

1. The Judges (period in Israel's history after they had settled into the Promised Land, after Joshua died and before the Kings. It should have been a peak period in their history—prospering from a land flowing with milk and honey—a time to praise God for the bounty, but it wasn't. Exactly the opposite happened. Apparently in their prosperity and comfort they quickly forget who delivered it all to them. Now we know them as)
2. The Generation Who Left—Judges 2:8-23 (Their apostasy triggered the relentless cycle chronicled in this book. The reasons are evident in the text)
 - a. Forsook the Lord
 - b. Worshipped other gods
 - c. Refused to abandon corrupt behavior (that is until the consequences were too difficult—then they returned to God—then he rose up a judge to defeat their enemies—then the cycle repeated itself. I guess some folks never learn.)
3. Our Generation (we should pay close attention to this history—lest we repeat it. Here are some contemporary lessons from Judges)
 - a. Apostasy needs only one generation—Judges 2:10
 - b. Self-sufficiency can breed contempt for God—Matthew 6:24
 - c. The allure of other gods is strong—1 Corinthians 10:6-10
 - d. There are real consequences of sin—Romans 6:23; James 1:13-15
 - e. God will never forsake us and always provide a way out—1 Corinthians 10:13
4. (The very last verse in Judges nails exactly why it was such a tough time for Israel) “Everyone did as they saw fit.” (That will always be a recipe for trouble and unrest. Those 1 Corinthians 10 references listed—Paul said these things happened so we could learn not to repeat them. We are not smarter than those ancient folks; we have not figured out some better way to do what we see fit; sin is sin. So let's be the generation who stayed—stayed with God; never forsaking him for cheap thrills. What do you say church?)