

WHERE GOD'S PEOPLE MESS UP  
PART 6  
PSALM 106:34-48; JUDGES 2

Introduction

This is our sixth and final week of looking at this **confessional prayer for pardon**.

If you've missed any of the first five messages, let me encourage you to please go to our sermonaudio site and catch up on the details of what you have missed. They are important!

We have been seeing in this Psalm how God's People (Israel) had messed up back in Moses' Day and Joshua's Day and even after Joshua died.

If you have been with us for our Wednesday Night Bible Studies, we have been seeing in our journey through the books of Samuel and Kings how they continued to mess up in the same ways all the way until the LORD finally had enough and allowed them to be carried out of the Land Of Promise into captivity in a foreign land! In fact, we saw two verses this last Wednesday when God verbalized this through HIS prophets these words:

*2 Kings 21:14-15—“14 And I will forsake the remnant of mine inheritance, and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies; 15 Because they have done that which was evil in my sight, and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came forth out of Egypt, even unto this day.*

The writer of this Psalm (Daniel ?) is both confessing and identifying with these sins of Israel and the nation of Judah that have their roots all the way back to the time when they were redeemed out of Egyptian bondage!

**VI. THEY DESTROYED NOT THE NATIONS THAT GOD TOLD THEM TO DESTROY WHEN THEY ENTERED THE LAND!**  
*(Vs 34-43; Cf. Judges 2:1ff)*

In spite of GOD'S commands to ISRAEL and HIS warnings of what would take place if they mingled with the occupants of the land that HE gave them and if they made covenants with them, they did not heed what the LORD said!

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And what GOD said would happen to them did happen!  
We began looking at that from *JUDGES 1 and 2*.

We saw that just **one generation** after the death of JOSHUA and all the elders that outlived JOSHUA, the nation of ISRAEL was in deep trouble! *(vs 10)*

We examined how such a thing could happen in our message last Sunday Evening.

**GOD DID NOT FAIL!** *(Judges 2:1)*

**GOD'S PEOPLE DID FAIL!**

- A. The Grandparents Failed!
- B. The Parents Failed!
- C. The Children Failed!

Well tonight we want to continue with the thought here in *Psalm 106* and in *Judges 2* and answer this question— What happens when a generation is lost for GOD? Because that is what we see here!

**VII. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A GENERATION IS LOST FOR GOD?**

- A. **They Do Evil In The Sight Of The LORD!** *(Vs 11)*  
This was **FIRST** and **FOREMOST** what happened to them!  
*(Cf. Deuteronomy 4:23-29 Moses warned them and even prophesied to them what would happen to them!)*

I want you to note several important things about that phrase:  
*“And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD.”*

- 1. **What They Did MAY NOT Have Been Considered Evil By The CANAANITE NATIONS They Dwelled With And Had Learned From!** *(e.g. The World)*
- 2. **What They Did MAY NOT Have Been Considered Evil By The CIVIL AUTHORITIES Of The Nation Of Israel!** *(i.e. The Elders/Those who governed them)*

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3. What They Did MAY NOT Have Been Considered Evil By The RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES Of The Nation Of Israel! (*i.e. The Priests*)

4. What They Did MAY NOT Have Been Considered Evil By Their FELLOW BRETHREN! (*i.e. Other Israelites*)

5. What They Did MAY NOT Have Been Considered Evil By THEM! (*i.e. In their own reasonings!*)

(Understand that to them what they were doing had become generally acceptable by ALL but the ONE WHO MATTERED MOST!)

6. What They Did WAS EVIL IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD!

a. The LORD Is The One Who Sets The Holy Standard!

*Leviticus 11:44*—“For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore **sanctify yourselves**, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy:...”

*1 Peter 1:15-16*—“15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 **Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.**”

b. The LORD's Holy Standard Was Codified In The Law He Gave To His People! (*Psalm 19:7-11*)

c. The LORD's Holy Standard Was And Is An Immovable Standard!

*Psalm 119:89*—“For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.”

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**GOD** is not the one Who needed to change!

We're starting to hear the call for **GOD** and those who call themselves by HIS name to change! But listen, **GOD DOES NOT AND WILL NOT CHANGE!**

*Malachi 3:6* — “For I am the LORD, I change not; Therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.”

