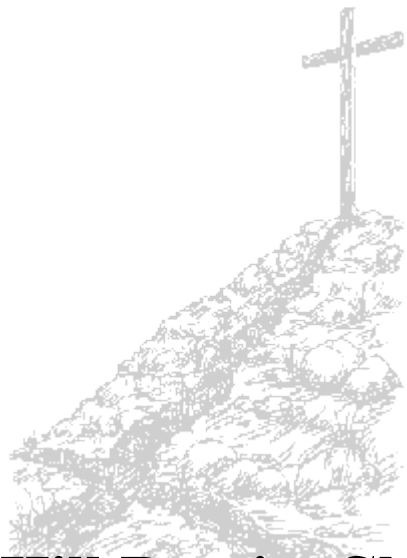


Doctrine of Memory

Deuteronomy 26:1-11



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Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (KJV) "And it shall be, when thou art come in unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and possesses it, and dwellest therein; {2} That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there. {3} And thou shalt go unto the priest that shall be in those days, and say unto him, I profess this day unto the LORD thy God, that I am come unto the country which the LORD sware unto our fathers for to give us. {4} And the priest shall take the basket out of thine hand, and set it down before the altar of the LORD thy God. {5} And thou shalt speak and say before the LORD thy God, A Syrian ready to perish was my father, and he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous: {6} And the Egyptians evil entreated us, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage: {7} And when we cried unto the LORD God of our fathers, the LORD heard our voice, and looked on our affliction, and our labor, and our oppression: {8} And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders: {9} And he hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, even a land that floweth with milk and honey. {10} And now, behold, I have brought the first fruits of the land, which thou, O LORD, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the LORD thy God, and worship before the LORD thy God: {11} And thou

shalt rejoice in every good thing which the LORD thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house, thou, and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you."

As we have said before, there are a number of differences between Israel and the Church that Christ died for. Has God *done away* with Israel, His Old Testament Covenant People? We have also read the passage where the Apostle stated:

Romans 11:1-4 (KJV) "I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. {2} God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, {3} Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. {4} But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal."

Romans 11:1-4 (AMP)¹ "I ASK then: Has God totally rejected and disowned His people? Of course not! Why, I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin!"

Israel and the Church are *two distinct entities*, both with *distinct places* within the Plan of God. There are *six good Biblical reasons* why Israel and the Church are to

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be considered two distinct entities in the Scripture, with two distinct places in the Plan of God²:



1) **The church was born at Pentecost, whereas Israel had existed for many centuries**" (116). This is supported by "the use of the future tense in Matthew 16:18 shows that it did not exist in gospel history" (116). Since the church born at Pentecost is called the "Body of Christ" (Col. 1:18), and entrance into the body is through "Spirit baptism" (1 Corinthians. 12:13), in which Jew and Gentile are united through the church. It is evident that the church began on the Day of Pentecost since Acts 1:5 views Spirit baptism as future, while Acts 10 links it to the past, specifically to Pentecost.

2) **The church, with believers as the body and Christ as the head, did not exist until after Christ ascended to become its head.** And it could not become a functioning entity until after the Holy Spirit provided the necessary spiritual gifts (Ephesians. 1:20-23; 4:7-11)".

3) **"The third evidence is the mystery character of the church (117)."** A mystery in the Bible is a hidden truth not revealed until the New Testament (Ephesians. 3:3-5, 9; Col. 1:26-27). Fruchtenbaum lists "four defining characteristics of the church [that] are described as a

² Fruchtenbaum, "Israel and the Church" in Wesley Willis, John Master, and Charles Ryrie, ed., *Issues in Dispensationalism* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994), 129. This article by Fruchtenbaum is a highly regarded defense of the Bible's distinction between Israel and the church and should be read by all interacting with this subject. The remaining citations of Fruchtenbaum's article will appear in brackets after a quotation in the rest of this essay. Excerpt from <http://www.raptureready.com/featured/tt15.html>

mystery. (1) The body concept of Jewish and Gentile believers united into one body is designated as a mystery in Ephesians 3:1-12. (2) The doctrine of Christ indwelling every believer, the Christ-in-you concept, is called a mystery in Colossians 1:24-27 (cf. Col. 2:10-19; 3:4). (3) The church as the Bride of Christ is called a mystery in Ephesians 5:22-32. (4) The Rapture is called a mystery in 1 Corinthians 15:50-58. These four mysteries describe qualities that distinguish the church from Israel" (117-18).

