

# **HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN GOD?**

**By**

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## INTRODUCTION

For the Christian it seems almost impossible that anyone would ever even consider forgetting God; but we know that many do forget God. If you are guilty of forgetting God when do you forget Him? Living in Missouri not too far from the Lake of Ozarks and Truman Lake I am well aware that God is forgotten on many Sundays. Having preached at one congregation located about one mile from a boat ramp and camp ground I am well aware that a vast number of people go fishing, boating or just camping when the church is assembled. Do you suppose they are not aware of what the Hebrews writer wrote? (Hebrews 10:25) *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”* It is apparent from this passage that there were some members of the early church who made it a habit to forget God and forsake the assembly of Christian worshippers. But let me warn you that this is not a valid excuse. You must remember that you are accountable for your own actions: (Romans 14:12) *“So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”*

Not everyone who forgets God on the first day of the week goes to the lakes; huge numbers of people can be seen on your televisions attending ball games, car races and etc. On any Sunday afternoon you can view large numbers of people attending different activities and in defense of some I will admit that some of those you see may have gone to worship God before they went to the various games. However, I venture to say that the vast majority did not go to the worship services; many had to drive too far to get to the game and they were forced to make a choice; go to the game or go to church. What a shame it is that personal desires win over God.

But you say; “Now wait just one minute; I never miss worshipping God on Sunday mornings”. That is true of many; but where are all the morning worshippers Sunday evening? Most congregations lose one half to two thirds in attendance on Sunday evening and maybe even more on Wednesday night. Oh, I have heard some say that we don’t have any authority for a Wednesday night prayer

meeting or Bible study. I tell you I have more authority to attend Wednesday night than you have to be absent; have you never read that the early church continued with one accord daily? (Acts 2:46) *“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,”* Aren’t you a little curious of how God will judge those who have discontinued Sunday evening worship service and Wednesday night Bible study. I am even concerned about the fact that we have cut our gospel meetings from one or two weeks to three days. Have we begun to forget God without admitting we are doing so?

Still others forget God when giving to the Lord? We are commanded to “lay by him in store as we have prospered”: (1 Corinthians 16:2) *“Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”* Those who choose to forsake the assembly certainly are not obeying this commandment. Then there are some who are in attendance who forget all that God has done for them and they fail to give “as they have been prospered”. While preaching at one church there was one man and his wife who contributed half of my salary every week. They did quietly and few knew what they gave until they moved [including me]. On the other hand some never give as God prospers them.

Some even forget to go to God in prayer. Some only pray to God at bedtime. One of my good friends told me that he chooses not to pray after going to bed because he goes to sleep before he finishes his prayer. Praying before each meal and at bedtime is the least we can do; we are told by Jesus to pray always: (Luke 21:36) *“Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”* And we are told to pray without ceasing: (1 Thessalonians 5:17) *“Pray without ceasing.”* Strange isn’t it how some only go to God in prayer when they or someone close to them is sick or have a dire need.

Then there are those who forget to study God’s word: (2 Timothy 2:15) *“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* Failing to study your Bible is a sure indication that you are forgetting God. If you want to be “approved unto God” study that good book; never just leave it lay on the coffee table to be seen when

the preacher comes knocking. If you don't study how are you going to know what to do so God will approve of you actions. You know if you study enough all of the above problems will become solved. I hope you understand that we do not study to be approved of men; as Paul wrote to Timothy we study to be found "approved unto God". We need to be aware that those who are approved of by men are sometimes disapproved of by God. How can you give an answer to anyone of the hope you have if you forget to study God's word? (1 Peter 3:15) "*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*"

Forgetting God is characteristic of the wicked: (Proverbs 2:17) "*Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.*" These may have been words that Solomon wrote to his son Rehoboam but they are fitting for anyone who might come to him for instruction. To show that these were wicked people I refer to a few verses back: (Proverbs 2:10-15) "*When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; <sup>11</sup>Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: <sup>12</sup>To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; <sup>13</sup>Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness; <sup>14</sup>Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked; <sup>15</sup>Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths:*" Notice he says it is such that forget their covenant with God.

