

Introduction:

Memorial Day we remember those who served in our military and have passed away. Memory is very important and different for each of us. It is different because our position in life is different from others. My memories of the 80's, 90's, etc. is based on where I was at that stage of life. It is important because what we remember, or choose to remember, influences how we handle present situations.

I) Israel's Selective Memory.

A) They were in Egypt as slaves.

Exodus 3:7 *And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.*

1. They were building the cities of Pharaoh.

Exodus 1:11 *Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses.*

Exodus 1:14 *And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage-in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor.*

2. Their male children were threatened by Pharaoh, death of male children.

Numbers 11:1 *Now when the people complained, it displeased the LORD; for the LORD heard it, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the LORD burned among them, and consumed some in the outskirts of the camp. 2 Then the people cried out to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the LORD, the fire was quenched. 3 So he called the name of the place Taberah, because the fire of the LORD had burned among them. 4 Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat? 5 "We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic;*

B) They did not remember the oppression, hard, work, or the death of their children.

1. They remembered the “good things” while in Egypt.
2. This resulted in their desire to go back to Egypt, them complaining constantly about everything from water, to manna, to Moses’ leadership.

II) What God Wanted Them To Remember

A) God provided them what they needed when they needed it.

Exodus 16:31 *And the house of Israel called its name Manna. And it was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. 32 Then Moses said, "This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: 'Fill an omer with it, to be kept for your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.'" 33 And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations." 34 As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept. 35 And the children of Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.*

1. The next generation needed to be reminded of God’s provisions.

Deuteronomy 8:3 *"So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.*

Deuteronomy 8:16 *"who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end-*

2. Instead of grumbling they needed to trust and rely on God to take care of them.
3. Which meant more than relying on manna but on God’s word.

4. This is the point Jesus makes when tempted by Satan.

Matthew 4:4 *But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"*

B) God wanted them to remember what it was like in Egypt.

Deuteronomy 4:19 *"And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage. 20 "But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be His people, an inheritance, as you are this day.*

1 Kings 8:50 *"and forgive Your people who have sinned against You, and all their transgressions which they have transgressed against You; and grant them compassion before those who took them captive, that they may have compassion on them 51 "(for they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out of Egypt, out of the iron furnace),*

1. God brought them out of the world to be His own special people.
2. One constant temptation of Israel was to be like the nations around them.

Jeremiah 11:4 *"which I commanded your fathers in the day I brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, 'Obey My voice, and do according to all that I command you; so shall you be My people, and I will be your God,'"*

3. The plagues and deliverance were not just to make a new nation, it was to make a holy nation, His own special people.

C) Despite God punishing Israel, He was watching over them.

Deuteronomy 32:10 *"He found him in a desert land And in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye. 11 As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young, Spreading out its wings, taking them up,*

Carrying them on its wings,

Isaiah 46:3 "Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, And all the remnant of the house of Israel, Who have been upheld by Me from birth, Who have been carried from the womb:

Hosea 11:3 "I taught Ephraim to walk, Taking them by their arms; But they did not know that I healed them.

1. God was the reason Israel existed, the reason they were able to take the land of Canaan, the reason they reached their level of glory.
2. God had carried them, instructed them, taught them to walk, but they forgot to follow after God.

III) Application

A) Remember we have been delivered from the iron furnace of sin.

John 8:34 NKJV 34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.

1. How would you complete the following sentence? Sin is....
2. Sin ensnares, traps man. It does not liberate him.
3. Sin is death. ***Romans 6.23a***
4. We appreciate what it means to be cleansed of our sins when we remember how bad sin is.

B) Remember to live by the word of God.

1. In the parable of the Sower the seed is the word of God, ***Luke 8.11.***
2. Cannot have a Christian without the word of God.
3. We are set apart, cleansed by the word of God. ***Luke 8:21 But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."***

C) Remember God sustains us.

1. As we face our trials, we need to remember how God has

sustained us in times past.

2. Some people will remember 2020 as a terrible time while others will say, by the grace of God we did ok.
3. If we remember to trust in God we will walk by faith, **2 Corinthians 5.7.**
4. If we remember how God delivered us out of temptation, we will seek to escape temptation the next time.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.