

THE IMPORTANCE OF REMEMBERING

(Deuteronomy 8:10-14)

GOD CONTINUALLY REMINDS US TO REMEMBER...

- Remember Him when things are good (Israel)

*When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. ¹¹**Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God**, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. ¹²Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, ¹³and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then **your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God**, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. (Deuteronomy 8:10-14)*

- Remember Him when things are bad (Psalms)

*As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. ²My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? ³My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, “Where is your God?” ⁴**These things I remember** as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng. ⁵Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God. ⁶My soul is downcast within me; therefore, **I will remember you** from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar. (Psalm 42:1-6)*

- Remember that God is God and you are not (Prophets)

***Remember this, keep it in mind, take it to heart**, you rebels. ⁹**Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.** ¹⁰I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, “My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.” (Isaiah 46:8-10)*

- Remember what you’ve learned about Him (Apostles)

*The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and **will remind you** of everything I have said to you. (John 14:26)*

- Remembering all He has done keeps us anchored (Jesus)

*The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; **do this in remembrance of me.**” ²⁵In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; **do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.**” (1Cor 11:23-25)*

QUOTES OF NOTE

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. (George Santayana, *Reason and Common Sense*)

Gettysburg Address
Abraham Lincoln
November 19, 1863

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Joshua Heschel says: Much of what the Bible demands can be comprised in one word, “Remember.” (Henri Nouwen, *The Living Reminder*)

When Israel remembers God’s great acts of love and compassion, she enters into these great acts themselves. To remember is not simply to look back at past events; more importantly, it is to bring these events into the present and celebrate them here and now. For Israel, remembrance means participation. (Henri Nouwen, *The Living Reminder*)