

THE EPIC OF EDEN: DEBORAH

Session 3 Video Notes – The Cycle of the Judges

1. How did we get here? (Judges 2:6-15; 3:5-6)
 - a. Obedience (2:6-7)

The people served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the Lord had done for Israel. (v.7)
 - b. Disobedience (2:10-13)

After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel. (v.10)
 - c. Oppression (2:14-15)

In his anger against Israel the Lord gave them into the hands of the raiders who plundered them. He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. (v.14)
 - d. The Third-generation phenomenon
 - i. First generation: those whose faith is their own
 - ii. Second generation: those who have the influence of the first generation
 - iii. Third generation: those who have no testimony to tell
 - e. Unfulfilled destiny (3:5-6)

How could the successors of Joshua, the heirs of the divine promise, lose their grip on that gift that stood as a goal and apex of the entire work of God narrated from the Creation through the Exodus experience to the conquest? The answer given in this carefully constructed and complex chapter is chilling: Israel frittered away its inheritance a little bit at a time. Before any claims of overt apostasy appear, the text impresses on the reader a process in which the nation simply compromised the divine purpose. Before settling for something other than Yahweh's covenant promises, Israel settled for something *less than* Yahweh's covenant promises.¹
2. How do we get out of here? (Judges 2:16-19)
 - a. Judges (2:16)

Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. (v.16)
 - b. Garth Rosell and the life cycle of the church; the cycle of revival
3. Who's going to lead us?

¹ Lawson Stone, *Judges*, in *Cornerstone Biblical Commentary*, vol. 3 (Carol Stream, IL: Tynbdale, 2012), 222.