4) **"The unique relationship between Jews and the Gentiles, called one new man in Ephesians 2:15"** (118). During the current church age God is saving a remnant from the two previous entities (Israel and Gentiles) and combining them into a third new object-the church. This unity of Jews and Gentiles into one new man covers only the church age, from Pentecost until the rapture, after which time God will restore Israel and complete her destiny (Acts 15:14-18). 1 Corinthians 10:32 reflects just such a division when it says, "Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God."

5) **"The fifth evidence for the distinction between Israel and the church is found in Galatians 6:16"** (118). "It appears logical to view 'the Israel of God' (Gal. 6:16) as believing Jews in contrast to unbelieving Jews called 'Israel after the flesh' (1 Corinthians. 10:18)" (124).² This passage does not support the false claim of replacement theologians who claim that Israel is supplanted by the Church. Instead, the Bible teaches that a remnant of Israel is combined with elect Gentiles

during this age to make up a whole new entity the New Testament calls the church (Ephesians. 2).³

DISPENSATIONS

Innocence	Conscience	Human Government	Promise	Law	Grace	Millennium
Gen 1:28	Gen 3:7	Gen 9:1	Gen 12:	Ex 20:	Acts 2:	



Israel and the Church are *two distinct entities* with two distinct missions. While we are in the Dispensation of Grace the Church, the Bride of Christ, has been given God's Commission to represent Him on the earth, to speak of Christ, to lead others to Him. When the Church is *raptured* from this earth Israel will once more come center stage. God will fulfill His Promises and His Plan for Israel in the coming Millennial reign of Christ.

Though Israel and the Church are *two distinct entities*, we **still have the same God**. The God Whom we serve expects us to *love Him*, to *magnify Him*, and to *worship Him* for all that He has done.

What Has God Given You?

Deuteronomy 26:1-2 (KJV⁴) "And it shall be, when thou art come in unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and possesses it,

³ image from raptureready.com

⁴ King James Version (KJV)

and dwellest therein; {2} That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there.

Deuteronomy 26:1-2 (NLT⁵) "When you arrive in the land the LORD your God is giving you as a special possession and you have conquered it and settled there, {2} put some of the first produce from each harvest into a basket and bring it to the place the LORD your God chooses for his name to be honored."

God told Israel *when you arrive in the land*, not *if you arrive in the land*. Israel was going to inherit the land that God gave them, because God *is always faithful*. No, because our God is *always faithful* even when we are not. The Scripture *resounds* with the faithfulness of God. We read:



1 Corinthians 1:9 (KJV) "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."

1 Corinthians 10:13 (KJV) "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the

temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

1 Peter 4:19 (KJV) "Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator."

In fact, one of the *first names* that God gives for Himself in the Book of Deuteronomy is El HaNe'eman or the **Faithful God**:



