

# Forgetting to Remember

August 30, 2020 ~ Deu 8.1-20

## Phrases & Word Counts (20 vss)

- ❖ “you” ~ x40 / “your” ~ x24 / Over 3 times per verse – Very personal
- ❖ “the LORD your God” ~ x10 / In every other verse on average (*Jehovah*)
- ❖ “live” ~ x2 ~ Occurs in first 3 verses / “perish” ~ x2 ~ Occurs in last 2 verses
- ❖ “remember” ~ x2 at start and end / “forget” ~ x3 from the middle on

## 4 Sections

1. vss 1-5 ~ “Remember that God rescued you and treated you as His son”
2. vss 6-10 ~ “Obey God and thank Him for blessing you with good land and food”
3. vss 11-17 ~ “Don’t forget God thinking you’re wealthy through your own efforts”
4. vss 18-20 ~ “Remember God, for if you forget Him you’ll perish from the land”

## Twice Commanded to “Remember”

- ❖ Read v2 ~ “And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way..”
- ❖ Read v18 ~ “And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives..”
- ❖ Deuteronomy has been called “**The Book of Remembrance**”
  - ✧ Moses is repeating the Law to the people before they enter the Promised Land

## Thrice Commanded to Not “Forget”

- ❖ Read v11 ~ “Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God..” (*f to obey*)
  - ✧ “by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes”
- ❖ Read v14 ~ “heart is lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God..” (*f His blessings*)
  - ✧ “who brought you out of bondage .. who led you and fed you through that great and terrible wilderness”
- ❖ Read v19 ~ “if you by any means forget the Lord your God..” (*f to be faithful*)
  - ✧ “and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them”

**Xition: Moses is reminding the people of the importance of God . . .**

## “I Didn’t Have Time”

- ❖ **III: Reminder** - Imagine that weeks ago someone agreed they’d do something for you
  - ✧ Later when you ask about it they say either “I forgot” or “I didn’t have time”
    - Now, you may not believe that they didn’t have time – But set that aside
  - ✧ Instead think about what they said, “I didn’t have time”
    - “What does that phrase mean?” “What does it imply?”
- ❖ We all have the same amount of time – 60 / 3600 / 86,400 / 1440 / 10,080 / 604,800
  - ✧ Saying they didn’t have time is essentially blaming God for how time works
- ❖ What’s far more correct is to say “I didn’t make doing your task a priority”
  - ✧ “I didn’t value doing your task above everything else I did”

## “I Forgot” ~ Forgetting is a Sin

- ❖ All of us have said “I forgot” / All of us have heard “I forgot” / a typical excuse
- ❖ **III: Israel Wayne** – “Raising Them Up – Parenting for Christians”
  - ✧ Online article – “Forgetting: Removing the Excuse of ‘I Forgot’”
  - ✧ “The fact is, children (people) generally remember what they want to. Have your children ever forgotten when you promised to buy them ice cream, or take them to the park? Not likely! Why? Because it’s important to them. What they tend to forget are things they dislike and never really committed in their heart to do in the first place.”
  - ✧ “When children, in their selective memory, choose not to retain their parents’ words, they are showing dishonor for their parents, which is a sin.”
  - ✧ “Forgetting God’s commands is a sin! It shows a dishonor of Him and a lack of value for His words.”
- ❖ We choose to remember or to forget – This choice reflects the desire of our heart

## #1 ~ Remember That God Rescued You (Read vss 1-5)

- ❖ **v1** ~ “you must be careful to observe – every commandment”
  - ✧ “that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land”
  - ✧ Possession of the land (*and multiplying in it*) is predicated on obedience
- ❖ **v2-3** ~ They’re to remember that God led them, fed them, and tested them as a father
  - ✧ **III: “A Father, A Hero”** ~ Excerpt from Standing Tall story (pg 20)

**Xition: Let’s look at the 2<sup>nd</sup> section . . .**

## #2 ~ Obey God and Bless Him for His Generosity (Read vs 6-10)

- ❖ Section doesn't contain the words "live", "perish", "remember", or "forget"
  - ✧ But a word that does occur 7 times is "land" – twice called "good land"
  - ✧ Remember they haven't set foot on the land yet – but it's imminent
- ❖ v6 ~ "Therefore you shall keep the commandments"
  - ✧ Because God regards them as His children and teaches them
- ❖ v7 ~ brooks, fountains, springs
- ❖ v8 ~ wheat, barley, grape vines, fig trees, pomegranates, olives, honey
- ❖ v9 ~ eat bread without scarcity – you will lack nothing – mine iron and copper

