

A GENERATION LOST

I.) THE NATIONS LEFT TO PROVE ISRAEL. ([3:1-7](#))

A.) As the Israelites were a type of the church on earth, they were not to be idle and slothful.

B.) Temptations and trials detect the wickedness of the hearts of sinners; and strengthen the graces of believers in their daily conflict with Satan, sin, and this evil world.

C.) They must live in this world, but they are not of it, and are forbidden to conform to it. This marks the difference between the followers of Christ and mere professors.

II.) OTHNIEL DELIVERS ISRAEL. ([3:8-11](#))

A.) Affliction makes those cry to God who before would scarcely speak to him.

B.) The Spirit of the Lord came upon Othniel. The Spirit of wisdom and courage to qualify him for the service, and the Spirit of power to excite him to it.

C.) He first judged Israel, reprov'd and reformed them, and then went to war. *:Let sin at home be conquered, that worst of enemies, then enemies abroad will be more easily dealt with. Thus let Christ be our Judge and Lawgiver, then he will save us.*

—Matthew Henry Concise

III.) EHUD DELIVERS ISRAEL FROM EGLON. ([3:12-30](#))

A.) What message from God but a message of vengeance can a proud rebel expect? Such a message is contained in the word of God; his ministers are boldly to declare it, without fearing the frown, or respecting the persons of sinners.

B.) We have to deliver a message of mercy and of free salvation;

C.) the message of vengeance belongs only to those who neglect the offers of grace.