

# Forgetting God

## Jer. 2:32

**Jer. 2:32** “Can a virgin forget her ornaments, Or a bride her attire? Yet My people have forgotten Me Days without number.”

no bride forgets these things - most pack them away and keep them and treasure the pictures  
yet people forget God? What?! Forget God? yes, because they keep in mind the things that are important to them

**Matt. 6:21** “for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

### I. The Start Was Good

#### A. Israel Was Devoted vs. 2

**2** “Go and proclaim in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD, “I remember concerning you the devotion of your youth, The love of your betrothals, Your following after Me in the wilderness, Through a land not sown.”’

Mighty hand of God brought them from Egypt to the promised land

what better start can be made?

the joy of salvation, national deliverance and the promised land

#### B. Israel was Holy vs. 3

**3** “Israel was holy to the LORD, The first of His harvest; All who ate of it became guilty; Evil came upon them,” declares the LORD.”

God had set them apart, caused them to be His special people and was using them for His purpose

*yet they did evil* “All who ate of it became guilty; Evil came upon them,” declares the LORD.”

they quickly forgot the Law and the instructions of God

### II. Ingratitude Key Indicator of Forgetfulness

#### A. Causes Forgetfulness of God’s Mercy & Goodness vs. 6,7

**6** “And they did not say, ‘Where is the LORD Who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, Who led us through the wilderness, Through a land of deserts and of pits, Through a land of drought and of deep darkness, Through a land that no one crossed And where no man dwelt?’”

**7** “And I brought you into the fruitful land, To eat its fruit and its good things. But you came and defiled My land, And My inheritance you made an abomination.”

God could have left them there

He didn’t have to send Moses, the plagues, or part the seas

He didn’t have to give them water in the desert or manna from heaven

And then what did He do for them in the land

houses they did not build, vineyards they did not plant, peace and security

*But they forgot*

**Rev. 2:4** “But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.”

**5** Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you, and will remove your lampstand out of its place--unless you repent.”

### B. Causes Forgetfulness of Real Character of God vs. 5

**5** “Thus says the LORD, “What injustice did your fathers find in Me, That they went far from Me And walked after emptiness and became empty?”

The forgot what God was really like - bad things - It's God's Fault.

thus they *deliberately insulted God*

God has revealed Himself in myriads of examples of goodness,

but many has evil conception of Him because of the calamities and other faith trying circumstance

and soon the weak faith sees everything as more evidence of God's lack of concern

because of the evil predilection of their hearts

rejecting Him for heathen deities and sinful practices

**Isa. 65:1-5** “I permitted Myself to be sought by those who did not ask *for Me*; I permitted Myself to be found by those who did not seek Me. I said, 'Here am I, here am I,' To a nation which did not call on My name.

**2** I have spread out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk *in* the way which is not good, following their own thoughts,

**3** A people who continually provoke Me to My face, Offering sacrifices in gardens and burning incense on bricks;

**4** Who sit among graves, and spend the night in secret places; Who eat swine's flesh, And the broth of unclean meat is *in* their pots.

**5** Who say, 'Keep to yourself, do not come near me, For I am holier than you!' These are smoke in My nostrils, A fire that burns all the day.”

### C. Shown in What Replaced God in Their Hearts vss. 11-13

*false gods*

the unreality of the idols - hollow, useless, work of men's hands

Served other God's - They're better (maybe didn't say it, but must have thought it so to do it)

**Isa. 44:12-18** “he man shapes iron into a cutting tool, and does his work over the coals, fashioning it with hammers, and working it with his strong arm. He also gets hungry and his strength fails; he drinks no water and becomes weary.

**13** *Another* shapes wood, he extends a measuring line; he outlines it with red chalk. He works it with planes, and outlines it with a compass, and makes it like the form of a man, like the beauty of man, so that it may sit in a house.

**14** Surely he cuts cedars for himself, and takes a cypress or an oak, and raises *it* for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a fir, and the rain makes it grow.

**15** Then it becomes *something* for a man to burn, so he takes one of them and warms himself; he also makes a fire to bake bread. He also makes a god and worships it; he makes it a graven image, and falls down before it.

**16** Half of it he burns in the fire; over *this* half he eats meat as he roasts a roast, and is satisfied. He also warms himself and says, "Aha! I am warm, I have seen the fire."

**17** But the rest of it he makes into a god, his graven image. He falls down before it and worships; he also prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for thou art my god."

**18** They do not know, nor do they understand, for He has smeared over their eyes so that they cannot see and their hearts so that they cannot comprehend.”

God's rivals are not worthy of Him - idols, the works of man's hand

and how much less transient, earthy pleasures

who seeks the pearl of great price? But they seek worthless dross

### III. Forgetfulness is Progressive

#### A. Leads to Immorality vs. 20-25

**20-25** “For long ago I broke your yoke *And* tore off your bonds; But you said, 'I will not serve!' For on every high hill *And* under every green tree You have lain down as a harlot.

**21** Yet I planted you a choice vine, A completely faithful seed. How then have you turned yourself before Me Into the degenerate shoots of a foreign vine?

**22** Although you wash yourself with lye *And* use much soap, The stain of your iniquity is before Me," declares the Lord GOD.

