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## Remembering The God Of Our Fathers

June 2, 2024 10:45 AM

### **Introduction**

Today I want to share with you thoughts on “Remembering the God of our Father’s”. But, first I would like to set the stage.

I wrestled for a while on how to present and what to title what is on my heart. Yesterday my memory was jogged when I heard the name “The New Hebrides”, I have thought many times of that chain of islands and some of their history ever since reading the biography of John G. Patton.

This man of God was a missionary from Scotland to the “New Hebrides”. He and other missionaries risked and gave their lives to carry the gospel to the cannibals that inhabited those islands in those days. Many of them were converted to Christ, and it forever changed the history of those peoples.

The question however, was raised again in my mind, as it was while reading the book, “do those tribes currently remember the God of their fathers, and the history of what the Lord did for them?”

This brings us to the topic of today, and the scriptures I will be talking from. We begin with Egypt in the time of Moses.

### **Scriptures**

*Exodus 1: 8 and 5: 1-2*

### **Introduction**

Exodus 1: 8 Gives us a picture of the ending of at least one generation in Israel and Egypt and brings us to the time of the generation Moses was born in. It tells us that the current Pharaoh did not know Joseph, then verses 5: 1-2 goes on to tell us that he did not know the Lord that Moses came in the name of.

### **Exposition**

I am aware of the scriptures in the New Testament and what Paul had to say of that same Pharaoh while quoting the Old Testament scriptures.

But what I want to ask is “what were the hearts of the people of Egypt like in that day? And what became of Egypt that in 400 years they had forgotten Joseph, and all of the miracles that God had performed by him to save their nation during the famines in “the time of their fathers”? How did they come to the place of oppressing Israel as their slaves? We know that the heart of Pharaoh and his servants were hardened. And we know that Magicians who up to the point of the plague of lice were able to duplicate those plagues. Had to finally say to Pharaoh, “this is the finger of God”! We will get back to this.

## **Scriptures**

*1 Chronicle's 28: 9, 1 Kings 8: 60-61, 2 Kings 17: 7-17, Isaiah 1: 2-4 and 63: 17,*

## **Introduction**

In these scriptures we see a picture of another nation, not just any nation but the one that was delivered out of Egypt that we just previously discussed. Here in 1 Chronicles David is giving to Solomon his son a mandate in front of all of Israel to "know the God of his father and to serve him with a perfect heart, and a willing mind", as Solomon was chosen by God to build his temple.

Then in 1 Kings we see the temple built and it is being dedicated. Solomon is charging the people before God and His temple, to let their hearts be perfect with God, and to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments.

Then in 2 Kings we see the same nation of Israel in the time of King Hoshea. In these verses it describes how the children of Israel began to do evil in the sight of the Lord. It says that they did "secretly those things that were not right against the Lord" They hardened their necks so that they could no longer hear him. Though he sent his prophets and seers to them daily. It says they degraded so far as to burn their children in the fires to their gods they had turned to serve. One could ask how they assumed to doing these things secretly.

And finally we see in Isaiah 1: 2-4 God showing his prophet how that his people do not know him, how estranged they were. Then in 63:17 he is asking God why he caused them to err from his way, and hardened their hearts from His fear.

## **Exposition**

These scriptures give us somewhat of a timeline of what we might call apostasy. Beginning from a time of that nation of people when they had a very clear understanding, and vision of God in that generation, until something happened to those people and their leadership so that we find them generations down the line completely forsaking, and even forgetting the "God of their fathers".

We could ask, how? How is it possible that a people who had known and seen so much of the power of God, and the blessings of God, become so hardened, and so lost? How could they get so far from the brightness of that light that they turned to burning their children in the fire to their gods? We will get back to this.

## **Scriptures**

*1 Corinthians 10: 1-12, Hebrews 4: 1-2, 2: 1-3, and 3: 7-14,*

## **Introduction**

In all of the scriptures above from the New Testament we have Paul explaining to the different churches how the things that were written before were written for our admonition and warning that we should not lust after evil things.

They are all scriptures concerning Israel and the various experiences they had with apostasy. With turning from the living and true God to serve idols. He is also warning the Gentiles to not think highly of themselves as though they are above being cut off as Israel was if they did not continue in Christ steadfast and unmoved from the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **Exposition**

It seems to have been a common error in that time as well as throughout history for some to think and to teach that our Heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ are double minded so to speak. As though God's word does not really mean what it says. It appears that Paul, as well as the other apostles had to correct those erroneous teachings even in their day.

The apostles writings in the New Testament, as well as the Old Testament, both bear witness to the fact that our God has an intent with mankind. He intends to have a people, an Holy Nation that will love him with their whole heart. Not part of it, but their whole heart. He intends that we hear his word of the Gospel of Christ, and that in hearing, we keep it. We will get back to this.

### **Scripture**

*Hebrews 1: 1-2, 2 Peter 3: 3-7, 2 Timothy 3: 1-9*

### **Exposition**

As we can see from the scriptures above there is no generation that will be immune from the consequences of turning away from the one True God, and His Son Jesus Christ and turning back to idols.

Can you see any correlation between the hearts of the people of our day, and the history shown above? Can you see that the word of God shows without controversy that there exists a direct correlation between the hearts of a people, and the quality of the leaders of that nation?

