

## **ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS #8**

### **Introduction**

What is God going to say to America today as we have backslidden into a such of place of peril that the very existence of our nation is under attack? The same thing He said to backslidden Israel in the days of Jeremiah the prophet:

#### **Jeremiah 6:16**

**This is what the Lord says: "Stop at the crossroads and look around. Ask for the old paths, the godly way, and walk in it. Travel its path, and you will find rest for your souls."**

God tells us to 'ask for the old paths' because we have walked away into 'new paths'; we've forgotten the faith of our forefathers...in the nation and in the church; as Americans and as Christians.

**The curse has come upon us because of the disconnection between this generation and the generations gone before us.**

The good news is that the curse can be reversed if by restoring generational connections, the title of tonight's message...

#### **"Restoring Generational Connections"**

We will be teaching several messages on this subject. So...

#### **What do I mean by 'Generational Connection?'**

**Generational Connections refers to the task of maintaining spiritual continuity down through the generations. In a godly nation, it refers to the State as well as the Church.**

America is in a mess because the Church is in a mess.  
We can be overwhelmed by the mess if we fail to realize one simple thing...

**Most of our problems today, in the Church and in the Nation, are the result of generational disconnection!**

The good news is that God Himself has promised to perform this very thing!  
As we began to share last week...

### **Theme**

**Before Christ comes down, an 'Elijah' ministry must rise up to restore the generational connections that will release the covenantal blessings of God upon the land.**

Our proof text is taken from the last words in the Old Testament...

### **Malachi 4:5-6**

**Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.**

### **Vine's Expository Dictionary**

#### **"Turn"**

**To return or go back; to bring back; to move back to the point of departure; to return along a path already traveled.**

When His disciples asked him about His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming in Matthew 17, Jesus assures them that an Elijah ministry will come first...

### **Matthew 17:11**

**Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.**

### **The Biblical Illustrator**

**The object and effect of Elijah's mission is set forth, to reform mankind and bring the world back to those elementary principles or institutes ordered of old for human improvement and salvation.**

There are 7 things we need to know about Restoring Generational Connections that we'll be looking at in these messages...

### **7 Point Preview**

- God acts and thinks generationally
  - Generational disconnection bring God’s curse
  - Generational connection brings God’s blessings
- Generational connections depend upon remembering our history

### **7 Point Preview**

- Generational Connections succeed through honor and fail through dishonor
- Successful Generational Connections produce a synergy of power and anointing upon the present generation
- The continuity of successful Generational Connections requires faithful fathers and submitted sons

## **I. 7 Things To Know About Generational Connections**

### **A. One. God Acts and Thinks Generationally**

1. Over a dozen times, the Bible refers to God as the “God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob”!

#### **God Thinks Generationally**

**The Bible refers to God as ‘the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob over a dozen times! In other words, God thinks *generationally!***

a. We need to remind ourselves that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is OUR God, too!

2. This title for God reminds us that everything God does is by COVENANT!

#### **Compelling Truth.org**

**Referring to Him as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob emphasizes the covenant that He made first with Abraham and repeated with the following generations. This name of God is special because it emphasizes His covenant with Israel.**

3. The Bible is a Covenant: an Old Covenant and a New Covenant.

a. God made a covenant with Abraham, a covenant with Moses, a covenant with David.

4. When God makes a covenant with a man or with a nation, it always includes the descendants, or the generations that follow!

5. God made a covenant with Adam. When Adam broke the covenant, it affected all the generations that would follow him!

### **Dutch Sheets**

**Adam broke his covenant with God, and like it or not, Adam's sin—and resulting sin nature—was, in fact, passed on to us.**

6. The bad news is that Adam broke the covenant and brought a curse on all those born after him. The Good News is that God made a covenant with His Son, Who unlike Adam, kept the covenant perfectly and brought a blessing on all those who would be born after Him (in a 'new birth').

7. The Bible is about 2 covenants; the Old Covenant with Adam which brings a curse on all his descendants and the New Covenant with Christ (the 'last Adam') which brings a blessing upon all His descendants!

