

## April 2 Answers

- 1) The **cycle** of the judges (Jdg 2–3). Joshua’s generation died, and their children “did not **know** the LORD.” (Jdg 2:10). The problem wasn’t **ignorance**, for the next generation certainly knew *about* God and His works. The real issue was that they refused to honor and **obey** God (like Eli’s sons in 1 Sam 2:12). This led to a cycle of **rebellion**, retribution, **repentance**, and restoration that Israel experienced over and over. Each generation **failed** to convince the next to love and serve God, yet this task was at the very center of the Law (Deut 6:4–9). This teaches us how crucial it is to **disciple** our families. God has made it clear that it’s **our** job to train our children (not the church’s or the government’s). They learn the most from our example, and the **home** is the most effective place to pass on the faith to the next generation. Knowing the people would disregard His covenant, God **allowed** some of the Canaanites to remain in Israel’s territory. He did this for several reasons: (1) To **punish** Israel for their apostasy (Jdg 2:3); (2) To **test** their loyalty and love for Him (Jdg 3:4); and (3) To **teach** the next generation to depend on Him to fight their battles (Jdg 3:2). This teaches us that we can’t live off a **previous** generation’s faith. We must demonstrate our own **personal** loyalty and commitment to God.