

Deuteronomy 32:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.

Analysis

Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations—zakhōr (remember) is a key Deuteronomic command (5:15; 7:18; 8:2), requiring active recollection and covenant fidelity. Bin (consider) means to discern or understand deeply—not superficial nostalgia but theological reflection on God's historical faithfulness.

Ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee—oral tradition preserved covenant history. Fathers and elders (zeqenim) functioned as authoritative transmitters of salvation history, fulfilling the command to teach successive generations (6:6-9, 20-25). This verse establishes the principle of traditioned authority: divine revelation is preserved through faithful communities across time.

The appeal to history combats two errors: presentism (ignoring the past) and innovation (abandoning received truth). Israel's identity wasn't self-constructed but inherited through God's mighty acts. This grounds theology in objective historical revelation rather than subjective religious experience.

Historical Context

Moses addresses the second wilderness generation who didn't personally experience the Exodus plagues, Red Sea crossing, or Sinai theophany. Their

knowledge depends on testimony from the previous generation—hence the imperative to 'ask thy father.' This intergenerational teaching pattern shaped Jewish identity, formalized in festivals like Passover where children ask about historical meaning (Exodus 12:26-27). The early Church continued this model through apostolic tradition (2 Thessalonians 2:15; 2 Timothy 2:2), establishing the importance of faithful transmission against heretical innovation. Archaeological discoveries confirm Israel's meticulous historical memory—sites, routes, and events align remarkably with biblical narratives.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What practices help you 'remember' God's faithfulness rather than suffering spiritual amnesia?
2. How are you faithfully transmitting theological truth to the next generation in your family or church?

Interlinear Text

זָכֹר	יָמֵי	עוֹלָם	בְּיָמֵינוּ	שָׁנֵי	דָּוָר	דָּוָר
Remember	the days	of old	consider	the years	generations	generations
H2142	H3117	H5769	H995	H8141	H1755	H1755
שָׁאַל	אֶת־יְיָ	וְיִגְדֹּל	זִקְנֵי־יְיָ	וְיִאֱמְרוּ	לָהֶם:	
ask	thy father	and he will shew	thee thy elders	and they will tell		
H7592	H1	H5046	H2205	H559	H0	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 44:1 (Parallel theme): We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what work thou didst in their days, in the times of old.

Isaiah 46:9 (Parallel theme): Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

Deuteronomy 4:32 (Parallel theme): For ask now of the days that are past, which were before thee, since the day that God created man upon the earth, and ask from the one side of heaven unto the other, whether there hath been any such thing as this great thing is, or hath been heard like it?

Isaiah 63:11 (Parallel theme): Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people, saying, Where is he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? where is he that put his holy Spirit within him?

Exodus 13:14 (Parallel theme): And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage:

Judges 6:13 (Parallel theme): And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

Psalms 119:52 (Parallel theme): I remembered thy judgments of old, O LORD; and have comforted myself.

Psalms 77:8 (Parallel theme): Is his mercy clean gone for ever? doth his promise fail for evermore?

Psalms 10:6 (Parallel theme): He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved: for I shall never be in adversity.