

Deuteronomy 7:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt not be afraid of them: but shalt well remember what the LORD thy God did unto Pharaoh, and unto all Egypt;

Analysis

The command 'Thou shalt not be afraid' addresses the fear anticipated in verse 17. Fear is conquered by remembrance: 'shalt well remember what the LORD thy God did unto Pharaoh.' The Hebrew *zakar tizkor* (emphatic remembrance) means to recall with full attention and application. Past redemption provides confidence for present challenges. Pharaoh and Egypt were the ancient world's superpower—if God defeated them, He can defeat any enemy. This principle of remembrance permeates Scripture: remembering God's past faithfulness strengthens present faith (Psalm 77:11-12; 105:5). The Lord's Supper embodies this—'do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24-25)—recalling Christ's redemptive work to strengthen faith.

Historical Context

The Exodus had occurred 40 years prior to Moses' address in Deuteronomy. The current generation witnessed God's provision in the wilderness but many were children during the Exodus itself. Moses calls them to remember (through teaching and testimony) what God did to Pharaoh—the plagues, Red Sea crossing, and Egypt's destruction. This corporate memory would sustain Israel through conquest. Later biblical writers repeatedly invoke the Exodus as paradigmatic proof of God's saving power (Psalms 78, 105, 106, 136; Isaiah 43:16-19). Remembering God's mighty acts is essential to maintaining faith.

Deuteronomy 31:6 (References God): Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Psalms 77:11 (References Lord): I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old.

Deuteronomy 1:29 (Parallel theme): Then I said unto you, Dread not, neither be afraid of them.

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