

Introduction:

- We start a new series this morning entitled: Through the Generations. God loves the generations and has always worked through the generations. If we can only see what God sees in the generations then maybe we could partner better with God in what He is doing beyond our life time and beyond.
- I am going to sow a seed into you today. There is life in the seed and when all the ingredients are right it will grow up and bare fruit. Prayer, word, faith and patience. *"It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it."* (Isaiah 55:11, NLT)
- What I am doing is starting a conversation. A conversation with you and I; with you and your friends; with you and God.
- Ps 78:1-8

I. God Is Interested in Generations

- A. What is a generation? Life is made up of people and people make up generations. God is interested in people therefore it is only natural that He be interested in the generations. After all, He is going somewhere with all of this... that we call life. So what is a generation? IE. Rope with red flags.
1. A single succession in natural descent, as the children of the same parents; hence, an age. Thus we say, the third, the fourth, or the tenth *generation*. Gen 15:16 *"After four generations, your descendants will return to this land..."*
 2. The people of the same period, or living at the same time. *"O faithless and perverse generation"* Luke 9:41.
 3. Genealogy; a series of children or descendants from the same stock. *"This is the book of the generations of Adam."* Gen 5:1, ESV.
 4. What we will be talking about over the next few weeks are: How God sees generations; How that understanding should affect the generations of families and how those families prepare the next generation to live before God.
- B. What is a generation gap?
1. It is the lack of communication between one generation and another. Therefore, the more a generation connects with other generations the less a gap will exist.
 2. It is the differences in opinions, values, etc., between younger people and older people
 3. The concept of a generational gap becomes important when you begin to see generationally. It is important because it has to do with connecting generations to one another and to the values that they hold.
 - a) Where there is a gap there is a breakdown or departure from God.
 - b) Where there is a gap there is a delay on the part of humanity (possibly affecting generations) in participating in the plans of God. (40 years in wilderness) He is patient not wanting any to perish. 2 Peter 3:9
 - c) Where there is a gap a new generation must 'start over' learning the ways of God.
 - d) Where there is a gap there is a fatherless generation that must learn what a good father is that they might see and know their heavenly Father.

- C. A look at God's interest in the generations.
1. *"Then God said, "I am giving you a sign of my covenant with you and with all living creatures, for all generations to come." (Genesis 9:12, NLT) The rainbow.*
 2. *"I want you all to know about the miraculous signs and wonders the Most High God has performed for me. How great are his signs, how powerful his wonders! His kingdom will last forever, his rule through all generations." (Daniel 4:2-3, NLT)*
 3. *"I will confirm my covenant with you and your descendants after you, from generation to generation. This is the everlasting covenant: I will always be your God and the God of your descendants after you." (Genesis 17:7, NLT)*
 4. *"seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him." (Genesis 18:18-19, ESV)*
- D. God is interested in generations but there is very little generational thought given to the raising of our children.

II. How God Sees The Generations

- A. God sees linear not circular.
1. Most people see life "circular", therefore they live from that perspective.
 - a) The phrase 'circle of life' is the observation of a life cycle. The circle of life is the symbolic representation the birth, growth, reproduction and death. Nothing speaks of this more clearly than the Lion King: Circle of Life video. <https://duckduckgo.com/?q=Circle+of+life+lyrics&t=osx&iax=videos&ia=videos&iai=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DR3XofGINYcA>. (3:05-3:50 45 second). Circle of Life, from the movie The Lion King: Original Motion Picture (1994) Copyright: Walt Disney Pictures/ Walt Disney Animation Studios. Composed by Elton John with Lyrics by Tim Rice.
 - b) It is a cycle. There are many religions and philosophies that see life as a circle or wheel. IE. Hula Hoops. Most people live with this understanding. So we do not approach life with a view of eternity. We want people to get saved so they can go to heaven...not so they impact generations for God. It is a cyclical or seasonal view.
 2. *****God sees linear** - when God speaks of generations He is looking linear.
 - a) A linear view has eternity in mind. IE. Stretch out the rope.
 - b) When God looks at the generations He does not just see a life (hula hoop) He see the whole picture. IE. Flags marking the generations. (great grand father, grandfather, dad, me, son, grandson. If I give 80 years to each generation we are looking at 480 years!
 - c) God has already been to the end and finished. Then He came back and started. He declares the end from the beginning! *"remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose;'" (Isaiah 46:9-10, ESV)* Ie. Thread the rope

through the hula hoops...that is how God sees. He injects something into the generations and expects it to continue.

