

Deuteronomy 29:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

(For ye know how we have dwelt in the land of Egypt; and how we came through the nations which ye passed by;

Analysis

(For ye know how we have dwelt in the land of Egypt; and how we came through the nations which ye passed by; Moses reminds Israel of their experience in Egypt and journey through the nations. This historical review grounds covenant commitment in remembrance of God's faithfulness and the pagan alternatives they've witnessed.

The phrase ye know appeals to Israel's direct experience. They lived in polytheistic Egypt and passed through pagan territories, seeing firsthand the idolatry and immorality characterizing nations that don't know the true God.

This experiential knowledge should motivate covenant faithfulness - having seen pagan corruption, Israel should appreciate the privilege of relationship with the holy, righteous God who delivered them.

Christians similarly should remember their former life in sin and the corruption of the world system, allowing this memory to motivate grateful obedience to God who saved them.

Historical Context

Israel spent 400 years in polytheistic Egypt where gods were depicted as animals and humans. The exodus journey brought them through territories of Edomites, Moabites, and Ammonites - peoples descended from Abraham's relatives but

worshipping false gods.

This exposure to paganism created constant temptation to syncretism, requiring repeated warnings against adopting neighboring peoples' religious practices.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does remembering past experience in paganism motivate covenant faithfulness?
2. What did exposure to Egyptian and Canaanite religions teach Israel about false worship?
3. Why should seeing alternatives make us appreciate relationship with the true God?
4. How should Christians' memory of life before conversion affect present obedience?
5. What dangers exist when covenant people forget their origins and deliverance?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	אֶתְּ מִ	יִדְעֶתְּ מִ	אֵת	אֲשֶׁר	יֵשׁ בָּנוּ	בָּא רַץ
H3588	H859	For ye know	H853	H834	how we have dwelt	in the land
		H3045			H3427	H776
מִמֶּצְרַיִם	וְאֵת	אֲשֶׁר	עָבַדְתֶּם:	בְּקֶרֶב	הַגּוֹיִם	אֲשֶׁר
of Egypt	H853	H834	and how we came	through	the nations	H834
H4714			H5674	H7130	H1471	
			עָבַדְתֶּם:			
			and how we came			
			H5674			