

Generation to Generation

One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. – Psalm 145:4

When studying my Bible through devotionals or commentaries, I like to consult the old authors above all others. There are numerous reasons for this. Unlike contemporary commentators, they have gone on to glory, so their legacy is solidified. If there was something hypocritical or pretentious about their walk with the Lord, it would be known by now, and they wouldn't be worth a reading. Additionally, the older preachers had little to nothing to gain monetarily from their writings. This is vastly different from today's environment where book writing and selling is an industry, and even internet blogging can be monetized, which has potential ill-bearing upon motive. But all those things aside, the voices of believers from past generations are immensely edifying primarily because they attest to the fact that the God of the Bible is the same today as He was during their respective eras. Be it from the period of the Reformation, the time of the Puritans and the Great Awakening, or the post-Civil-war-to-early 1900's, the pages penned by zealous saints from those times declare plainly that they were worshipping the same Christ of the apostles, and the same Jesus who walks with believers in our time. Thus, their exhortations fulfill our text – their generation praising His works and declaring His mighty acts to ours today.

One cannot read the scriptures without recognizing the unbroken line of succession God intends His truth to traverse. The God of Noah was the same God of Noah's great grandfather, Enoch, who walked with Him. The God of Abraham became the God of Isaac as well as the God of Jacob, and then Joseph. David declared God's goodness to Solomon, who received it and walked in Jehovah's way at least for a season, and then seems to have ultimately returned to it at his life's end. And as the baton of faith wobbled throughout the years in the house of David, God never seemed to be missing a man whom He could entrust with His truth. So much so that, despite the profound impact of the Lord's judgement upon Judah and the nation's Babylonian captivity, the promise of God found its way through the years of exile into the hearts of some of David's far-distant kin, Joseph and Mary, in the little village of Nazareth. Then, upon the resurrection and ascension of our Lord, the Apostles passed the unchanging truth of God's redemptive narrative to the next generation. And onward marched the faith from there all the way down to us...

It is remarkable to realize that the God we worship in spirit and in truth today is the very same God known unto our spiritual ancestors. From then to now, He remains unchanged. With an untoward generation surrounding us, let us resolve to live boldly and unashamedly proclaim His mighty acts, so that they can find the same Christ, the same redemption, and the same life-transforming God that we know to be faithful and true. -- D. Murcek