Isaiah recorded the words of the Lord: (Isaiah 65:8) "*Thus saith the LORD,*" What was the Lord's message Isaiah? The words of the Lord that Isaiah recorded were words for the Lord's people and the Lord was aware that His own people had forgotten Him: (Isaiah 65:11-16) "*But ye are they that forsake the LORD, that forget my holy mountain, that prepare a table for that troop, and that furnish the drink offering unto that number. <sup>12</sup>Therefore will I number you to the sword, and ye shall all bow down to the slaughter: because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not. <sup>13</sup>Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, my servants shall eat, but ye shall be hungry: behold, my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty: behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be*

ashamed: <sup>14</sup>Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart, but ye shall cry for sorrow of heart, and shall howl for vexation of spirit. <sup>15</sup>And ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord GOD shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name: <sup>16</sup>That he who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; and he that sweareth in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes.” A pretty harsh judgment for forgetting the Lord isn’t. Do you think we will fare any better if we forget the Lord?

## Chapter One

### FORGETTING GOD IS FORGETTING HIS COVENANT

Forgetting the Lord is forgetting His covenant: (Deuteronomy 4:23) *“Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee.”* What did Moses mean when he wrote “take heed lest ye forget the covenant of the Lord”? Easton Bible Dictionary says a covenant is: “A contract or agreement between two parties. In the Old Testament the Hebrew word Berith is always thus translated. The corresponding word in the New Testament Greek is diatheke, which is, however, rendered “testament” generally in the Authorized Version. It ought to be rendered, just as the word berith of the Old Testament, “covenant.” So Moses was exhorting them not to forget their agreement with the Lord. The Lord never forgets His covenant with us; however man is prone to forget the covenant they made with God. When we obey the gospel God says He will save us and we say that we will obey His commands. Of course to forget our covenant with God is the work of Satan; he wants us to forget our covenant with God. Granted Satan cannot make us forget but he does greatly influence us. Therefore we need to guard against anything that would cause us to forget our covenant with God.

(2 Kings 17:38) *“And the covenant that I have made with you ye shall not forget; neither shall ye fear other gods.”* The prophets that are referred to are

Hosea, Amos, Micah, and others. This is an instance when God himself warns the people not to forget His covenant with them.

### **FORGETTING GOD IS FORGETTING THE WORKS OF GOD**

(Psalms 78:7) *“That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:”* To forget the works of God is to forget the inspired word of the gospels; wherein we have trustworthy record of the miracles of Christ. Also it is to forget the works of grace, redemption and salvation.

In verse eleven he wrote this: (Psalms 78:11) *“And forgat his works, and his wonders that he had showed them.”* Verse ten explains why the Psalmist wrote verse eleven: (Psalms 78:10) *“They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law;”* This was written in reference to the Israelites and it may have two possible meanings: first it could refer to the fact that they forgot their covenant of circumcision during their travels in the wilderness or it may have reference to the covenant God made with the people of Israel at Mount Sinai. They forgot all of God’s wonderful miracles and His deliverance. We may be inclined to shame them but have we forgotten what the Lord has done for us; He gave His only begotten Son that we might have salvation. May we never forget the works of God on our behalf? This thought was not soon forgotten by the Psalmist: (Psalms 106:13) *“They soon forgat his works; they waited not for his counsel:”* Yes, they soon forgot the miracles He wrought in Egypt and their deliverance from there with a mighty arm. They had only journeyed in the wilderness three days when they began to murmur and show distrust in God: (Exodus 15:22-24) *“So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water. <sup>23</sup>And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. <sup>24</sup>And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?”*

### **FORGETTING GOD IS TO FORGET OUR BENEFITS**

They declared their souls were involved in remembering all of his benefits: (Psalms 103:2) *“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:”* It seems as though God wanted everyone to know how important this was to Him

because verse two is repeating what he had written in verse one. The Psalmist didn't want to forget any benefits he had in the Lord. His benefits and our benefits begin every morning and are new every morning. Each and every time we awake we have new opportunities to serve the Lord and often in different capacities. Every morning when you awaken you have an opportunity to speak to God in prayer; do you take advantage of this benefit. Every day you have the opportunity to glorify and praise His name; both verbally and by the life you live. Don't waste the day by forgetting your benefits.

Let us not be like the children of Israel: (Psalms 106:7) "*Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked him at the sea, even at the Red sea.*" Even while they were still in Egypt they did not understand the miracles of the plagues as they were being wrought in their sight and they were witnesses to the mighty power of the Lord. They should have possessed and retained a grateful remembrance of the multitude of benefits that was bestowed upon them.

