

**1-30-22 Message**  
**Patterns Observed In The Life Of A Backslider**

I Samuel 13:5 And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which [is] on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Beth-aven.

I Samuel 13:6 When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits.

I Samuel 13:7 And [some of] the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he [was] yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

I Samuel 13:8 And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel [had appointed]: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.

I Samuel 13:9 And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.

I Samuel 13:10 And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.

I Samuel 13:11 And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and [that] thou camest not within the days appointed, and [that] the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash;

I Samuel 13:12 Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

I Samuel 13:13 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

I Samuel 13:14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him [to be] captain over his people, because thou hast not kept [that] which the LORD commanded thee.

I Samuel 13:15 And Samuel arose, and gat him up from Gilgal unto Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people [that were] present with him, about six hundred men.

**THE PATTERNS OBSERVED IN THE LIFE OF A BACKSLIDER FROM GOD**

***I. MOST BACKSLIDING STARTS WITH GETTING OUT FROM UNDER AUTHORITY AGAINST GOD AND GOD'S MAN***

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I Samuel 13:15 And Samuel arose, and gat him up from Gilgal unto Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people [that were] present with him, about six hundred men.

Most backsliding does not start with adultery, or drinking, or other moral failures... Most of the time it starts with failure to honour God as you're suppose to...

The first commandment ... is to love God.. with all your heart..

It is a more serious sin to err in your religious service than to err towards your dealings with your fellow man..

Most people do not believe that!

It is more important to fear offending God than to fear offending man..

SAUL'S: Downfall was his lack of respect for the Lord who made him king..

## **1. WHY WAS IT SUCH AN OFFENCE TO GOD FOR SAUL TO OFFER THIS SACRIFICE?**

**A. It showed a disrespect for God's authority, and his servant's authority..**

Remember Samuel anointed Saul....

He usurped authority that was not his.. It was not his place to offer the sacrifice, and by not waiting on the Lord and God's man, Saul evidenced that he thought that his cause was more important than God's commandments...

All authority comes from God and God places his leaders by his authority. If we want God's blessing we need to do God's work his way.

Effective leadership can only come through effective follow-ship.

It was God that made Saul King... but the job of offering the sacrifices was delegated to Samuel and the priesthood. This ministry was separate from the ministry of the magistrate or King.

The King was not to usurp the authority of the priest, and it was Samuel who recognized and anointed Saul as King. It is the job of God's man to be the spiritual influencer over the King.

The most important thing we can do is to learn to accept the place or realm of authority designated for us. We should not usurp authority that has not been given to us.

This usurping of Samuel's authority was the beginning of the downfall of Saul.

So it is that backsliding usually starts when a person will not submit to God's delegated leadership.

***B. Most backsliding starts with some small contention in the church, and usually the backslider gets out of line with the preacher***

Saul got out of line with Samuel. He thought he could do Samuel's job and didn't like that he had to wait on Samuel's timing. Saul perceived that Samuel did not show up when he was suppose to. Saul was not in the position to decide that. This is where he was wrong and Samuel predicted that this error would lead to his downfall..

Note the principle of Scripture:

John 13:20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

Matthew 10:40 He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

Matthew 10:41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

You can't dishonor God's delegated authorities and think you are honoring God!

The problem we have today is that we have rejected God..

But do we see God?

Our rejection of God starts with our rejection of God's messenger, prophet or spokesman.

I Samuel 8:7 .... they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

Every problem that individuals face and our nation faces are the same. It is simply that people are rejecting God's authority. We are looking to do God's work our way.

We often say the problem with our nation is lack of leadership in pulpits today. That is true... but I believe it goes deeper than that. I believe that the leaders in the pulpits today are being dictated by the hears..

The Bible puts it this way..

II Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

II Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

II Timothy 4:4 And they shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

People are flocking to hear preachers who are not preaching sound doctrine..

The people do not want to hear sound doctrine..

The people are picking preachers based on their lusts..

The problem isn't that there are no preachers who will speak the truth..

The problem is that those preachers are suppressed, and censored, and rejected..

Samuel told Saul that he would come ..

Saul.. was not willing to wait for Samuel to come he thought he could do without him..

## ***2. What are the sacrifices of God today that God has given his servants authority over?***

The sacrifices of God do not involve slaying of lambs and oxen etc..

Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of [our] lips giving thanks to his name.

