

**(Judg 2:8-10) "There arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD..."**

(Neh 13:23-25) "And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language..."

It has been said that:

1. There was a generation that saw and experienced the move of God.
2. Then there was a generation that saw the move of God but didn't experience the move of God.
3. Then there was a generation that neither saw nor experienced the move of God.

Another way of saying the same thing:

1. The first generation knew the Lord of the work.
2. The second generation knew the work of the Lord.
3. The third generation knew neither the Lord of the work or the work of the Lord.

Joshua's Generation:

1. Saw the 10 plagues of Egypt.
  - *Walked through the Red Sea.*
  - *received the Ten Commandments.*
2. Experienced wandering in desert.
  - *Fought battle of Jericho.*
  - *Were first to enter the promised land.*
3. They remained faithful to God & His Law.
  - *Knew price the generation before paid for disobedience.*
  - *Intimately knew the LORD & witnessed His mighty wonders!*

Next Generation: Children of Joshua & men who fought beside him;

1. Sons & daughters of women who gathered the manna in the wilderness.
  - *This generation grew up "feeding" on first-hand stories parents told of God's deliverance & provision.*
2. They did not see walls of Jericho fall;

- They did not hear the rumblings of Mt. Sinai, when God gave the 10 commandments.
- They did not see the parting of Red Sea, etc.

3. Did not know same or extent of hardships of parents and thus of God's needed & faithful provision.
4. Yet, day & night, parents taught them such things.
  - When they sat at home & when they walked along the road, when they tucked them in at night and when they woke up in the morning!
5. As a result, that generation stayed faithful, knew their LORD, knew retribution, repentance & restoration.
  - And they were blessed with peace and prosperity.

Third Generation: Had it easiest.

1. Parents & Grandparents made all the real sacrifices, did all the hard work.
  - They had settled land, protected borders, established a nation feared & respected by others.
    - > They had agriculture, trade, etc.
2. They transformed the nation into a flourishing, growing enterprise.
  - Therefore, this generation grew up with everything!
  - Life was good, prosperous and easy!
3. But something went wrong.
  - They grew up without the hardship of their grandparents.
  - And, without the training of their parents.

And, they KNEW NOT the Lord!

Every day:

1,000 unwed teenage girls become mothers.  
1,106 teenage girls get abortions

4,219 teenagers contract sexually transmitted diseases  
500 adolescents begin using drugs

1,000 adolescents begin drinking alcohol  
135,000 kids bring guns or other weapons to school

3,610 teens are assaulted; 80 are raped  
2,200 teens drop out of high school

6 teens commit suicide

How To Get to Heaven

In a survey 75% of people interviewed said that they believed many religions could lead to heaven.

61% of those who had a "high personal religious commitment." said all religions can get you to heaven.

48% of "evangelical Protestants" thought many religions could lead to heaven

## Religious Literacy

Although 90% of people in the U.S. claim they are Christian, only a few know anything about religion at all.

About 75% of adult Americans believe the Bible holds the answers to all or most of life's basic questions.

*Yet only half can name one of the four gospels and most do not know the first book in the Bible is Genesis.*

## The Home & Salvation

Several years ago the results of a 50-yr. study of Christian and non-Christian homes was released.

*Based on the data, the researchers shockingly concluded that, in American culture:*

- > The chances are better for a child growing up in a non-Christian home to become a Christian than for a child growing up in a home that has an indifferent, apathetic commitment to Jesus Christ!

Our children speak the language of Ashdod, and cannot speak in the Jews' language!

There arose a Generation that KNEW NOT the Lord.

### Winning the Next Generation

I. (Psa. 84:1-3) Even a Bird-Brain knows the importance of raising your kids in Church.

A. This is SO important.

*1. I can't guarantee that if you raise your kids in Church they will do right...*

- > But I can almost guarantee that if you do not raise your kids in Church...
- > They will probably not do right!

*2. I can give you TWO promises from God:*

- > "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it!"

> "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, AND THY HOUSE!"

***3. Maybe your living for God will not win your children to God...***

> But, not living for God will CERTAINLY not win your children to God.

**B. Anybody who has lived for God more than 3-4 years KNOWS...**

***1. There is something about being in Church that establishes the family.***

***2. Even if it wasn't a commandment from God.***

> Even if God didn't bless me directly for it...

> I would still stay in Church if it meant the slightest possibility that it would benefit my children.

**C. (Neh. 13:25) Nehemiah was pretty upset about the fact that the children couldn't speak Jewish.**

***1. He contended with them.***

> He fought physically with them.

***2. He cursed them.***

> You idiots; You stupid morons; You ignoramuses...

> How could you be so STUPID?

***3. He smote certain of them.***

> He took a rod and began to beat some of them.

***4. He plucked off their hair.***

> He yanked some of them by the head, and pulled hair out!

***5. And, he made them swear by God...***

> Swear to me, Swear to me...

> We will not leave our Children for the devil!

> Swear to me; Swear to me...

> We will not stop serving God.

> Swear to me, We will stay on Church!

**D. Yet stupid, moron, idiot parents have not yet committed themselves to being in Church EVERY TIME...**

***1. This is not kind of important; IT IS ABSOLUTELY important.***

***2. We will lose the next generation if we do not instill in them...***

> The absolute necessity of being in Church!

**II. (Jer. 22:13-16) The Most Important Sacrifice You Make Should Be For Your Children.**

**A. Who cares about your nice house?**

*1. What about your children?*

*2. MUCH MORE IMPORTANT...*

**B. Home or Christian School?**

*1. Eat tortillas and beans if you have to, but rescue your kids from the wicked world.*

*2. I wouldn't send my dog to public school.*

> I promised a teacher I would say this... **Not all public school teachers are wicked.**

> But might be 2-3 that aren't...

**C. Some pay a high premium to live in a nice house; Nice car!**

*1. They sacrifice other things to have these!*

> They don't eat out as much, so they can have nice things.

*2. But, I say live in a crackerjack box if you have to...*

> But, don't sacrifice your children's spiritual welfare.

*3. (1 Tim. 5:8) If its strong physically, how much more so spiritually?*

> Worse than an infidel!