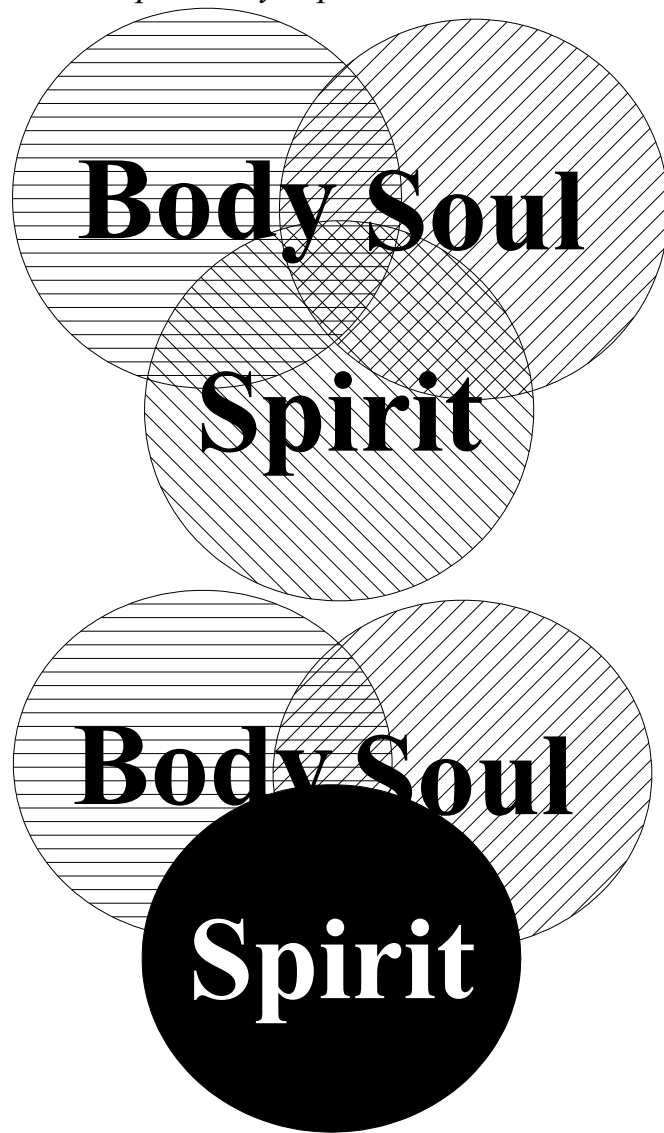
Deuteronomy 7:9 (KJV) "Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;"

Our God is *faithful*, and wants to bless those who believe in Him. The faithfulness of our God *started at the very beginning*, when Adam our father drew us all into sin. In the Garden of Eden the Bible teaches us that all was in purity, in holiness, until father Adam partook of the forbidden fruit. Man, who was designed in the image of God:

Genesis 1:26-27 (KJV) "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. {27} So God created man in his own

image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

fell from a state where he was at one with God to a state where he was *spiritually separated* from God. Though



man, through Adam's disobedience, fell into *spiritual*

*death*⁶ God still remained faithful. In **Genesis 3:15**, a section of Scripture we call **the protoevangelion** or **the first promise of salvation** God told Adam and Eve:

Genesis 3:15 (KJV) "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

God promised Christ was coming - and Christ did come to save us from our sins.

We Share A Reason To Rejoice With Israel

Deuteronomy 26:5-9 (KJV) "And thou shalt speak and say before the LORD thy God, A Syrian ready to perish was my father, and he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous: {6} And the Egyptians evil entreated us, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage: {7} And when we cried unto the LORD God of our fathers, the LORD heard our voice, and looked on our affliction, and our labor, and our oppression: {8} And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and

⁶ **Ephesians 2:1-3 (KJV)** "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: {2} Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: {3} Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."

1 Corinthians 15:22 (KJV) "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

with signs, and with wonders: {9} And he hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, even a land that floweth with milk and honey. "



As God speaks to His people Israel in Deuteronomy 26, He reminds them that *they have a reason to rejoice and to worship God*. Israel was a very small nation when **Joseph their forefather** was cast into Egypt

because of his brother's jealousy (**Genesis 37:23 ff**). God - our faithful God - protected and watched over Joseph and controlled all events surrounding him. God is *in control of all things*, and as our faithful God *He insures the best outcome* no matter what comes before His people. God now reminds Israel that He *turned the terrible betrayal of Joseph around and turned cursing into blessing*. As Joseph said to his brothers:

Genesis 50:20 (KJV) "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."

If Israel *had not* been enslaved to Egypt, if Joseph *had not* been cast into bondage, then the nation itself would *not* now be at a place where God could bless them. The suffering that Israel went through led them to a state where they *could see God's faithfulness*. God told Israel:

Joshua 24:2-5 (KJV) "And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods. {3} And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac. {4} And I gave unto Isaac Jacob and Esau: and I gave unto Esau mount Seir, to possess it; but Jacob and his children went down into Egypt. {5} I sent Moses also and Aaron, and I plaged Egypt, according to that which I did among them: and afterward I brought you out."