### **FORGETTING GOD IS TO FORGET HIS WORD**

In the New Testament times there were those who forgot the exhortations they heard: (Hebrews 12:5) "*And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:*" These exhortations were spoken to them as if they were God's children and it would have been for their benefit to ever be mindful of these exhortations. While some of these exhortations came in the form of a chastening they even despised that which must not be despised: (Proverbs 3:11) "*My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:*" Notice the phrase "My son" correction was given in the sense of speaking to children. We are to consider exhortations and words of correction as if it is coming directly from our Father in heaven.

Do you remember the topic of the last sermon you heard? Are you a forgetful hearer: (James 1:25) "*But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*" We must take heed to the things we hear; don't let them slip from your mind. If you are like me you will admit that you

have a weakness of memory; is there any help? I suggest you go to the Lord in prayer and ask Him to help you to remember the words you have heard or read.

### **FORGETTING GOD IS TO FORGET HIS LAW**

Some of the people you see in the worship services are hardly recognizable outside of the building because it seems as though they forget God's laws and commandments: (Psalms 119:153) "*Consider mine affliction, and deliver me: for I do not forget thy law.*" Sometimes we get all wrapped up in our afflictions and forget all about God and what He would have us to do. Don't allow illness or pain to get the best of your thoughts or desires to be pleasing to the Lord. The Psalmist asked God to deliver him so that he would not forget God's law. Don't you think he was afraid that his affliction might rob him of God's precepts and that His word might fail to be a lamp unto his feet: (Psalms 119:105) "*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*"

If you go astray what do you do? Have you thought about going to God in prayer? (Psalms 119:176) "*I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.*" All shepherds will go looking for his lost sheep, even if just one is lost. Many of us are like a lost sheep we won't return to the flock by our self; which might explain why he asks the Lord to seek him. Of course we know that God does not Himself seek those who have gone astray but if a brother or sister comes to you in an effort to restore you don't turn your back on them. We go astray when we willfully forget God's law. Admit it; when you forget His law you do things that you would not normally do.

Warning; if you forget the Lord's law He will also forget you: (Hosea 4:6) "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*" Forgetting the laws of God begins with a "lack of knowledge; can't we see the necessity to study God's word? (2 Timothy 2:15) "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" (2 Timothy 3:16) "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*" God has provided us with His scriptures to study so that we might know

how to conduct ourselves so that we can stand before Him at the Judgment “approved”. If we don’t make it a habit to study it is very likely that we will forget His law. I guess I will never forget the words of my high school English teacher, she said “if you aren’t learning you are forgetting”. You don’t want to be ashamed do you? Then study! Through a little effort you will discover great benefits.

## Chapter Two

### WHY WOULD ANYONE FORGET GOD?

“Why” is a question that is often asked. I remember when I was a child most of the time when my mother told me to do or not do anything that I would ask “Why”. I suppose I haven’t changed that much because I am still asking “why would anyone ever forget God?” I suppose there are several reasons but one of the main reasons many forget God is because they are encouraged to do so by false teachers: (Jeremiah 23:26-27) *“How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart; <sup>27</sup>Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal.”* In the days of Jeremiah false prophets caused many to forget God by telling lies and they were turning people away from God. This was no accident their lies were well thought out and their lies provided their intended results. The prophet Jeremiah asks the question; “how long”. I suppose we would have to tell Jeremiah it will continue as long as God allows this earth to stand because false teachers are still encouraging people today to forget God.

According to God men and women who know the truth are under obligation to faithfully speak his word: (Jeremiah 23:28) *“The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD.”* Teacher, preachers and Christians who know the truth are stewards of that word and they are required to be faithful. When nothing but the truth is spoken and there is no mixture of man’s will there will be no encouragement to forget God.

Another culprit that causes many to forget God is prosperity: (Deuteronomy 8:12-14) *“Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses,*

and dwelt therein; <sup>13</sup>And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; <sup>14</sup>Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;” These are the same people God had rescued from Egyptian slavery. When they were slaves in Egypt they had nothing. But now that they were well fed and owned nice houses and were free to live in their houses in peace. Wouldn’t you think that they would remember where they had come from and who had brought them to this point? But according to the words written by Moses prosperity had led them to forget God. We have seen the same thing happen today when people begin to prosper they forget God and their only concern is getting more money, more property and they don’t have time for God.

