

OUR PAST: AN ANCHOR FOR THE FUTURE

Shofar Table View

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God reminds us of the past: what we have seen

Deuteronomy 11 (NKJ)

- Know today that *I do not speak* with your children, who have not known and **who have not seen** the chastening of the LORD your God, His greatness and His mighty hand and His outstretched arm—³ His signs and His acts which He did in the midst of Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to all his land;⁴ what He did to the army of Egypt, to their horses and their chariots: how He made the waters of the Red Sea overflow them as they pursued you, and *how* the LORD has destroyed them to this day; ⁵ what He did for you in the wilderness until you came to this place;—
- ⁷ **but your eyes have seen** every great act of the LORD which He did.

God desire us to remember what we have seen

- . ⁴² **They forgot** his power and love and how he had rescued them from their enemies; ⁴³ **they forgot** the plagues he sent upon the Egyptians in Tanis^[a]— ⁴⁴ how he turned their rivers into blood so that no one could drink, ⁴⁵ how he sent vast swarms of flies to fill the land, and how the frogs had covered all of Egypt! (Psalm 78)

The miracles of the past becomes the monument for the future

Joshua 4: Crossing the Jordan River

- ⁸ So the men did as Joshua told them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan River—one for each tribe, just as the Lord had commanded Joshua. They carried them to the place where they were camped for the night and constructed a monument there.

What are these memorial stones?

Psalm 103

- I bless the holy name of God with all my heart. ² Yes, I will bless the Lord and not forget the glorious things he does for me.
- ³ He forgives all my sins.
- He heals me.
- ⁴ He ransoms me from hell. He surrounds me with loving-kindness and tender mercies.
- ⁵ He fills my life with good things! My youth is renewed like the eagle's!
- ⁶ He gives justice to all who are treated unfairly.

Some more memorial stones.....

- Dreams

Since Joseph was governor of all Egypt, and in charge of the sale of the grain, it was to him that his brothers came, and bowed low before him, with their faces to the earth. ⁷ Joseph recognized them instantly, but pretended he didn't. **Then Joseph remembered** the dreams of long ago! But he said to them, "You are spies. You have come to see how destitute the famine has made our land." (Genesis 42:6, 8-9)

- Answered prayers

- Promises fulfilled

- Miracles

Who benefits from this memorial (our past)?

1. For God's Glory

- ²¹ Then Joshua explained again the purpose of the stones:
- ²⁴ He did this so that all the nations of the earth will realize that Jehovah is the mighty God, and so that all of you will worship him forever.” (Joshua 4)

2. Ourselves

1 Samuel 17 (NKJ)

³⁴ But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep his father’s sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, ³⁵ I went out after it and struck it, and delivered *the lamb* from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught *it* by its beard, and struck and killed it.

³⁶ Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.” ³⁷ Moreover David said, “The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”

3. Our children

Psalm 78

²⁻³ For I will show you lessons from our history, stories handed down to us from former generations. ⁴ I will reveal these truths to you so that you can describe these glorious deeds of Jehovah to your children and tell them about the mighty miracles he did. ⁵ For he gave his laws to Israel and commanded our fathers to teach them to their children, ⁶ so that they in turn could teach their children too.

4. Our grandchildren

Psalm 71

- ⁸ And now that I am old and gray, don't forsake me. Give me time to tell this new generation (and their children too) about all your mighty miracles. ¹⁹ Your power and goodness, Lord, reach to the highest heavens. You have done such wonderful things. Where is there another God like you?

5. The world

Deuteronomy 28

- “The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways. ¹⁰ Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you.

Jesus Christ the foundation of our monument (1 Corinthians 3)

- ¹¹ And no one can ever lay any other real foundation than that one we already have—Jesus Christ. ¹² But there are various kinds of materials that can be used to build on that foundation. Some use gold and silver and jewels; and some build with sticks and hay or even straw! ¹³ There is going to come a time of testing at Christ's Judgment Day to see what kind of material each builder has used. Everyone's work will be put through the fire so that all can see whether or not it keeps its value, and what was really accomplished. ¹⁴ Then every workman who has built on the foundation with the right materials, and whose work still stands, will get his pay. ¹⁵ But if the house he has built burns up, he will have a great loss. He himself will be saved, but like a man escaping through a wall of flames.