

I. A Faithful Generation of Israelites (vv 6-7).

- A.** *When Joshua dismissed the people, the people of Israel went each to his inheritance to take possession of the land* (v 6).
- 1) Chronology
 - 2) Context — Chapter 1 shows Israel's relation to the land; Chapter 2 shows Israel's relation to the Lord.
 - 3) Exposition
 - 4) Use, This provides to us the pattern and relationship between worship and life (Lk 24:50-51)
- B.** *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*
- 1) Exposition: They remained faithful (though as we saw from chapter 1, not perfect).
 - 2) Use, Let us not think too poorly of others in history and around us, for the smoking flax God does not quench.
 - 3) The means which God used for the persevering of the people:
 - a) The seeing of His great work
 - b) The remembrance of His great work (Dt 5:12-15)
 - c) Faithful ministers and elders (Pr 10:7)

II. The Death of the Faithful Generation (vv 8-10a).

- A.** *And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of 110 years*
- 1) Chronology
 - 2) Doctrines from the Point
 - a) There was still a need for a better deliverer and truer servant (Dt 34:6-7)
 - b) The Lord has numbered our days – we will not die until the time appointed by God (Psa 139:16)
 - c) We will not go into glory in pristine condition (Job 14:1, 5)
 - 3) Use, We should want to be known as servants of the Lord, who became as a servant for us (Jn 13:16-17)
- B.** *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*
- 1) The name of Joshua's burial place (Jsh 24:30):
 - a) Timnath-heres means portion of the sun, and speaks of the great work of the Lord (Jsh 10:13b-14)
 - b) To die well is to be able to testify through and in death of the work of God.
 - 2) The two-fold testimony of Christian burial

- a) The goodness of the body (we are not just spirits)
 - b) The blessed hope of the resurrection (Dan 12:2-3)
 - c) The means of this hope of resurrection (Jn 11:25-27)
- 3) The importance of the burial in one's inheritance
 - a) Signifies identity and hope (Gen 50:24-25)
 - b) The encouragement to us in our burial is that we shall inherit the [New] Earth (Mt 5:5).
 - 4) Use, We should be prepared for our death (physically, spiritually, emotionally).
- C.** And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers
- 1) Exposition
 - 2) We all shall die, regardless of how righteous [the faithful generation who entered the land] or evil [the wicked generation that perished in the wilderness] (Eccl 9:1-2; Rom 5:17)
 - 3) The land of inheritance is a living illustration and instruction on the land of rest (eternal Sabbath) which is prepared for us by the Lord (Rev 14:13)
 - 4) The Christian can have peace in the face of death and in response to death (Psa 116:15)
 - 5) Uses from the Point
 - a) We must repent of the sin and foolishness of only living for ourselves.
 - b) Consideration not of ourselves, but first of the Lord and second our posterity (Eccl 12:13).
 - c) A prayer to the Lord for wisdom (Psa 90:10, 12)

III. An Unfaithful Generation Arises (v 10b).

- A.** *And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel*
- 1) What this does not mean —
 - a) Not that they were ignorant; they knew the faith (Jdg 6:13)
 - b) Not that they were atheists or outright pagans (Jdg 17).
 - 2) What this does mean —
 - a) That they were faithless, not having a true and living faith (see next section).
 - b) That they were lukewarm, and so the Lord would spew them out of his mouth into the other nations (Rev 3:16).
 - 3) Yet again, Israel became like Egypt (Ex 1:8)
- B.** Uses from the Text — Let us heed the warning of this passage
- 1) We cannot presume upon the Lord for our children (Psa 78:4).
 - 2) We cannot presume upon the Lord for ourselves.
 - 3) We are to beware these warning signs of apostasy.
 - 4) Our prayers should reflect this generational desire.
 - 5) Our lives should reflect this generational desire.