

Psalms 106:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They soon forgat his works; they waited not for his counsel:

Analysis

This verse describes the rapid collapse of Red Sea faith. 'They soon forgat his works' uses shakach (שָׁכַח), meaning to forget, ignore, or no longer care about. 'Soon' emphasizes the shocking speed of forgetfulness—mere days after witnessing the sea split and enemies drowned. 'They waited not for his counsel' means they didn't patiently wait for God's instruction but impulsively demanded immediate solutions. This reveals the root of unbelief: impatience with God's timing and methods. They wanted to dictate how and when God should provide. This pattern of demanding immediate gratification rather than waiting for God's revealed will characterizes much spiritual immaturity.

Historical Context

Israel's forgetfulness manifested first at Marah (Exodus 15:23-24), where bitter water led to complaints, then at the Wilderness of Sin (Exodus 16:2-3), where they grumbled about food scarcity. Each new challenge erased memory of past deliverance. This demonstrated that fallen human nature gravitates toward unbelief unless God's Spirit works to sustain faith. The psalm uses this pattern to warn subsequent generations against repeating ancestral folly.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What spiritual disciplines help believers remember and meditate on God's past faithfulness?
2. How does impatience with God's timing reveal lack of trust in His wisdom?
3. In what ways do you 'soon forget' God's works in your life?

Interlinear Text

מָה, הָרָו	שָׁכַח וְ	מַעֲשָׁיו	לֹא	הָיָה	לְעֵצָתוֹ:
They soon	forgat	his works	H3808	they waited	not for his counsel
H4116	H7911	H4639		H2442	H6098

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 15:24 (Parallel theme): And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?

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

Exodus 16:2 (Parallel theme): And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:

Psalms 107:11 (Parallel theme): Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High:

Proverbs 1:25 (Parallel theme): But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

Exodus 17:2 (Parallel theme): Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?

Proverbs 1:30 (Parallel theme): They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

Exodus 17:7 (Parallel theme): And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?

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