

Oxford Baptist Church – Dec 31, 2023 – Tyler Bowles
Set Free to New Life – “Remember” – Exodus 15:1-17:7

Intro

- Israel needs to remember what God has done as they live the way God calls them to.
- In the Old Testament, Israel forgets who God is, what He's done, and His promises to them.
- We, too, just like Israel, are forgetful of God's work in our lives.

Remember God's Plan | Exodus 1:1-14:31

- In Genesis 15:18-21, Abraham is promised that his descendants will inherit “The Promised Land.”
- The sons of Abraham left Canaan for Egypt during Joseph's life because of famine.
- The Egyptians enslaved them.
- Israel spends 215 in Egypt.
 - <https://answersingenesis.org/bible-questions/how-long-were-the-israelites-in-egypt/>
- Moses was saved at birth, raised in Pharaoh's home, and after 40 years in hiding, returned at age 80 to lead Israel out of Egypt.
- God sends ten plagues demonstrating He is God, and Israel is sent out of Egypt, plundering it as they go.
- Pharaoh changed his mind and pursued Israel, trapping them between the Egyptian army and the Red Sea.
- God then delivers Israel by opening up the Red Sea and putting a cloud behind them so they can safely cross.
- After Israel makes it across, the waters close, killing the Egyptians who are pursuing them.
- Here they are, saved by God from Egypt, standing in the wilderness.
- This plan might not have made sense then, but why did God do all these things?
 - Israel left Egypt as a large nation, which just plundered the wealthiest and most powerful nation in

the world. They left with silver, gold clothing, & livestock and were equipped for battle. They had all seen and experienced the saving power of God, and we're told that they feared God. They knew that God was with them and that no other army could stop God. And we know that this testimony continued to the nations of Canaan who were fearful of their God.

- If Moses had started to build in Canaan when he was first given the promise, Israel would not have been the nation they were then.
- *Do you remember that it's God's plan and not your plan?*
- *Sometimes, God has different plans for us, but they are still his plans.*
- *Look back at 2023 and see how God worked in your life. As you look at present troubles, remember that God is in control and His plans are greater.*

Remember God's Promises | Exodus 15:22-27

- Israel embarks into the wilderness, a place that would kill anyone, let alone a nation.
- After journeying for three days, they complain and long to return to Egypt.
- God provides water for them and makes a promise to them if they follow Him.
- God had many promises to Israel, but they always forgot them, questioning God's ways and motives.
- *God has given us lots of promises, too.*
- *When we forget God's promises, it leaves us uncertain, afraid, and hopeless.*
- *We need to live with God's promises in mind.*

Remember God's Provision | Exodus 16:1-36

- Israel soon complained that they were hungry
- God provides food for them: manna in the morning and quail in the evening.

- They are instructed to take what they need, trusting that God will provide again the next day.
- *Do you trust God's provision in your life?*
- *Are you trying to take care of everything yourself instead of relying on God daily?*
- *Are there sins in your life hindering God's provision?*

Remember God's Patience | Exodus 17:1-7

- Again, Israel complains that they need water, and God has led them to the wilderness to die.
- You would think by now that Israel would remember that God was with them, that being in the wilderness was God's plan.
- God responds patiently by hearing their cry and answering them again.
- Israel was so forgetful, but God was even more patient with them.
- *We are just as forgetful as Israel was.*
- *We forget what God had done for us on the cross, that He's given us His Spirit and His promises.*
- *We question God's motives and complain that He doesn't really love and care for us.*
- *But God is still patient, as we forget.*

Conclusion

- As we wrap up 2023 and start 2024, we need to remember
- Remember God's Plan
 - God is in control even when we don't know what's happening.
 - We've seen that in the past, and it will be true again.
- Remember God's Promises
 - We have been given incredible promises from God that should encourage us and change how we live.
- Remember God's Provision
 - Rely on God daily instead of trusting in yourself.
- Remember God's Patience

- You will forget these things again, but praise God that He is good and patient with us.

Questions for Personal and Group Study

- 1) **Are** you a forgetful person? Think of a time that you forgot something simple.
- 2) Review the story of Israel in the notes. List some ways you see God's hand at work in the nation of Israel.
- 3) When is a time you've seen God's hand at work in your life? Were His plans the same as or different from yours?
- 4) What are some of the promises that God has made us?
- 5) What can you do to remember God's promises better?
- 6) Take some time and imagine what it was like for Israel to receive manna and quail. Think about how dependent they were on God.
- 7) When is a time that God has provided for you?
- 8) Do you depend on God for your provisions of yourself?
- 9) Like Israel, we forget God, but He is patient. Spend time confessing our forgetfulness and lack of trust, and praise Him for His patience.