

The Danger of Forgetting God and His Works

Deuteronomy 8

I. Introduction

A. Key Words and Ideas

1. **Remember** or “**don’t forget**” appear 5 times (2, 11, 14, 18, 19)
2. **Humble through times of testing** and the idea of **pride** appear 5 times (2, 3, 14, 16, 17)
3. **Blessing** if they continue trusting the Lord and **perishing** if they forget God (1, 7-10; 19-20)

B. God tested them in the wilderness to humble them; God is going to test them in the land with plenty.

II. Remember the Testing in the Difficult Wilderness (1-10)

A. God’s loving care for His covenant people in the wilderness should lead to wholehearted obedience (v. 1-6)

1. *Humbling* them – to apply force through circumstances so they must depend fully on God.
2. *Testing* – to show what was in their heart with evidence (not for God to learn something new).
 - “And he said to them, ‘You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts.’” (Luke 16:15)
 - “Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you question these things in your hearts?” (Mark 2:8)
 - “And God, who knows the heart...” (Acts 15:8)
 - “for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.” (1 John 3:20)
3. Where else do we see Deut. 8:3 in the Bible? What about verse 5?
4. According to verse 6, what does it look like, in action and attitude, to “keep the commandments of the LORD? (Hint: “by” often indicates the way something is done.)

B. It is imperative that they learn to humble themselves before God so that they will keep His word and fear Him as they enter the land (7-10)

III. Don’t Pridefully Forget God When you are Tested in the Comfortable Land (11-20)

A. The Danger of Forgetting God (11-17)

1. “Take care,” “be careful,” and “beware” each appear in chapter 8.
 - a. We can’t go through life pretending like we are in a safe space.
 - b. We are in a war zone, and we must be alert and remember God and His ways.
2. Times of plenty are dangerous when we forget God (12-13)

3. What is the antidote to prideful forgetfulness (i.e., thanklessness, self-sufficiency)? (14-16)
4. How might we “remember” God on a daily basis and avoid prideful amnesia? (v. 17-18)

B. The consequence of forgetting God. Forgetfulness as the path to idolatry (19-20).

IV. Conclusion/Application

- A. How are times of trial and triumph a testing ground for you? What temptations are you prone to?
- B. How can you “be careful to do” all that God commands? How does “remembering” fit into that?
- C. What can you learn from Jesus’s time of testing/temptation in Matthew 4?