

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

The children of Israel remembered not the LORD their God (לֹא יִזְכְּרוּ, lo zachru)—the verb 'to remember' (זכור) 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

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

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

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

יְהִי הָאָתָּה יְשַׁבָּא לְאַלְמָנָה זְכָרֹה בְּנֵי אֶלְאָמָן
H3808 remembered And the children of Israel H853 not the LORD
H2142 H1121 H3478 H3068

כָּל מִי דְּאָלָה יְהִי מִלְּפָנָצְמָא אֶזְמָנָה מִזְמָנָה
H3605 them out of the hands H853 מִזְמָנָה H3027
their God who had delivered H430 H5337

מִסְבֵּבָן אַיִלָּה מִסְבֵּבָן
H341 H5439
of all their enemies on every side

Additional Cross-References

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 forgat his works, and his wonders that he had shewed them.

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

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