**23** How can you say, 'I am not defiled, I have not gone after the Baals'? Look at your way in the valley! Know what you have done! You are a swift young camel entangling her ways,

**24** A wild donkey accustomed to the wilderness, That sniffs the wind in her passion. In *the time of* her heat who can turn her away? All who seek her will not become weary; In her month they will find her.

**25** Keep your feet from being unshod *And* your throat from thirst; But you said, 'It is hopeless! No! For I have loved strangers, *And* after them I will walk.'

like a harlot, a degenerate, like an animal in heat

there is not end to sin for those who pursue it.

**Gal. 5:19** “Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, **20** idolatry”

Would they have thought they and their children would turn out that way when they left Egypt?

Is that what they wanted for their grandchildren?

but when they forgot God they were headed down that road

#### B. Leads to Folly vs. 26,27

**26-27** “As the thief is shamed when he is discovered, So the house of Israel is shamed; They, their kings, their princes, *And* their priests, *and* their prophets,”

**27** “Who say to a tree, 'You are my father,' *And* to a stone, 'You gave me birth.' For they have turned *their* back to Me, *And* not *their* face; But in the time of their trouble they will say, 'Arise and save us.'”

pure folly

#### C. Can Become Total vs. 8

**8** “The priests did not say, 'Where is the LORD?' *And* those who handle the law did not know Me; The rulers also transgressed against Me, *And* the prophets prophesied by Baal *And* walked after things that did not profit.”

priest - deny Lord's presence

scribe - don't know Lord

ruler - doesn't care about God's law

prophet - taught about Baal

**2 Tim. 3:13** “But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

**Hos. 4:6-11** “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

**7** The more they multiplied, the more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame.

**8** They feed on the sin of My people, *And* direct their desire toward their iniquity.

**9** *And* it will be, like people, like priest; So I will punish them for their ways, *And* repay them for their deeds.

**10** *And* they will eat, but not have enough; They will play the harlot, but not increase, Because they have stopped giving heed to the LORD.

11 Harlotry, wine, and new wine take away the understanding.”

#### D. Because Thoughts of God Replaced With Evil vs. 33

33 “How well you prepare your way To seek love! Therefore even the wicked women You have taught your ways.”

KJV “therefore hast thou also taught the wicked ones thy ways.”

NIV “Even the worst of women can learn from your ways.”

So bad the world can/have learned from them

why? *they sought for what they loved*

vss. 11-13 compared to animals in heat

remember those in Sodom who who wearied themselves to find the door? These the same

### IV. What Hope Remains?

#### A. Not Much For Folks Like These vss. 35-37

35-37 “Yet you said, 'I am innocent; Surely His anger is turned away from me.' Behold, I will enter into judgment with you Because you say, 'I have not sinned.'”

36 Why do you go around so much Changing your way? Also, you shall be put to shame by Egypt As you were put to shame by Assyria.

37 From this *place* also you shall go out With your hands on your head; For the LORD has rejected those in whom you trust, And you shall not prosper with them.”

Its hard to turn hardened sinners - even the Lord's success rate is not high with them

God gives them freedom to choose and they often harden themselves to the Lord.

**Heb. 6:6-8** “For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,

5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

6 and *then* have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame.”

#### B. Evil Can Be Self Correcting vs. 19

19 “Your own wickedness will correct you, And your apostasies will reprove you; Know therefore and see that it is evil and bitter For you to forsake the LORD your God, And the dread of Me is not in you,” declares the Lord GOD of hosts.”

when its results are so disgusting

hitting rock bottom

only hardest fool won't learn from this

those with wisdom will learn lesson at much less cost than this

**Gal. 6:7,8** “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

8 For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life.”

intemperance naturally breeds disease, mental depravity, depression, poverty and dishonor

we are away from the providence and protection of God

**Prov. 1:31** “So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way, And be satiated with their own devices.”

we don't have to way for a formal sentence and an executioner - nature itself carries out its own

sentence, and at times the execution even takes care of itself - even the wrong we continue to do and

bring upon ourselves is the penalty for our won conduct

Like the morning hangover reminds warns the drunk not to repeat the sins of the previous night - such chastisements are meant to bring us to a right and sober mind to have us consider our deeds and such chastisements correct by showing the true nature of sin -  
not sin the glamour and enticement of temptation that Satan presents to the prey  
but sin with all the charms torn off, the hideous monster that it is

### C. Wisdom Learns from Others Mistakes

Don't wait until such chastisements run full course in your life  
it will be harder on you and make more a wreck of your life than you would choose to endure  
the evil of sin should be avoided as soon as possible - better for your, the world and to the honor of  
God

God has provided the cure short of the full course of consequences - repentance thru Christ  
**Prov. 5:12-14** “And you say, "How I have hated instruction! And my heart spurned reproof!  
**13** And I have not listened to the voice of my teachers, Nor inclined my ear to my instructors!  
**14** I was almost in utter ruin In the midst of the assembly and congregation.”  
**Prov. 19:20** “Listen to counsel and accept discipline, That you may be wise the rest of your days.”

Have you forgotten God in your daily life?  
are you on the path to forgetting Him?  
repent, learn from other's mistakes and come back now - before it is to late.