



A glowing orange fingerprint is shown on the left side of the image, set against a dark blue background with a subtle grid pattern. The fingerprint is composed of many small, bright orange dots that form the ridges and valleys of a finger.

MISREMEMBERING THE PAST



12 And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and they said, "We will not come up. 13 Is it a small thing that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, that you must also make yourself a prince over us? 14 Moreover, you have not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, nor given us inheritance of fields and vineyards. Will you put out the eyes of these men? We will not come up."

NUMBERS 16:12-14

A glowing orange, textured sphere, resembling a planet or a cluster of particles, is positioned on the left side of the image. The background is a dark blue gradient with a fine, grainy texture.

27 And you murmured in your tents and said, 'Because the Lord hated us he has brought us out of the land of Egypt, to give us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us.

DEUTERONOMY 1:27




MISREMEMBERING THE PAST

- These and other scriptures show Israel's tendency to remember their past in a less-than-accurate light. Egypt was NOT a land flowing with milk and honey (at least, for slaves), and God had repeatedly explained that His actions were driven by an exceptional love for Israel (Hosea 11:1, Deut. 4:37, 10:15). A summation of God's faithfulness is Exodus 6:1-8.
- Sadly, we all share a similar tendency, especially when it comes to misremembering our own sins. Notice the connection being made in Jeremiah 44:7-10. These people did not remember the sins of their fathers (pointing back to Egypt), nor did they have an awareness of the way their own sins were negatively impacting their current predicament.



MISREMEMBERING THE PAST

- **THE GOOD OLD DAYS** – It's easy to look back on history, culture, or a community with fondness, especially if the world feels like it's moving just a little too fast for us. But the writer of Ecclesiastes offers a reminder about this (Ecc. 7: 10, 14). Be careful not to get stuck in the past when looking at the state of a church, family, country, etc. "We used to fill this building" is one way to make sure it never gets filled again.
- **THE IMPACT OF OUR SINS** – "Before I was a Christian, I never had these problems!" We think that sin was the "fun" that we're now missing. All this righteousness and holy living is keeping us from something glamorous, from good friends, from career opportunities. But the past sinful life is a deception (Eph. 4:17-19, 2:1-3, 1 Pet. 1:13-16).



The book of Hebrews in the New Testament is all about this idea. These Christians, having tasted the heavenly gift (6:4-8), are now experiencing persecution. They wonder what good Christ is, if His path only follows a course of suffering and alienation. They remember with fondness the ways of the Old Law — the priesthood and sacrifices, the great sanctuary of God, the great covenant from Mount Sinai. The writer warns them about the danger of looking in the rearview mirror and missing the glory in front of us. Just like them, and the Israelites in the wilderness, we must never lose sight of our eternal hope in the LORD.

HEBREWS