In the book of Isaiah, Israel's timeline to their destruction, ran along the lines of God removing all of their strong and wise leaders, and replacing them with impetuous children and tyrants. Their leadership ended up reflecting the evil hearts of the people of the nation.

I will ask you plainly. Those who are concerned that the Ten Commandment have been taken out of our courthouses, or that "In God We Trust" might be removed from our currency. Or the bibles and Christian literature being removed from the schools and the libraries. While that is both concerning and telling.

My questions are these, If we have set aside everything else of this world and have instilled into the hearts of our children his word and his ways, can they take that from their hearts? If the Holy Spirit has written it into our hearts and minds as it is intended to be can they take it away from us?

If we do not look at the reality of our situation in the light of His Word and Spirit, and begin to ask ourselves the tough questions, then I fear we will be left without strength for the spiritual battle of our day. And without the light to walk by.

Can we see by the scripture that there has always been a difference between those who walk holy, and uprightly before the “God of our fathers”, and the nation that they lived in the midst of? Jesus made plain that His Kingdom is not of this world. That his Kingdom is within us. When we are born of His Spirit we become part of that Kingdom, we are no longer citizens of this world.

### **In conclusion**

What then is the conclusion of all of this?

1. We see in Egypt a King and his servants, that did not know God, even though their fathers had at least known of Him through Joseph. They knew His hand in the miracles of saving that nation through seven years of famine. They did not harden their hearts to Him but heard Him and obeyed His word by His prophet Joseph.
2. We then see in Israel, during the reign of King David, a people blessed and flourishing as they gave their whole hearts to his word and his commandments. We see David admonishing his son who would succeed him to “Know the God of his father” and to follow him with a perfect heart and a willing mind.

We also see the results of that same nation as they turned little by little away from the Laws of God, their hearts becoming divided between the lusts of their hearts and His laws and worship. As they turned ever more to the idolatry of the nations around them. Until finally they refused to give any heed to the warning of the prophets, seers, and watchmen he sent, even to the point of killing them to shut them up. Finally he turned them over to the lusts of their own hearts and left them in their darkness until the day he brought judgement against them.

3. We see Paul already warning those of the newly born Church of Christ that once they received the Gospel, and the Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ to continue in it.

He and all of the apostles warned the believers to keep the Word of God and the fellowship of His Spirit and not turn back to the vanities and the idolatry of the nations they lived in the midst of, but to remain a light, burning brightly by the Spirit of God within them. “And to remember their God and Father and His Son Jesus Christ”

4. And finally we see ourselves, being asked do we “remember the God of our Fathers”? Has not God visited with the Gospel of His Son the very nation we live in, and nations of the world in just recent history? Has he not brought what we call a “great awakening to every shore and island”? Do we remember? Has our nation forgotten and turned back to vanity?

If it has, where does that leave us? If we hear his voice knocking on the door of our heart, should we answer? Should we look to our hearts and ask the Spirit of God to

show us their condition? to know if we have at all taken up the vanities and idolatries of the nation that we live in the midst of?

Are we with a perfect heart, and a willing mind following after God through His Son Jesus Christ. Are His Words and His Commandments our life, our very breath? Do we love him with everything within us, and hate this world and everything within it? If we do not love him and hate the world, what will our lives, and the lives of our families look like? It is the deceitfulness of sin that hardens our hearts and causes us not to see clearly!

It is time to wake up beloved! The hour is dark! It is time to wake up and have our lights burning bright that we may see our way in this pitch blackness lest we fall!

We will not survive the days ahead if we do not run to our God and hide in the shadow of his wings, and if we do not stand on that rock Jesus Christ our house will not stand against the coming storms!

I love you all in Jesus Christ

JMP

## Scriptures part 1

Exodus 1:8 (KJV) 8 Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.

Exodus 5:1-2 (KJV) 1 And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness. 2 And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.

## Scriptures part 2

1 Chronicles 28:9 (KJV) 9 And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

1 Kings 8:60-61 (KJV) 60 That all the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God, and that there is none else. 61 Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.

2 Kings 17:7-18 (KJV) 7 For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods, 8 And walked in the statutes of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made. 9 And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city. 10 And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree: 11 And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen whom the LORD carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger: 12 For they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing. 13 Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets. 14 Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God. 15 And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them. 16 And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. 17 And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. 18 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.

Isaiah 1:2-4 (KJV) 2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. 3 The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. 4 Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.

Isaiah 63:17 (KJV)

17 O LORD, why hast thou made us to err from thy ways, and hardened our heart from thy fear? Return for thy servants' sake, the tribes of thine inheritance.

### Scriptures part 3

1 Corinthians 10:1-12 (KJV) 1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat; 4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. 5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. 7 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. 8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. 9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. 10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. 11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Hebrews 4:1-2 (KJV) 1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. 2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

Hebrews 2:1-3 (KJV) 1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. 2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; 3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

Hebrews 3:7-14 (KJV) 7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, 8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: 9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. 10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. 11 So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. 13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

### Scriptures 4

Hebrews 1:1-2 (KJV) 1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

2 Peter 3:3-7 (KJV) 3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. 5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being

overflowed with water, perished: 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly

2 Timothy 3:1-9 (KJV) 1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 -- Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. 9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.