

“REMEMBER THE FORMER THINGS OF OLD”

INTRODUCTION

The subject of our lesson today is, “Remember the Former things of Old.” This thought comes from an admonition from Isa. 46:9 in the Old Testament. The Israelites of old were fascinated with the heathen idolatrous practices of the day, and tended to forget God and the former things He had done for them. This being “Memorial Day” in America, we need to remember the former things of old as American citizens, **and** as Christians we need to remember to former things from the beginning of Christianity. (Read Isa. 46:9) What were the Israelites to remember?

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, Israel was to remember the FORMER THINGS OF OLD.

- A. The oldest thing they could remember had to do with the creation of the world.
 - 1. They were not witnesses of the creation, as no human existed in the world until the 6th day to remind them to not forget those things.
 - 2. They DID have the inspired word which explained that by God's wisdom and power, He **SPOKE** everything into existence. Gen. 1:1; Exo. 20:11; Heb. 11:3
 - 3. God knew how to set time, gravity and the harmony of the stars and planets into existence till the end of time. Gen. 8:20; Psa. 19:1-6
- B. Another old thing they could remember would have been the giving of the 10 Commandment Law of Moses
 - 1. They were to remember how God delivered them from Egyptian bondage and sustained them in the wilderness before they entered into the land of milk and honey. Deut. 8:1-20 (Read)
 - 2. When Jesus gave the sermon on the mount, He referred to the things of “old time” in the contents of Moses' law. Matt. 5:21, 27, 33

II. 2nd, Israel was to remember the ONE AND ONLY GOD OF HEAVEN.

- A. There were many “idol” and “imaginary” gods (with a little “g”), but only ONE TRUE GOD. Cf 1 Cor. 8:4-6; Eph. 4:6
- B. Isaiah told Israel **WHY** they should remember the true God of heaven.
 - 1. 1st, because only HE can declare the end of all things begun. Isa. 46:10a
 - 2. 2nd, because He declares the things that are yet to be. Isa. 46:10b
 - 3. 3rd, because He alone has the wisdom and power to work His “counsel” in such a way as to bring about His will for mankind. Isa. 46:10c-11
 - a. The nation of Israel was divided into two kingdoms: the Northern kingdom which was taken into captivity by the Assyrians in 721 BC, and the Southern kingdom which was taken into Babylonian captivity in 606 BC.
 - b. God eventually brought the entire system of Judaism to an end so as to offer salvation to the world. Acts 2:22-24; Rev. 17:17-18

CONCLUSION

- I. What do WE as **Americans** need to remember today?

- A. 1st, we TOO must remember **God**, Who in His providence which was surely involved in the founding of this nation, when our forefathers followed the principles of the Bible to establish a nation believing in God and the Bible.
- B. 2nd, we need to remember the thousands of **soldiers** who have died on the battlefield to give us the freedom to worship and serve God according to the Bible.
- C. 3rd, we need to remember **what happens** to nations that forget God. Psa. 19:7; 50:16-23; Rom. 1:20-32 (Read **all** these passages)

II. What do we as **Christians** need to remember?

- A. 1st, we need to **remember** the love of God in sending His Son to give us forgiveness of sins and the hope of heaven. John 3:16
- B. 2nd, we need to **remember** the first century church before it fell into apostasy, and learn from their bad experience, and never let it happen again.
- C. 3rd, we need always to **remember** the word of the apostles in the New Testament. 2 Pet. 3:1-2; 1:8-11 (Read these verses)

III. God's blessings today are for those who DO the will of God. Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9; Rev. 22:14

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