Hebrews 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that [is] unprofitable for you.

All these verses are talking about activities in the Church...

### ***A. IN CHURCH WE OFFER A SACRIFICE OF PRAISE***

**B. IN CHURCH WE BRING OUT TITHES AND OFFERINGS Vs. 16**

**C. IN CHURCH WE RECEIVE INSTRUCTION AND DIRECTION FROM GOD'S SERVANTS**

Saul thought he could do a better job than Samuel...

**3. NOTE THE AREAS THAT SAUL HAD A PROBLEM WITH:**

**A. Saul could not submit to God's time:**

Why because he thought Samuel was late.. and he was being pressed because of the problems of the day.. and he could not wait on Samuel..

One of the greatest contentions that I have battled with in the day which we live is this matter of time.....

Greatest problem we face in this life.. is this matter of time...

Greatest evidence of your dedication of God is when you can place your time on God's altar.. and offer it up as a sacrifice to him..

People today have no time to wait on God.. Saul could not wait on the Lord.. and wait on God's timing.. instead he was going to step out and take matters into his own hand..

Every year we have what we call a Calendar workday. At this meeting we set our schedule for the church a year in advance. We choose to submit our time to this matter of assembling ourselves together. The definition of the word Church is take from the word assemble.. or assembly. In that Calendar we set aside a schedule, of time that we believe would honor God.

Cannot we not submit ourselves to the authority of the church.. the assembly.. on the basis of this command..

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Can we not obey God's timing. Can we not say.. we will assemble when the Church decides to assemble?

I had a fellow visit the church one time, and say to me that he would come to our church if I promised to close the service promptly every Sunday at noon. The reason was, he liked to be home to watch his sports. He could give 1 hour to the Lord and no more.

This is what is wrong with America today. We refuse to give God our time.

We refuse to submit to God.

This was the downfall of Saul.

### ***B. SAUL COULD NOT SUBMIT TO GOD'S PROGRAM OF GIVING***

Here he wanted to give it when and how he wanted..

I Sam. 15:1-9 Failed to give the way God commanded him to give...

More people have backslid and used giving as the justification for it..

People get offended when the preacher preaches about how you should give.

The offerings were not to be given just any old way the people wanted.  
God specified how they should be given.

We live in a day where every man wants to offer offerings when and how they want.

We deplore the state of spiritual decline in our nation and I hear people say oh we need a revival. Yet I believe there is no revival because people really do not want a revival. Revival would mean that we give God our time, and our money as he sees fit not as we see fit..

### ***C. Saul Would Not Submit to The Instructions Given Him By Samuel and God.,.***

Latter on we read that he was told to go and destroy the Amalekites and not spare anything..

I Samuel 15:1 Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee [to be] king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.

I Samuel 15:2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember [that] which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid [wait] for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.

I Samuel 15:3 Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

So this is what we have today.. the Bible is just a book of suggestions...

We take what it says and we reinterpret it..

This is why there are so many Bible versions today. It is not because we do not have the Word of God, it is because we do not like what the Word of God says.. We have the

feminist Bible, the gender neutral Bible, we have a translation for Modern Man, the modern woman, the gays, the Jehovah witnesses, and on and on we go..

Saul had to reinterpret the commands of the Lord that were given to him through Samuel. So the beat goes on.. people go from church to church trying to find a preacher that they agree with rather than the preacher that convicts and convinces their heart that they need to get right with God!

## **II. GOD CEASES TO ANSWER A BACKSLIDERS PRAYERS AND GOD ABANDONS HIM TO HIS OWN WILL AND DEVICES**

When a man fails to heed the rebuke of the Lord about his error and sin his state will get worse, it is only a matter of time..

I Samuel 14:36 And Saul said, Let us go down after the Philistines by night, and spoil them until the morning light, and let us not leave a man of them. And they said, Do whatsoever seemeth good unto thee. Then said the priest, Let us draw near hither unto God.

I Samuel 14:37 And Saul asked counsel of God, Shall I go down after the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into the hand of Israel? But he answered him not that day.

God turned his ear from the prayers of Saul...

There a lot of people that have lost access to the throne of God because they have a broken relationship with the Church, and God's servants .....

After this point you never again see Saul inquiring of the Lord and getting his prayers answered..

When David became King he said...