Hosea records the words of the Lord: (Hosea 13:4-6) “*Yet I am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for there is no saviour beside me. <sup>5</sup>I did know thee in the wilderness, in the land of great drought. <sup>6</sup>According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and their heart was exalted; therefore have they forgotten me.*” This chapter begins by stating the different state and condition of Ephraim before and after his idolatry [verse 1]; his increased interest and activity in idolatry [verse 2]. In verses four and five God reminds the people of His former favors to them. In verse six God tells them they are like their pastures; they were filled and in their prosperity they had forgotten the Lord. Again I am forced to ask “Why”. Does it make any sense to forget the very one who was responsible for your prosperity? As a result of their forgetting the Lord He threatens them with His vengeance and wrath: (Hosea 13:7) “*Therefore I will be unto them as a lion: as a leopard by the way will I observe them.*” Can people who forget God today expect anything less?

### **TRIALS IS ANOTHER REASON SOME FORGET GOD**

Trials are another reason that I will list as a cause of some for forgetting God: (Psalms 44:17-20) “*All this is come upon us; yet have we not forgotten thee, neither have we dealt falsely in thy covenant. <sup>18</sup> Our heart is not turned back, neither have our steps declined from thy way;<sup>19</sup> Though thou hast sore broken us in the place of dragons, and covered us with the shadow of death.<sup>20</sup> If we have forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a strange*

god;” The words “yet have we not forgotten thee” are very bold words; but they were the truth; they had not forgotten God nor had they turned to idols. True it may not have included everyone; but as a nation it was true that they had not forgotten God. This however is not true of everyone today; we have witnessed those who are tried and afflicted that forget God. A phrase often heard is; “Why me God?” Sad to say often their afflictions are self inflicted and then they try to place the blame upon God. While it is true that God allows Satan to tempt us but he restricts Satan: (1 Corinthians 10:13) *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”* Since this is true how could anyone blame God for any affliction they might suffer?

### **Chapter Three**

#### **THERE ARE CAUTIONS AGAINST FORGETTING GOD**

Jehovah God is a loving God and does not want anyone to sin and be lost, therefore He warns and cautions us: (Deuteronomy 6:12) *“Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.”* In life whenever we see a sign that says “BEWARE” we proceed with caution. Since I am an old retired highway worker I am well acquainted with giving drivers warning; whenever you are working on the roadway for your protection and the safety of oncoming drivers we set up warning signs well in advance of the work site. There are emergencies when we would have to work without proper warning signs and that is extremely dangerous for everyone concerned. But we can thank God that He has given us the proper cautions well ahead of time and this is certainly the case when it comes to forgetting Him. After God gave the proper warning to “beware” He then reminded them and us what He had done for them. Our God is the giver of “every good and perfect gift”: (James 1:17) *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”* After being reminded of what God had done for them one would think that they would continually be thankful daily and “forgetting God” would be the furthest thing from their minds. But the Lord is well aware of the mind of man; therefore He warns them not to forget Him. The history of man

proves that mankind often forgets God and we of today are no better than those who lived during the time the Bible was written.

The Lord cautions them again: (Deuteronomy 8:10-11) *“When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee. <sup>11</sup>Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:”* The Lord had blessed them with plenty to eat; they could eat whenever they felt like eating and they could eat as much as they desired to eat provided they did not indulge to intemperance. They were to eat with thankfulness for the food set before them and the land which produced the food as well because the Lord had given them the land. They were living in a land of plenty and so are we; may we never forget to be thankful for everything that God provides us with.

Verse twelve is a repetition of verse eleven in chapter six because God wanted them to be fully and completely warned that they must keep His commandments and to remember His judgments and statutes. In both of these references Moses reminds them of the blessings they had received from the Lord and he then cautions them by making an argument for their future obedience.

### **THOSE GUILTY OF FORGETTING GOD ARE EXECUTED**

The Psalmist wrote some very harsh words of exhortation: (Psalms 50:22) *“Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver.”* Although this verse does not begin with “beware” it is just as serious; the points that are given for them to consider are very stern and serious. After reminding them of their sins God gives them a warning and actually threatens them with a terrible punishment! The Lord wants them to reconsider their actions and repent and change their way of living. God is not an approver of sin; rather He is a reprover of sin. After God has reproved them of their sin if they will not repent he tells them of the punishment that He will inflict upon them.

