

HE CANNOT FORGET YOU

Text: Isaiah 49:7-16

At different times in scripture, the phrase “and God remembered” appears. It does not mean that God had forgotten people or promises, but rather that He began to act on a past promise, covenant or situation. It’s a form of human language used to help us understand God’s actions, and signifies God’s compassion, grace and fulfillment of His word by bringing His attention and purpose to a particular person or situation. It means that something was brought to the forefront of God’s mind, leading to His intervention and care.

In our text we find the Lord speaking beautiful comforts to His people. Promises of regathering and restoration and comfort to the afflicted. In so much that He calls for the creation to break forth into singing because of what He has declared. But right after that we have verse **14** But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. In the Bible, Zion primarily refers to Jerusalem, especially its sacred Temple Mount, but it also signifies God’s chosen dwelling place, the spiritual heart of the nation of Israel, a holy mountain, and sometimes even the heavenly city. So, what would cause Zion to make such a statement about the Lord forgetting and forsaking them? Because of their present distress when the word was spoken. This time is possibly referring to the Babylonian captivity that saw the complete destruction of Jerusalem and the people carried away and enslaved by Babylon for 70 years. When we are in distress or discouraging times, it’s hard to hold on to the word of God in faith when we don’t see any evidence of it in the present.

Let me further show you what I mean...let’s turn over to Exodus 5:22 and read to 6:9. Moses and Aaron have gone before Pharaoh and asked for Israel’s release from bondage, to which Pharaoh disregarded them and made life harder on the Israelites. He took away their straw to make bricks, so not only do they have to do the hard task of laying bricks, but they also must find straw themselves to make the bricks. Their already hard and burdensome lives just got harder. Moses goes to God about it all and the Lord speaks great words of certain deliverance and entrance into the promised land...but the people wouldn’t hear it because of their anguish of spirit and cruel bondage. In other words, they couldn’t believe what God said about their future because of their present. When times are hard, heavy, down, and discouraging time slows down to a crawl and our minds are vulnerable to attacks.

Examples of God remembering people in their distresses:

- **Noah - Genesis 8:1-2** And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that *was* with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged; The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained;
- **Rachel - Genesis 30:22-23** And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb. And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach:
- **Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - Exodus 2:23-25** And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto *them*.

The Bible declares that God is omnipresent and omniscient meaning that He is everywhere and that He knows all things. That's more than our minds can take in, but beyond that, God is meticulous in keeping records. Let me give you some examples:

- **A book for your life** – The redeemed of God have their names recorded in the Lamb's book of life. Also, all our days are recorded by God **Psalm 139:15-16** My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, *and* curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.
- **A bottle for your tears - Psalm 56:8** Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?
- **A bowl for your prayers - Revelation 8:2-4** And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

Let me close with this point, God said though a mother could forsake her child (even though that's rare) He cannot forget His own because they are graven upon the palms of His hands. When we read Exodus 6:3 God reveals a new name for Himself to Moses – JEHOVAH in the Hebrew it's YHWH. The Hebrew language has no vowels so we fill it in to pronounce it YAHWEH...the Jews call this the unspeakable name of God. It means "to be" or "He is" showing that He is eternal (I am that I am). The ancient Hebrew alphabet has a pictographic

meaning for all the letters sort of like hieroglyphics. The Hebrew letters for YHWH is *Yod, Heh, Waw, Heh*. The word associated with these letters reveal an interesting thing about this name of God. The Yod represents a hand, Heh represents a window or the idea of behold, look or reveal, Waw represents a nail or tent peg. So, reading the meaning of the letters in the revealed name of God in order gives us “Behold the hand behold the nail”.

Our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ couldn't possibly forget us. He has books containing every all the days of our lives. He has a bottle for our tears. He has a bowl for our prayers...but beyond that, every time He looks at his hands He beholds the marks made by the nails as an eternal reminder of the great price He paid to redeem us from sin.