

REMEMBER, DO NOT FORGET



Lesson 10 for December 4, 2021

We tend to forget. We forget the bad times when things are going well. We forget the good times when things go wrong. We forget how we've become who we are...

Maybe that's why God insisted so much on remembering and not forgetting in Deuteronomy. What should we remember and why?



-  Remembering God's promises
-  Remembering the old times
-  Remembering to avoid straying
-  Remembering that God gives us everything
-  Remembering who we were

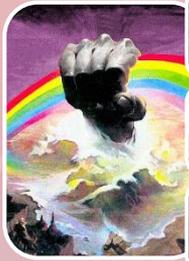
REMEMBERING GOD'S PROMISES

"The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." (Genesis 9:16)

Is God forgetful? Does He need a reminder on the sky to remember His promise?

Of course not! He wants us to know that He will never forget His covenant. His promises are certain.

What should we do when looking at the rainbow?



Remember God's promises

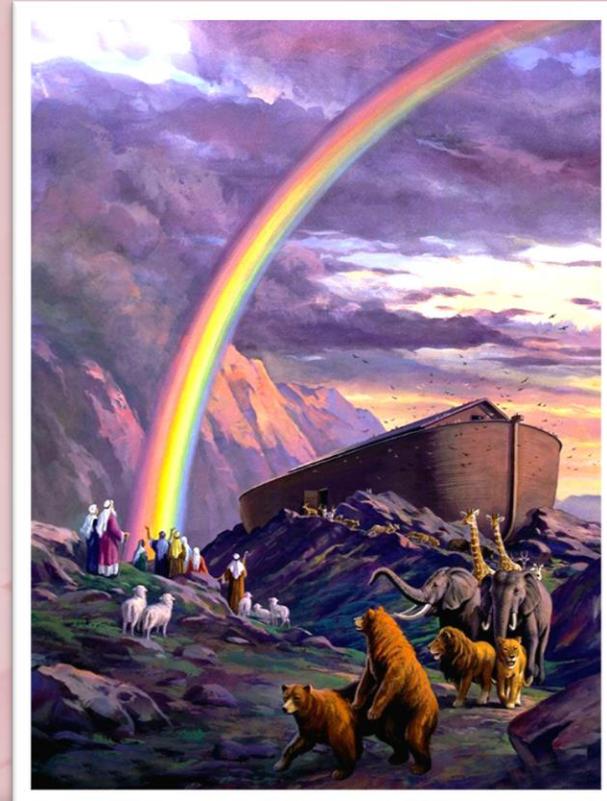


Remember God's warnings



Remember God's intervention in this world

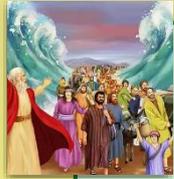
If we remember what the rainbow means, we can have the assurance, written across the sky in these beautiful colors, that God's Word is sure.



REMEMBERING THE OLD TIMES

“For ask now concerning the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether any great thing like this has happened, or anything like it has been heard.” (Deuteronomy 4:32)

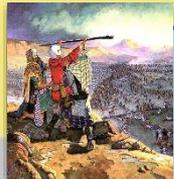
In Deuteronomy 4:33-38, Moses remembered three marvelous events that had never happened before. The Israelites (and ourselves) should never forget them:



The miracles God did to get Israel out of Egypt (v. 34, 37)



The voice of God when He spoke to the people (v. 33, 36)



The mighty expulsion of the pagan nations (v. 38)

Why shouldn't we forget the miracles God has done in our lives?

To acknowledge God as our Lord (v. 35, v. 39)

To obey Him and to receive His blessing (v. 40)



REMEMBERING TO AVOID STRAYING

"Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren." (Deuteronomy 4:9)



Why shouldn't we forget what we've seen (i.e. what God has done in our lives)?

Our hearts burn when God acts powerfully in our lives. We are willing to do anything for Him. However, after some time, we are tempted to move away from Him if we don't remember those moments and maintain our communion with Him.



Moses also reminded us to share our experiences with our descendants, since our experience can become an anchor for them.



“As I see what God has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us.”

E. G. W. (Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, cp. 3, p. 31)

REMEMBERING THAT GOD GIVES US EVERYTHING

“And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth.” (Deuteronomy 8:18)

God helps us to prosper and takes care of our needs (Psalm 37:25). He also warned us of the dangers of material comfort.

We might think that we have earned everything we have thanks to our own physical or mental effort. However, we should never forget that our strength, intelligence, and health come from God.



Ultimately, remember that everything we have comes from God. Let's be grateful to God and don't be dragged by the "deceitfulness of riches." (Mr. 4:19)

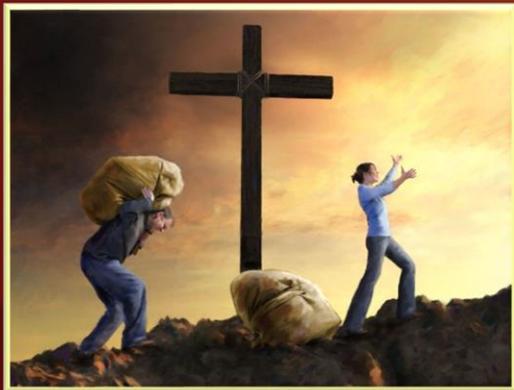
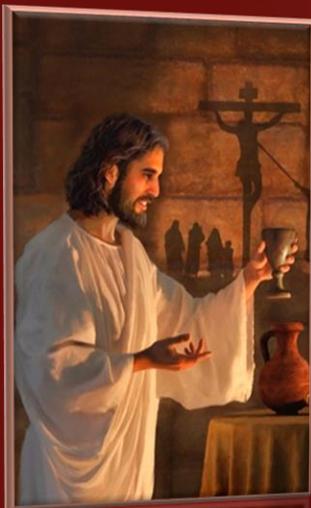
REMEMBERING WHO WE WERE

"lest you forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage." (Deuteronomy 6:12)

The memory of the liberation from Egypt permeates the Old Testament. The people of Israel still remember that event by celebrating the Passover every year.

For Christians, the Passover is a reminder of an even greater liberation: liberation from sin (1Co. 5:7; 15:3).

We must never forget that we were sinners. Christ liberated us from sin and gave us new life. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)



E. G. W. (Our High Calling, May 9)

“The things we ourselves have experienced of the blessings of God through His gracious promises we may hang in memory’s halls, and whether rich or poor, learned or illiterate, we may look and may consider these tokens of God’s love. Every token of God’s care and goodness and mercy should be hung as imperishable mementos in memory’s halls. God would have His love, His promises, written upon the tablets of the mind. Guard the precious revealings of God that not a letter shall become obliterated or dimmed.”