God threatens that He will “tear you in pieces” much like a lion or bear that tears its victims to peaces: (Hosea 13:7) *“Therefore I will be unto them as a*

*lion: as a leopard by the way will I observe them:*” This is a warning given unto them because of their idolatry, luxury, ingratitude and especially of their forgetfulness of God. Some commentators say this was accomplished in the destruction of Jerusalem and I am inclined to agree with them. Because this has come to pass we should not rest at ease because the fate of unrepentant Christians and alien sinners is no better; I would exhort you to consider being cast into a lake of burning fire: (Revelation 21:8) *“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”* The “second death” is eternal separation from God. As the Psalmist stated there will be “no one to deliver” us from this eternal fate. Friends, there will be no resting from this punishment it will be constant and everlasting: (Matthew 25:41) *“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:”* Does anyone think that a few days or years of doing as you please is worth an everlasting fire where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth? (Matthew 22:13) *“Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

So you see not only were the people of old given exhortations so are we of the last days.

## **Chapter Four**

### **PUNISHMENT AWAITS THOSE WHO FORGET GOD**

Although I have touched on this I feel that there is more to be said. Bildad speaking to Job is telling him that God is justified in His judgment and he uses plant growth to make his point: (Job 8:11-13) *“Can the rush grow up without mire? can the flag grow without water? <sup>12</sup>Whilst it is yet in his greenness, and not cut down, it withereth before any other herb. <sup>13</sup>So are the paths of all that forget God; and the hypocrite’s hope shall perish:”* Bildad asks; “Can the rush grow up without mire?” The answer of course would be “no, at least not very long”. The word rush is referring to the bulrush that grows in wet marshy place; it has its name in the Hebrew which means absorbing or drinking up water. The “flag” also grows in wet places usually along river banks. If these plants are de-

prived of water they will die and are cut down with the scythe; these plants will die much quicker than plants that do not require so much water. Those who forget God are like the paper reed; they appear to flourish; but without water they have not that which is substantial to their growth. In verse thirteen he gets to the point that he wants to make and this is in regard to those who “forget God”. Would his point not be that man cannot survive very long without God? This verse ends with “the hypocrites hope perish.” Of course Job was not a hypocrite but this is true of those who say they are Christians and they are not. To be a hypocrite is to act like they are something they are not. If you have made a profession to be a Christian you had better live up to that profession.

David makes it much plainer point of what will happen to those who forget God: (Psalms 9:17) *“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”* When he wrote “the wicked” he meant all the wicked; none shall escape being “turned into hell”. The word “hell” gradually came to mean the abode of the wicked dead. I believe it would be correct to classify those who “forget God” as wicked and David here informs us of their destination. Some render “the wicked shall be turned into hell” simply as the grave; but I cannot agree with this because everyone whether good or wicked will go to the grave if Christ doesn’t return before their death. “All the nations that forget God” can be applied to every wicked person [both male and female] that forgets God. There is no escaping as God sees and knows all things and everyone is accountable to Him.

It is very dangerous to “forget God” because He is our God of salvation: (Isaiah 17:10) *“Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the rock of thy strength, therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange slips:”* God had been their God of salvation in Egypt, at the Red Sea and in many instances since. Jesus is the author of our salvation: (Hebrews 5:9) *“And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”* This was made possible because God loved the world: (John 3:16) *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* “Forgetting God” means they forgot His acts of mercy and goodness and forsook worshipping Him and turned to idols. If you desire salvation what-

ever you do, don't forget God. As Isaiah says there will be "desperate sorrow": (Isaiah 17:11) *"In the day shalt thou make thy plant to grow, and in the morning shalt thou make thy seed to flourish: but the harvest shall be a heap in the day of grief and of desperate sorrow."*

Do I read in the words of Ezekiel that you deserve what you get? (Ezekiel 23:35) *"Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast forgotten me, and cast me behind thy back, therefore bear thou also thy lewdness and thy whoredoms."* When they or we forget God He is out of our sight; His laws and commandments are forgotten and ignored: (Nehemiah 9:26) *"Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and cast thy law behind their backs, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations."* Ezekiel chapter twenty two recounts the sin of Jerusalem, of her prophets, her priests and princes. God sought for someone to stand for the truth and found none. Do you remember what Jesus said he would have done for Jerusalem? (Matthew 23:37) *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!"* (Luke 13:34) *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!"* How sad that people digresses so low that they won't even listen to or respond to the Son of God. But we see this every time the invitation is extended. We have all witnessed sinners who have sunk so low that they won't even respond to the gospel invitation.

