

Psalm 78:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:

Analysis

The purpose of transmission: "That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments" (Hebrew v-yasimu vElohim kishlam v-lo yish-k-chu ma-ale El u-mitzvotav yintzoru). Three results: "set their hope in God" (trust orientation), "not forget" (memory retention), "keep his commandments" (obedient practice). This verse reveals catechesis aims not merely at knowledge transfer but heart transformation—faith, remembrance, obedience. Knowing God's past works produces confidence for future trials.

Historical Context

Israel's tragic pattern was forgetting (Judges 8:34, Psalm 106:13). Remembering God's works anchors faith when testing comes. The repeated command "remember" appears throughout Deuteronomy (8:2, 8:18, 9:7). New covenant believers similarly remember Christ's work (1 Corinthians 11:24-25, "do this in remembrance of me"). Gospel remembrance produces gospel living.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does remembering God's past works specifically strengthen present hope and obedience?
2. What practices help you consistently "not forget" God's faithfulness amid daily pressures?
3. How does regular participation in communion function as divinely-appointed "remembrance" of Christ's work?

Interlinear Text

That they might set	in God	their hope	and not forget	the works
H7760	H430	H3689	H3808	H7911
לֹא יִשְׁכַּחוּ מְלֵלָיִם בְּאֱלֹהִים יְמִינֵי				
of God	his commandments	but keep		
H410	H4687	H5341		
וְמִצְוֹתָיו אֶל יְמִינֵי				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 5:29 (Word): O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!

Revelation 14:12 (Word): Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

1 John 5:3 (Word): For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Deuteronomy 4:9 (Parallel theme): Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

Psalms 91:14 (Parallel theme): Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

Psalms 40:4 (Parallel theme): Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

Psalms 103:2 (Parallel theme): Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Deuteronomy 8:11 (Word): 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:

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