I Chronicles 13:3 And let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we inquired not at it in the days of Saul. Saul stopped going to the ark of God for advice..

TODAY THE EQUIVALENT OF THIS WOULD BE WHEN A MAN STOPS GOING TO CHURCH....

A person doesn't backslide when they stop going to Church...

They backslide when they loose respect for God's sacrifices and his Church.. and his man.. Not going to Church is just a symptom.. if you get them back to Church nothing will change unless there is a change of heart..

Saul enquired of the Lord.. and the Lord wouldn't answer because Saul was not right with God.. What he should have done is humbled himself and called for Samuel and

sought counsel and help in prayer until he was able to communicate with God again.... instead he blamed his son and everyone else..

### **III. SUCH A MAN CAN GO ON IN THE POWER OF THE FLESH AND FUNCTION AND EVEN SEEM TO PROSPER.... This is a mystery...**

I Samuel 14:46 Then Saul went up from following the Philistines: and the Philistines went to their own place.

I Samuel 14:47 So Saul took the kingdom over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, and against the children of Ammon, and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines: and whithersoever he turned himself, he vexed [them].

I Samuel 14:48 And he gathered an host, and smote the Amalekites, and delivered Israel out of the hands of them that spoiled them.

I Samuel 14:52 And there was sore war against the Philistines all the days of Saul: and when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he took him unto him.

One of the errors we face is that we would think that God is going to quickly deal with backsliders... No God is longsuffering.. It took a period of 40 years for God to deal with Saul.. By the way.. David a good king and man after God's own heart was king for 40 years. How is it a backslidden King could reign for 40 years and a good king only reigns for 40 years? This is perplexing as we view on from the sidelines of life..

The Bible is written so you can see in a few pages how God deals with people over a lifetime...

Application: Some people never face their backslidden state until it is too late!

Each of us are reliving history in our lives.. you can read about yourself in this book.. You can also save yourself a lot of heartache if you would just heed what is written in this book!

#### **Application:**

A backslider can go on with business as usual.. but in the end God won't bless it

### **IV. WHEN A MAN MISTAKES GOD'S LONGSUFFERING FOR TOLERANCE SUCH A MAN'S STATE WILL WAX WORSE AND WORSE UNTIL THERE IS NO REMEDY**

Saul suffered from depression

Saul had fits of temper tantrums...

Saul became paranoid and suspicious of David

Saul became depressed and in the end he actually sought out a fortune teller a witch..

His life ended in a botched attempt at suicide... and he destroyed his family and nation..

**V. LET EACH OF US TAKE HEED TO BE A PERSON WHO IS A MAN/or/WOMAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART SO WE WILL NEVER ENTER SUCH A STATE**

I Samuel 13:13 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

I Samuel 13:14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him [to be] captain over his people, because thou hast not kept [that] which the LORD commanded thee.

God wants our hearts and the Bible teaches us that we need to guard our hearts with all diligence!

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it [are] the issues of life.

Proverbs 4:24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

Proverbs 4:25 Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

The Bible commands us to search our hearts and ask God to cleanse our hearts...

Psalms 19:12 Who can understand [his] errors? cleanse thou me from secret [faults].

Psalms 19:13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous [sins]; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

Psalms 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

## **OTHER EXAMPLES OF BACKSLIDING IN THE BIBLE PART TWO EVENING SERVICE**

The term backslider was gotten from this concept in Hosea:

Hosea 4:15 Though thou, Israel, play the harlot, [yet] let not Judah offend; and come not ye unto Gilgal, neither go ye up to Beth-aven, nor swear, The LORD liveth.

Hosea 4:16 For Israel slideth back as a backsliding heifer: now the LORD will feed them as a lamb in a large place.

Are there other examples:

### **I. UZZIAH BACKSLID WHEN HE USURPED THE AUTHORITY TO OFFER INCENSE UNTO THE LORD**

II Chronicles 26:3 Sixteen years old [was] Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also [was] Jecoliah of Jerusalem.

II Chronicles 26:16 But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to [his] destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense.

II Chronicles 26:17 And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the LORD, [that were] valiant men:

II Chronicles 26:18 And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, [It appertaineth] not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither [shall it be] for thine honour from the LORD God.

II Chronicles 26:19 Then Uzziah was wroth, and [had] a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar.

II Chronicles 26:20 And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he [was] leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out from thence; yea, himself hastened also to go out, because the LORD had smitten him.

