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## THE BIBLE VIEW

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### Some Things Are Missing

*Bill Brinkworth*

*“And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, to the oracle of the house, into the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims: 8 For the cherubims spread forth their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above. ... 10 There was nothing in the ark save the two tables which Moses put therein at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.” II Chronicles 5:7-10*

After worshipping God from the tent tabernacle Moses had built while Israel lived in the wilderness, King David had a desire to build a new, permanent place for God. Because of David's past, God would not let him construct it, but He would let David's son, Solomon, have it built.

After the ornate and beautiful temple was completed, King Solomon moved in many of the objects that were needed for worship. One of the most prized and important was the ark. The ark and its "Mercy Seat" lid were where God sat.

When originally placed in the wilderness tabernacle, the ark contained reminders of what God had done for Israel. Inside the golden chest was originally the ten commandments that God had Moses inscribe. A pot containing miraculously provided manna was also there along with Aaron's budding rod that God had used to prove who He was.

Because of Israel's sin, several times they lost control of the Ark to the enemy. Although God's people eventually got the Ark back, some of the reminders of God's miraculous interventions for Israel that were in the chest were missing.

When the Ark of the covenant finally made it to the temple Solomon had constructed, it was missing two of those memories. The manna and Aaron's rod were gone. All that remained inside it was the copy of the Ten Commandments.

So many Christians start similarly. After they are saved from eternal punishment for their sins, God begins to fill their life with new, precious proofs and reminders of His goodness to them. They have their lives filled with promises they found in God's Word. Many answers to prayer and proofs that God heard and cared enough for them led them to a richer, fuller life were encouraging memories. They were "new creatures" (II Cor. 5:17) just as God promised He would make of them when they would trust and follow His commandments.

However, missteps, mistakes, and sin often take away the remembrances of what God had done for many. One treasured memory after another is forgotten and lost as the child of God falls further from obedience to God's commandments. Other worldly things become more important than obeying and serving the Lord. Soon little remains of the encouraging, presence of God they once experienced and were joyful over. Their joy has been robbed by less important "priorities."

It is not long until little remains of what they remember God had done for them. They remember some of the Word of God, but they do not care anymore for what God offers them. If they had an "ark" like Israel, it too would be empty of many reminders of His goodness to them.

Many have lost "treasures" and opportunities the Lord had for them because of backsliding and sin. However, if they are saved, they are still a vessel God wishes to trust and use. We are still children of God, and with a sorrow for what we have done, and a repentant heart willing to again be obedient and serve the Lord we can still be a holy vessel God desires of us. God will give us second, third, ... chances.

God can still use us. However, scars from our sins may keep us from being what God originally had planned for us. What we once had may be lost and never will be replaced. God may give us a second chance, but one's life may never be what it was originally. Realize what God has done for you and never let those memories and gifts be taken away.

**"You are free to choose, but you are not free from the consequences of your choice." — Author Unknown**

## **Ignorance!**

*Swinnock, 1673*

The reason so many make a mock of sin, dance merrily over Hell's infernal pit, and play with the unquenchable fire is their ignorance. These people do not know that the fire will eternally burn them. As the horse, they rush into the battle fighting against God and their souls not knowing it will be to their destruction. These heathens run greedily after the wages of unrighteousness, not seeing the angel that standeth in the way with a drawn sword in his hand ready to destroy them.

Sin goes in a harmless disguise, and so they welcome it. Like Judas, it kisses and then kills. Like Joab, it salutes and then slays. The foolish sinner sees the pleasant streams of Jordan, but not the Dead Sea into which they will certainly empty themselves. If the sinners actually understood what they were committing when they willfully broke God's law they would sooner leap into a furnace of scalding lead than continue to provoke so jealous a God.

***“You can't shack up with the devil and expect God to pay the rent!” — Unknown***

## **Unwelcome Payments**

*South, 1633-1716*

The wages that sin bargains with the sinner for are life, pleasure, and profit. However, its real wages are death, torment, and destruction. He that understands the deceitfulness of sin should wisely give it a wide berth and steer far from it.

***“If Satan was thrown out of Heaven for sinning, what make you think you will get into Heaven IN sin? If you can sin without thought or reservation are you sure you are saved?” — Unknown***

## **Strangling Sin**

*Spurgeon*

In the gardens of Hampton Court you will see many trees entirely covered and nearly strangled by huge coils of ivy. They wound about the trees like strangling snakes. There is no untwisting their folds and turns. They are too giant-like and fast fixed to be easily removed.

Every hour the rootlets of the climbers suck the life out of the unhappy trees. Yet, there was a day when the ivy was a tiny little plant only in want of a little aid in climbing. Had it been denied its climbing support then, the tree would never have become its victim.

By degrees, the humble weakling grew in strength and arrogance, and at last, it assumed the mastery. The tall tree became the prey of the creeping, insinuating destroyer.

The moral of the story is too obvious. Sorrowfully do we remember many noble characters who have been ruined little by little by insinuating habits. Drink or drugs has been the ivy in many cases. Lust and dishonesty for others. Reader, see to it lest some slowly advancing sin overpower you also.

***“Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the snake, and the snake didn't have a leg to stand on.” — Unknown***

## **Good or Rotten Fruit? Your Choice**

*M. de St. Alarthe*

*“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”*

*Galatians 6:7*

The laborer can hope to reap a harvest only of the same nature as the seed he has sown. Pleasures, human consolations, indulgences of sense, and the satisfactions of our wills are the seeds that often do not expose their deadly fruits until they are contemplated from Hell. While the indulgence of evil yields unhappy fruits, a spiritual submission to God's commandments are

the seeds which bear full and blessed fruits of holiness and happiness in this world and the one to come.