8. Summary: God thinks and acts generationally.

### **B. Second & Third Points: Generational Disconnection Brings A Curse/Generational Connection Brings His Blessing**

1. In his book 'An Appeal to Heaven', Brother Dutch Sheets says...

### **Dutch Sheets**

**The Scriptures clearly teach that the generations are connected, with both blessings and curses flowing from one generation to the next.**

### **Dutch Sheets**

**God says that when the generations disconnect, it creates a curse.**

2. Moses taught Israel that blessings and curses flow generationally:

### **Deuteronomy 5:9-10**

**For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.**

### **Deuteronomy 7:9-10**

**"Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.**

2. Generational disconnection occurs in times of great transition.

### **The Biblical Illustrator**

**Ours is a time of great transition, and the grave danger of our times is the possibility of estrangement between the fathers and the children, between the old and the young.**

3. This is what has happened in America and in many American churches:

a. America's founding fathers made a covenant with God; only the 2<sup>nd</sup> nation in world history to do so; but this current generation has become disconnected from our founding fathers and covenant documents.

b. The modern American church has disconnected from the 'old paths'; we've created 'sacred cows' and new inventions for church growth with no biblical foundation.

4. The results of this generational disconnection are all around us.

### **The Biblical Illustrator**

**Losses of spiritual continuity are terrible evils. More and more, as we go on in life, we feel our responsibility for making the best of the heritage which the past has bequeathed to us -- the heritage of Christian creed and character. We need remember that we have entered into the labors of other men.**

5. This is why I so often quote the Church fathers in my messages. This is why I so often quote America's founding fathers! It's an 'Elijah' anointing.

### **C. Third: Generational Disconnection Brings a Curse; Generational Connection Brings God's Blessings**

#### **Dutch Sheets**

The generations are far more interconnected than most of us realize. In God's mind, the actions and accomplishments of individuals in former generations are sometimes credited to those who follow. Hebrews 7:9 states that the descendants of Levi paid tithes through their great, great, great grandfather Abraham! There are blessings we are experiencing today that someone else paid for.

1. Did you know the Bible says that the generations are so connected that when you pay your tithes God counts the credit not only to you but to your yet unborn children to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation? (Hebrews 7:9)

#### **Hebrews 7:9-10**

Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

#### **Dutch Sheets**

**What my ancestors have done—my family history—affects me, and what I do impacts those who come after me. That is staggering in its ramifications!**

2. A famous ancestry comparison study was done of the descendants of the great American theologian Pastor Jonathan Edwards and profligate criminal named Max Jukes. Take a look:

#### **JONATHAN EDWARDS/MAX JUKES GENERATIONAL COMPARISON**

Jonathan Edwards was a Christian minister and theologian, born in 1703

He entered Yale College at age 13 and graduated with honors.

Max Jukes was an atheist, born in 1720. He was a drunkard.

Now compare the history of the descendants of these 2 men.

#### **JONATHAN EDWARDS**

**A Christian who married a godly girl. His descendants include...**

**1 Vice President, 3 U.S. Senators, 3 governors, 3 mayors**

**13 college Presidents**  
**65 college professors**  
**40 judges**  
**100 lawyers**  
**60 physicians**  
**75 Army and Navy officers**  
**100 ministers and missionaries**  
**60 prominent authors**  
**80 public officials**  
**295 college graduates, among whom were governors and ministers to foreign countries**

**MAX JUKES**

**An atheist who married an ungodly girl. Of his descendants...**

**310 died as paupers**

**150 died as criminals**

**7 as murderers**

**100 as drunkards**

**And more than half his female descendants were prostitutes.**

The descendants of Jonathan Edwards were a blessing to the world.  
The descendants of Max Jukes cost the state more than \$1,250,000!

3. Are you a Jonathan Edwards or a Max Jukes? It matters because who you are will affect those who come after you.

4. The only cure for Max Jukes and his children is to break the curse by trusting Christ and the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit!

5. When you come to Christ, there is hope for the generations coming after!

**Review**

- **God acts and thinks generationally or covenantally**
  - **Generational disconnection bring God's curse**
  - **Generational connection brings God's blessing**

6. I want to take the rest of our time tonight covering point #4 because it gives us an action item for our day; the key to restoring generational connection:

## **D. Generational Connections Depend Upon Remembering Our History**

1. The continuity of generational connection cannot be maintained apart from a continuing connection with our history.

2. Time and again, God commanded His people to ‘Remember’ and warned them against the danger of “Forgetting”.

### **Deuteronomy 32:7**

**Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations. Ask your father, and he will show you; ask your elders, and they will tell you.**

### **Deuteronomy 4:23**

**Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the Lord your God which He made with you...**

### **Job 8:8-9**

**"Just ask the previous generation. Pay attention to the experience of our ancestors. For we were born but yesterday and know nothing. Our days on earth are as fleeting as a shadow. But those who came before us will teach you. They will teach you the wisdom of old."**

3. It may surprise you to know that God’s people are more likely to forget Him when they are in prosperity than when they are in poverty.

a. God warned His people about what I call ‘the perils of prosperity’.

