

Remember

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Exodus 13:3 And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this *place*: there shall no leavened bread be eaten.

Deu. 15:15 And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day.

Deu. 8:18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for *it is* he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as *it is* this day.

1Chr. 16:12 Remember his marvellous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;

Psalms 20:7 Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

Psalms 63:6 When I remember thee upon my bed, *and* meditate on thee in the *night* watches.

Judges 8:34 And the children of Israel remembered not the LORD their God, who had delivered them out of the hands of all their enemies on every side:

Judges 3:7 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves.

Isaiah 17:10 Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the rock of thy strength, therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange slips:

Jer. 3:21 A voice was heard upon the high places, weeping *and* supplications of the children of Israel: for they have perverted their way, *and* they have forgotten the LORD their God.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

2Pet. 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

2Pet. 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2Pet. 1:5-9 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; **6** And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; **7** And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. **8** For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and **hath forgotten** that he was purged from his old sins.

The chosen people of God in the Old Testament had a history of forgetting God. The presence of God manifested itself to them in a multitude of ways from the time of Moses, Pharaoh, and slavery in Egypt until God left them to their own devices during the inter-biblical period between Malachi and John the Baptist. There were all the miracles in Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, the thunderings, lightnings, and voice of God from Mt. Sinai; the cloud by day and pillar of fire by night; there was the manna, the water from the rock in the wilderness, the serpent on the pole, the shoes that never wore out, the earthquake swallowing Dathan and Abiram, the flood of quail, the destruction of enemies without a fight, the fall of Jericho and so many other things. In some instances, the children of Israel forgot God right in the midst of some of these miracles. For instance, the miracle of His presence at Sinai, the quail, the daily water supply.

We read from **2 Peter 1** that people who have confessed Jesus Christ can forget a very important truth, which is the equivalent of what we read about the children of Israel.

Now, the grace of God operating by the Holy Spirit to produce the new birth in true believers is not made plain to see when we read about Old Testament believers, but NT scripture makes it plain what that is. That something we recognize as an internally new creature with a new or spiritual heart that is able to know God according to the internal witness of the Spirit. Now, we sometimes use this difference that is revealed in the bible to argue that the human experiences of the children of Israel and their tendency to forget God and His precepts can't be compared to modern day believers. I don't believe the bible teaches that. I believe that the very visible presence of God in the cloud and in the fiery pillar, and in the miracles He worked in the sight of Israel are excellent types of His daily and

nightly presence with us. For that reason, I believe that the behavior of true believers among the children of Israel mirrors the behavior of believers today. Forgetfulness concerning the things of God is the pattern of mankind...even we who are new creatures in Christ Jesus.

This embarrassing fact of Israel often forgetting God and professing believers forgetting who they are has a great and potentially positive lesson in it for us. The first thing it teaches us is that forgetting the things of God is a weakness shared by humans. Even humans who have been set apart by the Lord. The second thing it can teach us by inference is that we need reminders of God to help us not fall into the trap of forgetting our Lord. These are the things we want to look at, and think about.

I. In our human condition, forgetting is easier than remembering

- ❖ Reviewing our daily thought patterns verify this
 - Examining the admonitions of the bible teach us that the Holy Spirit recognizes it as a flaw that needs to be addressed
 - Institution of the Lord's Supper confirms it: **Luke 22:19** And he took bread, and gave thanks, and broke *it*, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.
 - One of the assignments of the Holy Spirit confirms it: **John 14:26** But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.
 - The attention of the apostles and Christ about refreshing the memory of converts confirms it:
 - **1Cor. 4:17** For this cause have I sent unto you Timothy, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.
 - **2Pet. 1:13** Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;
 - **Jude 1:5** I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.
 - In **Rev. chapters 2 and 3**, Jesus warned the church at Ephesus and at Sardis to remember some things about what they were supposed to do and be.

- To the church at Ephesus: **Rev. 2:5** **Remember** therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.
- To the church at Sardis: **Rev. 3:3** **Remember** therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

II. Finally, I want us to look at a portion of scripture in Numbers and think about the fact that we need reminders to help us avoid forgetting about the things of the Lord.

- ❖ **Num. 15:38-40** Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribbon of blue: 39 And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring: 40 That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God.
- ❖ The first thing we might think is that we don't need reminders about the Lord, because as we read in **John 14:26**, the Holy Spirit is assigned to bring all things to our remembrance, whatsoever Jesus has said. Well, this is true. But, we need to look at how that can happen, and what can hinder or prevent it from happening.
 - The Holy Spirit will only bring things to our remembrance when we are walking in the Spirit as opposed to walking in the flesh.
 - Too much world and too little God can hinder and blunt any reminders in our hearts about the Lord and His things
 - **Galatians 5:16-17** *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.
 - Walking in the spirit means minding (paying attention to) spiritual things
 - **Romans 8:5** For they that are after (pursuing things of) the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after (pursuing things of) the Spirit the things of the Spirit.
- ❖ So what is our "ribbon" of blue?
 - Almost anything on the planet can become a ribbon of blue for believers:

- The changing earth; The moon, stars, sun, sky; Babies; A spring rain; Flowers; A winter snow; A look in the eyes of your loved one; Fire; Wind; Water; Good food
- Note that the purpose of the ribbon of blue is to:
 - Remember the treacherous nature of our own hearts and our own unshielded eyes
 - Remember the Lord's commandments and do them
 - Remember to be holy before the Lord
- ❖ Let's look for strength from the Lord to make the stimuli of this world to be a ribbon of blue always before our eyes to remind us of the things of God.