

Deuteronomy 8:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

Analysis

The phrase 'thine heart be lifted up' (ram levavkha) describes pride—elevated self-assessment leading to self-reliance. The result is catastrophic: 'forget the LORD thy God.' The Hebrew shakhach (forget) means neglect, ignore, or fail to consider—not literal amnesia but practical atheism. The reminder 'which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage' anchors identity in God's redemptive act, not personal achievement. Forgetting God's redemption leads to crediting self for blessings. This is the universal human temptation: prosperity breeds pride, pride breeds forgetfulness, forgetfulness breeds rebellion. The antidote is constant remembrance of redemption—who you were, what God did, where you'd be without Him.

Historical Context

Israel's cycle of apostasy (Judges) followed this exact pattern: deliverance → prosperity → forgetfulness → idolatry → oppression → repentance → deliverance. Each generation that forgot God's redemptive acts fell into idolatry. Solomon's heart 'was turned' from God despite experiencing unprecedented blessing (1 Kings 11:4). Hezekiah, after miraculous healing, showed treasures to Babylonian envoys in pride (2 Kings 20:12-19). The prophets repeatedly called Israel to remember God's redemptive works (Micah 6:3-5). New Testament believers face the same danger: forgetting the gospel leads to pride, legalism, or license.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What evidences of pride ('lifted up heart') do you see in your attitudes or behavior?
2. How do you actively combat forgetfulness of God's redemptive work in your life?
3. What practices of remembrance (testimony, communion, Scripture meditation) keep the gospel central in your thinking?

Interlinear Text

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|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|-----------|
| וְרָם | לִבְּךָ | וְשָׁכַחְתָּ | אֶת | יְהוָה | אֱלֹהֶיךָ |
| be lifted up | Then thine heart | and thou forget | H853 | the LORD | thy God |
| H7311 | H3824 | H7911 | | H3068 | H430 |
| הַמּוֹצִיאֲךָ | מֵאֶרֶץ | מִצְרַיִם | מִבֵּית | עֲבָדִים: | |
| which brought thee forth | out of the land | of Egypt | from the house | of bondage | |
| H3318 | H776 | H4714 | H1004 | H5650 | |

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 106:21 (References God): They forgot God their saviour, which had done great things in Egypt;

Deuteronomy 8:11 (References God): Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:

2 Chronicles 26:16 (References God): But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense.

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