## #3 ~ Don't Forget God – Thinking You Did it All (Read vs 11-17)

- ❖ "How do we forget God?" / v11 ~ "by not keeping His commandments"
- ❖ v12 ~ built beautiful houses and dwell in them
- ❖ v13 ~ herds and flocks, silver and gold, all you have is multiplied
- ❖ v14 ~ when your heart is lifted up – and you forget the Lord your God
- ❖ v17 ~ my power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth

## #4 ~ Remember God – If You Forget Him You'll Perish (Read vs 18-20)

- ❖ v18 ~ "you shall remember the Lord your God" command – statement of fact
  - ✧ Note God gives "power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant"
  - ✧ God establishes His covenant with His children through production / work
    - A good father requires that his children learn rules of productivity
- ❖ v19 ~ "if you by any means forget the Lord your God .. you shall surely perish"
  - ✧ God isn't interested in any lame excuses as to why His people forgot Him
    - why they followed, served, and worshipped other gods
  - ✧ Excuses don't matter to God – They don't persuade Him
- ❖ v20 ~ God promises to drive Israelites from land just as He will the Canaanites

**Xition: Moses spoke these words to Israelites before entering Promised Land**

## These Words Apply to Us Today

- ❖ We can apply them to ourselves as individuals, families, and as a nation
- 1. “Remember That God Rescued You”
- 2. “Obey God and Bless Him for His Generosity”
- 3. “Don’t Forget God – Thinking You Did it All”
- 4. “Remember God – If You Forget Him You’ll Perish”

## Let Us Not “Forget to Remember”

- ❖ For nearly 200 years America was a beacon of hope to an oppressed world
  - ✧ America became that because as a nation we largely honored the first 3 phrases
- ❖ President Lincoln’s annual message to Congress Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, 1862
  - ✧ “Fellow-citizens, we cannot escape history. We of this Congress and this administration, will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance, or insignificance, can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass, will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation. ... In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free -- honorable alike in what we give, and what we preserve. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of earth.” -
- ❖ President Reagan’s address to the nation on Independence Day, 1986
  - ✧ “For just a moment, let us listen to the words again: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” Last night when we rededicated Miss Liberty and relit her torch, we reflected on all the millions who came here in search of the dream of freedom inaugurated in Independence Hall. We reflected, too, on their courage in coming great distances and settling in a foreign land and then passing on to their children and their children's children the hope symbolized in this statue here just behind us: the hope that is America. It is a hope that someday every people and every nation of the world will know the blessings of liberty.”
  - ✧ “the things that unite us -- America's past of which we're so proud, our hopes and aspirations for the future of the world and this much-loved country -- these things far outweigh what little divides us. And so tonight we reaffirm that Jew and gentile, we are one nation under God; that black and white, we are one nation indivisible; that Republican and Democrat, we are all Americans. Tonight, with heart and hand, through whatever trial and travail, we pledge ourselves to each other and to the cause of human freedom, the cause that has given light to this land and hope to the world.”

**Xition: Deuteronomy 8 was written to Israel – but applies to all nations – America too**

- ❑ Israel waxed and waned as 1 nation (*then as 2 nations*) for centuries
  - They abandoned God then they returned to Him – over and over
  - When they abandoned God He impoverished them and sent them into captivity
- ❑ Many of our political leaders today are not faithful to God – but some are
  - Political leaders are a truer reflection of the people than we may care to admit
  - Regardless of what path our nation takes in the coming years
    - ✧ We must remain true to the path to which God has called us
- ❑ Joshua called the people to openly covenant with God
  - **Joshua 24.15** ~ “if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of <sup>[e]</sup>the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD”
- ❑ Our God is Mighty and worthy of our praise
  - Many in our land have ignored the warning of the third section – forgotten God
  - And they’re experiencing the 4<sup>th</sup> section – perishing without God
  - We dare not allow our praise of God to be drowned out by those who hate God
  - We dare not “**forget to remember**” our God and proclaim His goodness to all

➤ Prayer and Song

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,  
 And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,  
 To God our Savior, who alone is wise,  
 Be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

Amen **\*pause\*** Go in peace . . .

# Forgetting to Remember

August 30, 2020 ~ Sermon Handout ~ Deu 8.1-20

1. What two words mark start and end of Deuteronomy 8? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
2. We are twice commanded to \_\_\_\_\_ and thrice to not \_\_\_\_\_
3. What two lame excuses were explained? I \_\_\_\_\_ & I \_\_\_\_\_
4. Four summary phrases of our text:
  - a. Remember \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Obey \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Remember \_\_\_\_\_ - If \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Two presidents quoted: \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_
6. In Joshua 24 what were the people prodded to do:  
Choose for yourselves \_\_\_\_\_.
7. What happens to those who forget their God? They \_\_\_\_\_