Then in Ezekiel twenty three God justifies Himself for judging Jerusalem for their iniquity and for their faithless conduct. Jerusalem's whoredom with the Gentiles was the cause of her departure from God. Today there is neither Jew nor Gentile: (Galatians 3:28) *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."* This being true what is it that causes people today to forget God? It is always one of three things: (1 John 2:16) *"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."* How can we overcome this and be found faithful? (Galatians 5:16)

*“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”* I would say this is the key to not “forget God”.

God was the Creator and preserver of Israel and He had raised them up to a kingdom and God made them great and rich; as well as populous with many favors bestowed on them; with all of this they still “forgot God”: (Hosea 8:14) *“For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples; and Judah hath multiplied fenced cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the palaces thereof.”* They forgot to give God the glory He deserved and they forgot to praise Him for all of His wonderful works and blessings on their behalf. Added to this the temples they built were to idols. They built temples to the calves at Dan and Bethel. They built altars and set up priests that God certainly would not approve: (1 Kings 12:31) *“And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.”*

They built fences to protect them from their enemies; now there was nothing wrong with building fences for protection; but they stopped looking to God for protection and trusted in their own strength, that was their sin. Ceasing to trust God and forgetting Him is what brought ruin to Israel.

Did God just smile and ignore their forgetting Him? Certainly not; He told them that he would “send a fire upon the cities” and that fire would “devour their palaces” within the cities. God didn’t do this as He did at Sodom and Gomorrah but He did send an enemy that accomplished this. Even the temple of the Lord at Jerusalem was destroyed as well as the palaces of the kings and the fine homes of great men. This prophecy was not carried out immediately but done many years later by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon: (Jeremiah 52:12-13) *“Now in the fifth month, in the tenth day of the month, which was the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, which served the king of Babylon, into Jerusalem, <sup>13</sup>And burned the house of the LORD, and the king’s house; and all the houses of Jerusalem, and all the houses of the great men, burned he with fire:”*

What do we learn from the fulfillment of this prophecy? Anytime one forgets God; His punishment is sure to come; it may not come the same day, week, month or year but it will come. God simply will not tolerate it when we forget

Him. It may appear that some who forgets God lives a long and normal life but a day of reckoning will finally come; judgment awaits everyone.

## CONCLUSION

Forgetting God is a very serious matter because men have always forgotten God and continue to do so yet today. As we have noted the punishment for forgetting God has been very severe and it will also be severe when the Day of Judgment comes. Neither you or I know not when that day shall come: (Mark 13:31-32) *“Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. <sup>32</sup>But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.”* God has revealed many things to us but this is one thing He has not revealed. When the world shall end is something we do not need to know because we are to be prepared for that great day at all times: (Luke 12:37-40) *“Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. <sup>38</sup>And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. <sup>39</sup>And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. <sup>40</sup>Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.”* Neither do we know when we might die; but we do know that we must die and after that we must face the Judgment: (Hebrews 9:27) *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”* So we must not forget that God has a day of Judgment planned and we must be prepared for that day.

There are several reasons and benefits resulting from not “forgetting God” I will list a few:

If you remember God He will consider your afflictions: (Psalms 119:153)  
*“Consider mine affliction, and deliver me: for I do not forget thy law.”*

Remembering God gives comfort: (Psalms 119:52) *“I remembered thy judgments of old, O LORD; and have comforted myself.”*

Remember God's commandments and when you go astray He will seek you:  
(Psalms 119:176) *"I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant;  
for I do not forget thy commandments."*

If you don't forget God and remain faithful unto death you will receive a crown of life:(Revelation 2:10) *"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."*

There are many more advantages and benefits that God will provide for us if we don't "forget Him". I do hope that this booklet will encourage you and help you not to "forget God". I will readily admit that the older I get the easier it becomes for me to forget. It is my prayer that God will help me never to forget what He has done for me and what He has promised to do for me and others who don't forget Him and remain faithful until the day that we die.

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