

## Minister's Message – January 2013

### Remember the Lord

Here we are in a new year – 2013. The fireworks and the celebrations were great, better than ever we are told. That seems to be what they say every year. Is this because we always must be doing better; we must be progressing according to evolutionary theory? Or is it simply because we forget what last year was like? Maybe it is a bit of both, depending on our age! It is of course possible for the new year to be worse than the last – as I imagine it was in 1940. But many of us don't remember our country being at war. Many of us remember only good times. We have grown up in days of prosperity. We have not known poverty or pain.

When God brought his people into the land of Canaan (Palestine) he specifically told them not to forget him (Deuteronomy 6:10-12). They had been slaves in Egypt. In their poverty and pain they cried out to God. The all-powerful God heard their cry and brought them out of slavery. He brought them into a new country, destroying the wicked people of that land. They found farms already established and houses ready to live in. They prospered in this land of peace and plenty.

God was concerned that they would forget him when they came into this land. They would forget the God who brought them out of slavery and gave them this land. God brought them into this land that they might be his special people and worship him alone and worship him always. He had Moses write down their history and told them to teach their children the truth. God gave them the Passover celebration to help them remember what he had done.

What do you think the people did in following generations? What happened as they enjoyed peace and prosperity in the land, peace and prosperity that God gave them? They stopped celebrating the Passover – too busy getting rich to stop for such things! They stopped teaching their children the truth about God – too busy teaching them how to get rich! They started worshipping other gods, gods that they or other people made. They began to trust in their riches rather than in God.

You can read the Bible to find out what happened to these people over the following generations. But before doing that let us stop to consider where our generation is going. We are not going to reminisce about the 'good old days'. We have made great progress, especially in technology – as I type this on an iPad! We have plenty of food to eat – for many more than enough. We are eating ourselves to an early grave. But we also have many lonely people – many so lonely they want to die.

We also see that many have forgotten God. The day God gave us to worship him is now called fun-day not Sunday. It is no longer a day to remember God but to enjoy ourselves with more sweat from work, more spending and more sport. The book God gave us to learn about him and teach our children the truth is rarely opened in many families. In our peace and prosperity we have forgotten God. 'Be careful that you do not forget the Lord' (Deuteronomy 6:12).

Now you can read on in the Bible. God will not be forgotten – he is God! God is patient but he brought disasters on the land of Israel – drought and disease. God took away their peace. They

had wicked tyrants for kings and were also attacked by other nations. God is patient but he will not be forgotten -because he is God.

Will you, in this New Year, stop, and consider where you are going? Will you remember the God who gives you so much and trust him to take care of you (James 1:17, Philippians 4:19, Romans 8:28)? Who knows what 2013 will bring? God does!

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