

PREPARING THE JOSHUA GENERATION

In the Old Testament there were two generations that brought God's people into fulfilling God's plans:

The Moses Generation- started God's plans, by saving God's people out of Egypt's slavery

The Joshua Generation- completed God's plans, by entering and conquering the Promised Land

God has given different generations specific callings- different times in Church history have required God's people to arise to new challenges & new opportunities!

The time that we now live in is one of the most unique times in all of human history:

Population explosion- 1 billion people to almost 7 billion people in last 100 years!

Technology explosion- from the horse & cart, to the automobile, to the plane, to rockets, in 100 yrs!

Increasing Calamities

Wars & Riots & Civil wars!

But the most significant event of all is not a natural development or calamities, but a spiritual happening!

2000 years ago, before Jesus Christ left the earth, he said to His disciples, "All power is given to Me in heaven and earth. Go therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them..."

This last command that Jesus gave His followers is commonly called the Great Commission.

It is the marching orders the worldwide church, the army of God, is to complete.

And before He left, Christ declared that when the church completes the Great Commission He will return to the earth – it will be time for His Second Coming!

Mt.24:14 "And this gospel will be preached in all the world for a witness, and then the end will come."

The worldwide church is prepared in this generation to finish evangelizing the world- the last generation is here that will complete the Great Commission, God's marching orders for the worldwide Church! (could be completed in 15 to 20 years!)

THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH NEEDS TO SEE BELIEVERS ARISE THAT ARE PREPARED TO HELP COMPLETE THE GREAT COMMISSION AND HELP BRING GOD'S KINGDOM- THE CHURCH NEEDS TO SEE A JOSHUA GENERATION ARISE THAT WILL FINISH GOD'S PLANS!

1. RENEWED MINDS & HEARTS OF FAITH

Of the 12 spies, only Joshua and Caleb believed God would help them conquer the Promised Land. All the rest of Moses' generation died in the wilderness, missing God's best.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE MOSES GENERATION & THE JOSHUA GENERATION:

MOSES GENERATION	JOSHUA GENERATION
SLAVE MENTALITY EXODUS.14:10-12 (BONDAGE IS SECURITY)	SOLDIER MENTALITY NUMBERS 14:6-9 (TRUST AND OBEY!)
REACTIVE (WORRY, FIXING PROBLEMS)	PROACTIVE (FAITH, FORWARD GOALS)
GOD PARTED THE WATERS, ISRAEL ESCAPES	GOD PARTED THE WATERS, ISRAEL ATTACKS!
DIED IN WILDERNESS	CONQUERED THE PROMISED LAND
FELL SHORT OF GOD'S PLANS, Heb.3:16-4:2	FULL OVERCOMERS

(Being in the Joshua Generation is not determined by our age- Joshua was 80 years old when he led the Israelites over into the Promised Land, and Caleb was 87 years old when he conquered his city, Hebron!)

In these last days, God is raising up a faith-filled Joshua Generation- Pro-active – to complete the Great Commission! A church that will triumph over the gates of hell!

The devil hates pro-active, aggressive Christians - Aggressive Christians prove the word of God is true!
“Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.”

“I can do all things through Christ” ... “All things work together for good”

We need to press on! Determine to go forward! Attack!

David- ran to Goliath

Elijah- set the challenge w/ the 400 false prophets

Moses- challenged Pharaoh

Live life aggressively! Ecc 9:10 “Whatsoever your hand finds to do, do it with all your strength.”

Your weapon, or your tool to help build God’s kingdom might be a cooking spoon...a computer...a sewing machine... a voice in your community... a guitar... as we each use our God-given talents to serve Him, we can all go forward, we can all press on!

2. WE NEED DIRECTION FROM GOD, PROV.28:19

We first need to see our Promised Land- the inheritance we can conquer! EPHESIANS 1:15-18

- The 12 spies saw a fruitful land- Joshua & Caleb picked out the places they wanted to live!
- What can your life accomplish for God? What can be your “Promised Land?”
- What can you do to help build up the people of God, and help complete the Great Commission?

We need to know what we should be aiming to accomplish, Prov.28:19. Otherwise all our activities can be counterproductive!

EX: FOOTBALL GAME: Some years ago 2 US university football teams were playing each other. The Georgia Tech. team fumbled the ball, which was picked up by Roy Regals on the California U. team. Roy ran furiously for 65 yards down the football field, but 2 yards from the goal line he was tackled and stopped- by one of his own team members! Why? Roy Regals had become disoriented during the action, and he grabbed the ball and ran the wrong way, to almost make a touchdown for the other team!

Saul of Tarsus was going the wrong way, Acts 9:1-4. But he turned and became the Apostle Paul: Phil.3:13-14, “ONE THING I do... I press toward the mark”

A correctly focused life will have purpose and power!

EX: a magnifying glass can focus the warm sunlight... and start a fire:

FOLLOWING GOD’S DIRECTIONS WILL RELEASE GOD’S BLESSINGS:

A. King Joash, 2 Kgs 13:14-19 Strike The Ground With Arrows

B. Jesus’ Disciples, Lk.9:14-16 Organize 5000 Into Groups, Distribute 5 Loaves & 2 Fish

HUDSON TAYLOR: “GOD’S WILL, DONE GOD’S WAY, WILL HAVE GOD’S PROVISION”

3. 3. WE NEED TO USE FAITH TO PRESS FORWARD!

“And Caleb stilled the people before Moses and said, “Let us go up at once and possess it, for we are well able to overcome it.” – Numbers 13:30

God’s people do not always go forward for God very willingly:

Jonah: “Go to Ninevah & preach”- he went the opposite way, until the great fish swallowed him!

The Early Church stayed in Jerusalem for several years, blessed & very loving, Acts 2:44-46. But they ignored the Great Commission until God pushed them out of Jerusalem through persecution, Acts 8:1

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand: several years ago they had a big earthquake, but no one was killed!

A national Christian leader tried to organize an outdoor Thanksgiving & Evangelism concert- govt & radio approved & offered free help: but the pastors argued & opposed!

The leadership of the large Protestant cathedral would not let their outdoor plaza be used for a public interchurch evangelistic gathering. INSTEAD, a SECULAR music celebration was held because no one was killed- but God was not thanked or honored in that celebration, even once!!

Then 6 months later, another earthquake struck. Many people died, the big cathedral was destroyed! Most church buildings were damaged or destroyed- The churches were forced to conduct outdoor services & unbelievers were saved!

What happened in Christchurch, New Zealand is a sign from God for Christ’s Church around the world! - Will we rise up in faith to spread the gospel and complete the Great Commission? Or will we wait until coming great difficulties cause our light to shine?

THE PROMISES OF CHRIST WILL BE FULFILLED, MAT.16:18 & MAT.24:14.

The Church will overcome the gates of Hell!

The Joshua Generation will complete the Great Commission!

That is guaranteed- but the question for us, is: will we be a part of the Joshua Generation?
Will we rise up in faith to serve the Lord?