain God's commands are for our good (:20-25)

Conclusion:

1. Let's make sure we know God
2. Then let's ensure a generation doesn't come that does not know God!
3. Do you know God? (INV)