God took a *faithless people*, an *idolatrous people*, called them to salvation, and brought them *blessing out of cursing*. In fact, the land where Israel was returning to *after leaving Egypt* was the same land of Promise that God sent their forefather **Abraham** to over *four hundred years ago*. What can we learn from all this?

1. It was God's intention that Israel *inherit the Promised Land*, and this intention was bound up in His Eternal Plan.
2. Israel's disobedience *delayed* their inheritance of the land, but Israel will receive the land because **God is faithful**.

3. **Trials and tribulation** came on Israel, but those trials and tribulation came **under God's control**. He perfectly controlled every event that occurred. In the end *Israel will inherit the land*.

What God was doing with Israel was *reminding them of what He had done for them in the past*. He wanted them to *remember* all that He had faithfully done for them. How does this apply to us, the Church of Jesus Christ - and to me *as a Christian*? Again, we have *exactly the same God* that Israel has. Our God is faithful - and has a plan for your life and your Church.

Doctrine of Memory

1 Just as God called Israel *to remember His faithfulness*, God commands that *we of the Church* remember - think on - dwell on in our thoughts - God's faithfulness.

1 Corinthians 15:1-2 (KJV) "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; {2} By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain."

God saved you *while you were yet a sinner*. You didn't work to get to Him, you didn't earn your salvation in any way, shape, or form. If God loved me and gave Himself for me (**Galatians 2:20**) - and if Christ *died for me while I was yet a sinner*:

Romans 5:6 (KJV) "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."

Romans 5:8 (KJV) "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

If God died for you *while you were yet a sinner*, if God saved you *while you were yet undeserving* - then you need to *keep this in memory* when the trials come your way. Just as Israel needed to *remember* what God did for it when they entered the Promised Land, you need to remember what Christ did for you.

You must not stand in your power, but stand on His Promises and on His faithfulness!

2 The Christian who *will not stand on God's faithfulness*, who *will not remember God's blessings* will live a cursed, defeated life. I have, in my lifetime, met those whose minds are *obsessed* with the negative. They never approach me without finding fault with others, with life, with God. The Scripture tells us:

Philippians 4:6-9 (KJV) "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. {7} And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. {8} Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever

things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. {9} Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."

Philippians 4:6-9 (HCSB⁷) "Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if there is any praise—dwell on these things. Do what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you."

If Israel looked at the size of the enemies instead of the size of and faithfulness of God, then Israel would be defeated *before they ever went into the Promised Land*. Some of you live lives in perpetual defeat because you *refuse to remember God's faithfulness* when you are challenged.

Life is a challenge, and trials come on everyone. But Beloved, God did the *greatest* thing for you at the point of salvation - will He not protect His investment? Will He Who is always faithful *be faithless now*? Absolutely not!

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3. The Believer must study and read the Word of God so he can *keep the faithfulness of God in memory*. This is also the reason we *go to Church on a regular basis*. Unless you keep yourself in a state of mind that *focuses on God's faithfulness* then you can gradually drift away into the defeated life. The Bible says:

2 Peter 1:12-15 (KJV) "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. {13} Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; {14} Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath showed me. {15} Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance."

Our Lord Jesus gave us the ritual of the Lord's Table to remind us that *He is always faithful* - and to stand on that faithfulness!

Luke 22:19 (KJV) "And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."

4 You have the power to *train yourself* away from a deadly focus on *your inability* and a powerful focus on *God's faithfulness*. The Bible says:

Psalms 103:1-2 (KJV) "A Psalm of David. Bless the

LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. {2} Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:"

Just as Israel had a choice, we in the Church have a choice. We can trust God, we can dwell on God's faithfulness, we can believe God and magnify His Name or we can dwell on our fears, our inabilities, and we can wallow in our ineffectualness, living defeated instead of victorious lives. We have a choice. What will you choose?



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