- d) Because David saw linear (in light of eternity) he declared my life is but a vapor! Ps 39:5 Teach me to live accordingly.
- B. God sees serpent crushers! *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."* (Genesis 3:15, ESV) One of the first prophetic words concerning Messiah! God injected this into the generations! This word is our salvation! And it is our impartation as well.
- the phrase 'He shall bruise' is in the imperfect tense meaning that this action set in motion will continue with ongoing effect. God injected it into the first generation with the impact of crushing the serpent from generation to generation.
 - he shall bruise your head literally means He shall crush your head/your authority. He will take your bite away. He shall be a serpent crusher! And all who follow are to be serpent crushers!
 - Some of you are raising your children but you are not raising them to be serpent crushers.
- C. God sees the end from the beginning. God has already been out to the end and finished. Then He came back and started. He declares the end from the beginning! *"remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'"* (Isaiah 46:9-10, ESV)
- He has the big picture.
 - Therefore, we trust and pray that He shows us what is ahead in the generations to come.
- D. God sees life in the to the generations and puts himself in them.
- The Feasts are established because God is injecting truth, values, and relationship into His people. *"This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast."* (Exodus 12:14, ESV) Feast - reason to celebrate, reason to remember, reason to consecrate.
 - "the Feast of Unleavened Bread, ... you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance."* (Ex 12:17) 12:42; 16:32
 - Regarding idols - *"You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,"* (Exodus 20:5, ESV)
 - Dt 7:9 God keeps covenant and mercy to a 1,000 generations. God is sowing into the linear line of sight!
- E. God wants a big family!

III. God Moves Through Generations

A picture of purpose initiated by God.

- A. Children of Purpose
- Seth - the appointed son! That name resonates with divine purpose. Appointed! Chosen for a particular job.

2. Moses, Jochebed, mother of Moses, saw he was a special child. Ex 2:2
 - a) Speaks of prophetic insight! Revelation of a generation.
 - b) Pharaoh's daughter calls him Moses - one drawn out of the water. The name means - to draw out; or the drawer out; or he who draws out. A deliverer!
 3. John the Baptist - John means - God is gracious!
 - a) But interestingly he is filled with the Spirit from his mother's womb. Luke 1:15. Why not your child!?!
 - b) No alcohol, he will be a Nazarite. Numbers 6:3. I bet his parents stopped drinking at that point. Again, prophetic insight into a generation.
 4. Jesus/Yeshua
 - a) The Lord is salvation.
 - b) Immanuel - God with us.
 - c) Can you see the eternal purpose?
- B. Children...
1. The names of the 12 tribes of Israel actually come from a place of pain and not necessarily a place of purpose. Rachel, Jacob's love, and Leah the one he had to live with until he could get Rachel
 - a) Women who are disappointed, rejected, discouraged, insecure.
 - b) Children born into this spiritual atmosphere are raised in a confused identity and insecurity.
 - c) The good news is no matter your family line. There is hope!!!
 2. Leah
 - a) Rueben - the Lord has noticed my misery and now my husband will love me.
 - b) Simeon - the Lord heard I was unloved and gave me another son.
 - c) Levi - Surely this time my husband will feel affection for me since I have given him 3 sons!
 - d) Judah - Now I will praise the Lord. And she stopped having children.
 3. Rachel's servant.
 - a) Dan born by her servant, Bilhah. - God has vindicated me. He has heard my request and given me a son!
 - b) Naphtali born by her servant, Bilhah. - I have struggle hard with my sister and I am winning.
 4. Leah
 - a) Gad by her servant. Good fortune has come.
 - b) Asher by her servant. Happy am I. For women have called me happy.
 - c) Issachar by Leah. God has rewarded me for giving my servant to my husband as a wife.
 - d) Zebulun by Leah. God has given me a good reward. Now my husband will treat me with respect, for I have given him six sons.
 5. Rachel
 - a) Joseph by Rachel. May the Lord add yet another son to my family.
 - b) Benjamin by Rachel on her death bed.

- (1) She calls him Ben-oni - son of my sorrow.
- (2) Jacob called him Benjamin - son of my right hand.

IV. Redeeming the Generations

- A. Redeem - "to achieve the transfer of ownership from one to another through payment of a price or an equivalent substitute." Coker, W. B. (1999). [1734 הַיָּד](#). R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 716). Chicago: Moody Press.
1. We are transferring the ownership of the generations from Satan back God through Jesus Christ.
 2. In Christ we are taking ownership of what was originally given by God to man.
 3. Jesus has already paid the price! So by taking ownership, walking in the authority given to us we intend to take back the generations!
- B. Jesus and Children
1. Why did Jesus tell the disciples to let the children come to Him.
 - a) He knew the promise that was in the seed.
 - b) He knew He was life (Zoe) and that the seed also held precious Zoe.
 - c) He wanted to the children and the adults to know that this is the next generation in our midst and they are critically important to God.
- C. Our Response:
1. Continue on in building the generations.
 2. To start new today.
 - a) Start where you
 - b) Move ahead on the knowledge you have.
 - c) Dream of how you can cast vision to your children and grandchildren.
 - d) Do not let the experience or reality of broken home, no Christian heritage stop you. Start building there. May your children look back and see the courage and sacrifice you took in stepping out for the generations...to leave a heritage of faith.
 3. To come out of passive generational thinking to an active pursuit of leaving the mark of God on all generations.

Conclusion:

- Invitation - Building a Godly heritage starts with making a commitment to Christ.
- Commitment to forge ahead.