

# Judges 8:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the children of Israel remembered not the LORD their God, who had delivered them out of the hands of all their enemies on every side:

## Analysis

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**The children of Israel remembered not the LORD their God** (לֹא זָכְרוּ, lo zachru)—the verb 'to remember' (זָכַר) in Hebrew means far more than mental recall; it means to act in accordance with covenant relationship. Israel's failure to 'remember' was not amnesia but covenant violation. **Who had delivered them out of the hands of all their enemies on every side**—the comprehensive deliverance is emphasized: from all enemies, on every side, consistently throughout their history.

This forgetfulness is willful ingratitude. God's mighty acts—the Exodus, conquest of Canaan, deliverance from oppressors through judges—deserved loyal worship. Instead, Israel suffered spiritual alzheimer's, losing connection with their redemptive history. When God's people forget His faithfulness, they inevitable turn to false gods. Remembrance is not passive nostalgia but active covenant loyalty. This is why Scripture constantly commands 'remember'—because spiritual amnesia precedes apostasy. The antidote is continual rehearsal of God's mighty acts in corporate worship, family discipleship, and personal meditation.

## Historical Context

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This verse summarizes the recurring tragedy of Judges. Each generation that 'knew not the LORD' (2:10) fell into idolatry. Israel's enemies during this period included Mesopotamians, Moabites, Canaanites, Midianites, Ammonites, and

Philistines—yet God delivered them from each threat. Their forgetfulness despite such consistent deliverance demonstrates the depth of human depravity and need for grace.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How do you actively 'remember' God's faithfulness through worship, testimony, and discipleship?
2. What spiritual practices help you maintain covenant loyalty when circumstances change?
3. In what ways does forgetfulness of God's past faithfulness lead to present unfaithfulness?

## Interlinear Text

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וְלֹא	זָכְרוּ	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֶת	יְהוָה
H3808	remembered	And the children	H853	not the LORD
	H2142	H1121	H3478	H3068
אֱלֹהֵיהֶם	הַמַּצִּיל	אוֹתָם	מִיָּד	כָּל
their God	who had delivered	H853	them out of the hands	H3605
H430	H5337		H3027	
אֹיְבֵיהֶם	מִסָּבִיב:			
of all their enemies	on every side			
H341	H5439			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 78:42** (Parallel theme): They remembered not his hand, nor the day when he delivered them from the enemy.

**Psalms 78:11** (Parallel theme): And forgot his works, and his wonders that he had shewed them.

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

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