*James 1:17*— “..with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

*Hebrews 13:8*—“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”

d. **EVERYTHING** that is done is done **IN HIS SIGHT!**

*Proverbs 15:33*—“The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”

*Hebrews 4:13*—“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”

Throughout this book and all the historical books we find that the phrase “**did evil in the sight of the LORD**” is a regular phrase.

It occurs seven times in the Book of the Judges, as descriptive of the six apostasies of Israel, which drew down upon them the six servitudes under various enemies!

**(Judges 2:11; 3:7; 3:12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1)**

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*What Happens When A Generation Is Lost For God?*

*They Do Evil In The Sight Of The LORD!*

**B. They Forsake The LORD God! (Vs 12, 13)**

The word "*forsook*" = "*to depart, to abandon, to loose.*"

By definition it was a determined act!

**C. They Serve And Follow Other Gods! (Vs 11-13)**

*"Served" = "to worship, obey."*

*"Followed" = "to walk behind. To go in the ways of."*

Note the plurality of gods they turned to:

*(Vs 12) "other gods"*

*(Vs 13) Baalim or Baal*

*(Vs 11, 13) - Baalim is the plural for Baal.*

*Baal* was the chief god worshiped by the people of Canaan.

*Ashtaroth (Vs 13) - plural of Ashtoreth, a Canaanite fertility goddess. If you have a fertility god (Baal) you would expect a fertility goddess as well (Ashtoreth)! I've mentioned before that the worship of Baal and Ashtoreth frequently involved immorality, which is one of the reasons the Israelites were so sorely tempted to follow them!*

The Canaanites had gods for almost every season, activity, or place. So, the Canaanites saw the **LORD GOD JEHOVAH** as just another god to add to all their other gods.

The problem for both the Israelites and the Canaanites was the first two commandments of the LORD:

*Exodus 20:3-4—"Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth."*

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*What Happens When A Generation Is Lost For God?*

**D. They Provoke The LORD To Anger! (Vs 12, 14)**

*"Provoked To Anger" = "to vex, agitate, stir up, or provoke to a heated condition which in turn leads to specific actions."*

When the **LORD's** covenant people became unfaithful to **HIM, HE**, by virtue of **HIS holiness and jealous love** was provoked to anger and wrath against them!

**E. They Lose The Hedge Of Protection Of The LORD!**  
*(Vs 14, 15)*

**F. They Develop Stubborn Hearts! (Vs 16-19)**

Sin hardens and callouses the heart toward **GOD!**

I think we all understand stubbornness don't we?

**G. They Don't Experience The Deliverance That Could Have Been And Should Have Been Theirs! (VS 20-23)**

The **LORD** allowed the Canaanites to remain in the land.

Two reasons why God allowed this to happen are:

1. He chose to punish Israel for her apostasy in turning to idolatry.
2. The Lord left the Canaanites in the land to test Israel's faithfulness to Himself.

This provided each generation with an opportunity to keep the way of the **LORD** or to continue in the rebellion of their immediate ancestors.

Each generation kept making the same mistakes and so the generations after them continued in a downward cycle for many years to come! (325 years)

**SIN->SUFFERING & SERVITUDE->SUPPLICATION-> SALVATION->SILENCE**

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**Conclusion**

What happens when a generation is lost for **GOD**? You wind up with a godless society, you wind up with judgment, with pain, with suffering, with servitude!

The Psalmist realized that this was the reason they had gone through 70 years of captivity! He also realized that the **LORD** told Jeremiah that release from captivity and return to the land would only take place with the prayers of **GOD'S** people!

And that was what he was doing in this **Psalm of confession!**

**What is the remedy for all of the LORD'S people's errors?**

**1. Cry out to the LORD! (Vs 44) Confession and repentance.**

Listen, we need a **revival** with a **return to the LORD** in our own land!

The problem is, folks don't want to pay the price of **revival**.

**It doesn't come without having a real humility that prays to the LORD and seeks the LORD's face!**

**It doesn't come without a turning from our wicked ways!**  
*(2 Chronicles 7:14)*

**2. Rest in the promises of GOD! (Vs 45)**

**3. Rest in the mercies of GOD! (Vs 46)**

**4. Return to the LORD! (Vs 47)**

**5. Praise the LORD! (Vs 48)**