
Turn Back the Battle: Isaiah Speaks to Christians Today
by Elizabeth Kendal www.elizabethkendal.com
(Deror Books, Dec 2012)

Chapter 5
Forgetting God
Isaiah 17:1-11 & 28:1-6

Questions for discussion and reflection

1. What evidence of *Culture Change* have you witnessed in your community or nation in your lifetime?
2. In the light of Deuteronomy 8:11-20, do you think that the Christian West might have 'forgotten' the Lord? Explain your answer.
3. What impact is this having on religious liberty and security around the world?
4. In the absence of radical social transformation, what will be the result -- in the West and in the world?
5. What are you doing to combat 'forgetfulness' and to perpetuate the knowledge and memory of the Lord?
6. With 'Christian'/Western culture crumbling and the Church's enemies advancing throughout the world, what must we do to ensure the battle is turned back at the gate? (Isaiah 28:5-6)

Discuss what this means in practice.

Prayer: *That the Lord might not be forgotten.*

My God and Father,
I worship you as the awesome and amazing Creator.

Forgive me Lord, for the times I have received generous blessings from your hand
yet not been thankful -- as if they were my right;
as if I could take your grace for granted.

Forgive me Lord, for the times I have received your blessings and your aid
and then taken the credit, netting the glory for myself.

Though the world regards you as irrelevant,
I know that you most certainly are not.
I know that you fill the universe (Ephesians 1:23).
I know you hold all things together (Colossians 1:17).
I know you have a plan and purpose that cannot be thwarted (Job 42:2).
I know that you are present, powerful and purposeful
at every moment, in every place, and behind every blessing,
whether humanity acknowledges that fact or not.

I commit to actively remembering
your great deeds, your great power, your great love and your great faithfulness.
I commit to giving thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18 & Ephesians 5:20).

I commit from this day forth, to actively perpetuating the knowledge and memory of God:
through courageous witness and sensitive sharing;
through words and through deeds.
I will not let God's grace and mercy be forgotten!

Revive me O Lord.
May my heart burn with zeal for the honour of your glorious holy name.
May I treasure you as priceless and be proud to lift you up,
even before a hostile world.

Revive your Church O Lord!
For only when you are our treasure and glory,
only when you are exalted and the object of our hope,
only when you are the precious crown of your remnant
is there hope for the Church and hope for the world.
We simply cannot afford to forget you!
For in you and you alone, O Lord of hosts,
is truth, justice and strength to turn back the battle.

Revive us Lord,
that the battle might be turned back at the gate in our own day.

Amen.
