

Deuteronomy 11:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And know ye this day: for I speak not with your children which have not known, and which have not seen the chastisement of the LORD your God, his greatness, his mighty hand, and his stretched out arm,

Analysis

And know ye this day: for I speak not with your children which have not known, neither have seen the chastisement of the LORD your God, his greatness, his mighty hand, and his stretched out arm,

Moses addresses the generation that witnessed firsthand God's mighty acts in Egypt and the wilderness. The Hebrew verb *yada* (יָדָע, 'know') implies experiential knowledge, not mere intellectual assent. This generation 'knows' because they have 'seen' (רָאָה, *ra'ah*)—they are eyewitnesses to divine intervention.

The phrase 'chastisement' (מוֹסָר, *musar*) encompasses discipline, correction, and instruction. God's redemptive judgment on Egypt and discipline of Israel served pedagogical purposes—revealing His character and teaching His people. The threefold description—'greatness, mighty hand, stretched out arm'—emphasizes God's sovereign power and purposeful intervention in history.

This verse establishes the principle of generational witness: those who experience God's works bear responsibility to testify to subsequent generations. The contrast with 'your children which have not known' underscores the unique accountability of eyewitnesses.

Historical Context

This address comes as Israel stands on the plains of Moab, ready to enter Canaan forty years after the Exodus. The original generation that left Egypt had died in the wilderness (except Joshua and Caleb). Moses speaks to those who were young during the Exodus or born in the wilderness—they witnessed Egypt's plagues, the Red Sea crossing, Sinai, the golden calf, Korah's rebellion, and decades of God's provision. Their children, however, would know these events only through testimony.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does personal experience of God's faithfulness create unique responsibility to testify to others?
2. What 'mighty acts' has God done in your life that you must not allow the next generation to forget?
3. How does God use both blessing and discipline as 'chastisement' to teach His people?

Interlinear Text

יָדְעוּ	הַיּוֹם	כִּי	לֹא	אֶת	בְּנֵיכֶם
And know	ye this day				for I speak not with your children
H3045	H3117	H3588	H3808	H854	H1121
לֹא	יָדְעוּ	וְאֲשֶׁר	לֹא	רָאוּ	אֶת
	And know			and which have not seen	
H834	H3808	H834	H3808	H7200	H853
מוֹסֵר	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֵיכֶם	אֶת	גְּדֻלּוֹ	אֶת
the chastisement	of the LORD	your God		his greatness	hand
H4148	H3068	H430	H853	H1433	H3027
וְזָרַע	הַמִּצֵּקָה	וְהִנֵּטָהּ			
his mighty	arm	and his stretched out			
H2389	H2220	H5186			

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 5:24 (References God): And ye said, Behold, the LORD our God hath shewed us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire: we have seen this day that God doth talk with man, and he liveth.