II Chronicles 26:21 And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, [being] a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD: and Jotham his son [was] over the king's house, judging the people of the land.

Uzziah, like Saul.. decided to usurp the authority of the priesthood. What ever possessed him to do so we do not know..

God immediately judged him and he became a leper, he reigned 52 years.. Amazing how it is that he was a leper and reigned longer than King David..

His sin affected his son.. we read:

II Chronicles 27:2 And he did [that which was] right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzziah did: howbeit he entered not into the temple of the LORD. And the people did yet corruptly.

There are a lot of good people who do right except for one thing. They do not attend church. They think they are ok because they do right. What they do not know is that they are leaving a bad example for others and their neglect will cause people to do corruptly. Church is a restrainer of evil. What you do or don't do affects others in a positive or negative way. All this happened because of Uzziah..

## **II. LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOASH**

II Chronicles 24:2 And Joash did [that which was] right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

II Chronicles 24:15 But Jehoiada waxed old, and was full of days when he died; an hundred and thirty years old [was he] when he died.

II Chronicles 24:16 And they buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God, and toward his house.

II Chronicles 24:17 Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them.

II Chronicles 24:18 And they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served groves and idols: and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their trespass.

II Chronicles 24:19 Yet he sent prophets to them, to bring them again unto the LORD; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear.

II Chronicles 24:20 And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you.

II Chronicles 24:21 And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the LORD.

II Chronicles 24:22 Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when he died, he said, The LORD look upon [it], and require [it].

Joash did right all the days of Jehoiada,. Here we have it .. some people do right as long as their mentor is with them. When that mentor dies their spirituality dies.

Joash after he back slid began to oppress God's prophets and preachers...

He conspired against Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada.. and killed him.. This is how far a backslidden believer can go. They can become downright oppressive. Sometimes you cannot tell a backslidden child of God apart from the unsaved.

II Chronicles 24:24 For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men, and the LORD delivered a very great host into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash.

II Chronicles 24:25 And when they were departed from him, (for they left him in great diseases,) his own servants conspired against him for the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and slew him on his bed, and he died: and they buried him in the city of David, but they buried him not in the sepulchres of the kings.

Note how God Judged Joash for his sin..

### **III. LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF GEHAZI**

II Kings 5:8 And it was [so], when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.

II Kings 5:9 So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha.

II Kings 5:10 And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.

II Kings 5:11 But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.

II Kings 5:12 [Are] not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.

II Kings 5:13 And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, [if] the prophet had bid thee [do some] great thing, wouldest thou not have done [it]? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?

II Kings 5:14 Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

II Kings 5:15 And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that [there is] no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.

II Kings 5:16 But he said, [As] the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take [it]; but he refused.

II Kings 5:17 And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD.

II Kings 5:20 But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, [as] the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.

II Kings 5:21 So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw [him] running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, [Is] all well?

II Kings 5:22 And he said, All [is] well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments.

II Kings 5:23 And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid [them] upon two of his servants; and they bare [them] before him.

II Kings 5:24 And when he came to the tower, he took [them] from their hand, and bestowed [them] in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed.

II Kings 5:25 But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence [comest thou], Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither.

Money becomes a motivator for many a servant of the Lord to backslide. We need to be careful. We need to know how to lack and to abound.. we need to learn contentment. Gehazi compromised, and was punished of the Lord because of it.

#### **IV. OTHER EXAMPLES IN THE BIBLE OF PEOPLE WHO BACKSLID**

Judges 2:7 And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel.

Judges 2:8 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, [being] an hundred and ten years old.

Judges 2:9 And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the mount of Ephraim, on the north side of the hill Gaash.

Judges 2:10 And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.

Judges 2:11 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim:

Judges 2:12 And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that [were] round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger.

Judges 2:13 And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.

Judges 2:14 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.

Judges 2:15 Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed.

Judges 2:16 Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.

Judges 2:17 And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; [but] they did not so.

Judges 2:18 And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them.

Judges 2:19 And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, [that] they returned, and corrupted [themselves] more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.

It seems a pattern, that there is not a perpetual succession of righteousness from one generation to the next.. Second law of thermodynamics is that everything digresses and falls apart.. So it seems with the moral integrity and from generation to generation .

So it is with the backsliding of God's people..