

LEST YE FORGET

October 22, 2017

Deuteronomy 4:1-24

“Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.” Deuteronomy 4:9, 10

For almost 40 years the nation of Israel had been led by Moses in the araban wilderness. Shortly before Moses' death, God spoke through him, instructing Israel not to forget the wilderness experiences, but to teach them to their children. Evident in those experiences was God's deliverance from enemies and from hardships.

Unborn generations benefited from those events. They should therefore know them. Parents should teach them to their children. And especially, they should be taught how God came to Israel at Sinai to give them His law. Only by such instruction might Israel remember the great favor of God, and her need to faithfully abide with Him.

All Christians share in the benefits wrought for Israel, for thereby God ensured the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage, her deliverance at the Red Sea and by the manna in the wilderness preserved the people by whom Messiah was to come. Indeed, Old Testament miracles were for 21st century believers.

Not only biblical events, but divine interventions since the New Testament exhibit God's faithfulness to His people. Regenerated souls, viewing history with the eyes of saving faith, see God's hand. They know from Scripture that they are “predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will” (Ephesians 1:11). They understand, therefore, “that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). They see, as Nebuchadnezzar did, that God, “doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? (Daniel 4:35).

As we mark the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, an event to which an entire civilization is indebted, but especially true Christians are indebted, it behooves us not to forget God's wonderful intervention for the good of His people in that era of history.

1382 John Wycliffe (1320-1384), “Morning Star of the Reformation,” first English translation of Scripture

1415 John Hus (1369-1415) is burned at the stake in Bohemia (Czechoslovakia)

1456 Johannes Gutenberg (1398-1468), inventor of movable type, prints the Bible in German

1483 Martin Luther (1483-1546) is born in Eisleben, Germany

- 1492 Christopher Columbus (1451-1506) “discovers” the “New World”
- 1517 Martin Luther (1483-1546) presents 95 Theses in Wittenberg, Germany
- 1536 William Tyndale (1494-1536) martyrdom
- 1539 Henry VIII’s (1491-1547) “Great Bible”