### **Deuteronomy 6:10-12**

**So it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant —when you have eaten and are full —then beware, lest you forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.**

4. We are the most spoiled, prosperous people on the planet!



a. And we have forgotten the Lord who saved us. This is why...

## **F. The Battle to Restore Generational Connections is a Battle Over History**

1. These were the words spoken by 'Big Brother' government in George Orwell's famous novel '1984'.

**George Orwell**

**Whoever controls the past controls the future. Whoever controls the present controls the past.**

a. This evil entity aims to control the future by controlling the past! It claims it can control the past because it controls the present.

2. This is how you know you're under a totalitarian government like Socialism, Communism or Marxism: they will always seek to control the future by controlling the past! This was Karl Marx first step toward taking control...

**Karl Marx**

**The first battlefield is the rewriting of history. If you can keep people from their history, they are easily controlled.**

**Gary DeMar**

**The Socialists are all about rewriting history. They are involved in a vast coverup of much of America's Christian past.**

- a. This is what the 1619 Project is all about.
- b. This is what Critical Race Theory is all about.

**Todd Starnes**

**The socialists are bulldozing through American history. We the People are the only ones who can stop them.**

c. They will lie about the past to control the future. And keep lying. Trust in government is at an all time low. You can't trust anything they say.

d. The late Czech President Vaclav Havel lived to see the overthrow of Communism in his nation. Here's how he described Communist Governments:

**Vaclav Havel**

**Because the socialist regime is captive to its own lies, it must falsify everything. It falsifies the past. It falsifies the present and it falsifies the future. It falsifies the facts.**

e. The battles in our public schools are with the modern American Marxists who seek to disconnect this generation from their history—the founding fathers and the Constitution.

**David Barton**

**“This is true with America today. We have forgotten where we have come from and what we have been about, and this is especially true in the role of the church—of ministers and Christians—in the civil arena.”**

3. Our founding fathers guaranteed us freedom of speech and freedom of religion to resist the evil and stand up for God.

**Thomas Jefferson**

**“When the people fear the government there is tyranny. When the government fears the people there is liberty.”**

a. Our founding fathers established a system where the government feared the people; the government was ‘of the people, by the people and for the people’.

b. But today government is ‘of the government, by the government and for the government’!

4. Just look at how compliant we are today with governmental overreach that offers us safety if we’re willing to give up our freedom. After 18 months of mask mandates...

**Mark Levin**

**We have less freedom today than before the Nation was founded.**

5. This is what happens when God’s people get generationally disconnected.

a. Wilson’s words could apply to the church as well as the nation.

### **President Woodrow Wilson**

**“A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday does not know what it is today, nor what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we have come from, or what we have been about.”**

6. God warned His people through the prophet Jeremiah what happens to a nation that forgets God...

### **Jeremiah 18:15-17**

**"Because My people have forgotten Me, they have burned incense to worthless idols. And they have caused themselves to stumble in their ways, from the ancient paths, to walk in pathways and not on a highway, to make their land desolate and a perpetual hissing; everyone who passes by it will be astonished and shake his head."**

7. The only cure for the curse is an Elijah ministry that rises up to restore the generational connection that brings God's blessing.

## **III. Close**

### **A. Review: This is the Word of the Lord to Us Today**

#### **7 Point Preview**

- **God acts and thinks generationally**
- **Generational disconnection bring God's curse**
- **Generational connection brings God's blessings**
- **Generational connections depend upon remembering our history**

2. We'll continue this teaching but let me close with the words of a sermon preached in 1750.

### **Rev. Matthias Burnet (1723-1783)**

**“To God and posterity, you are accountable for your rights and your rulers. Let not your children have reason to curse you for giving up those rights and prostrating those institutions which our fathers delivered to you.”**

### **Closing Prayer/Title**