

And God Remembered? Omniscient?

1. What do you observe about these passages in the context of God's omniscience? Against what you know about God's omniscience, do you see a problem?

Then **God remembered** Noah and all the beasts and all the cattle that were with him in the ark; and God caused a wind to pass over the earth, and the water subsided. (Gen 8:1, LSB)

Then **God remembered** Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. So she conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach." And she named him Joseph, saying, "May Yahweh give me another son." (Gen 30:22-24, LSB)

Now it happened in the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel sighed because of the slavery, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of their slavery rose up to God. So God heard their groaning; and **God remembered** His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (Ex 2:23-24, LSB)

2. Is our perception of this problem accurate? Do a word study on the Hebrew word underlying the English translation "remembered." What do you learn?

- a. Visit Blueletterbible.org and search "remembered" and select the Bible version "LSB" (Legacy Standard Bible).
- b. Select "tools" next to Genesis 8:1.
- c. Scroll down the opened box until you find "remembered" and select the Strong's Number next to it "H2142."
- d. You should see various sections that will help you understand the Hebrew term "zāqar": outline of Biblical usage, Strong's Definitions, Brown-Driver-Briggs Lexicon, and Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon.

3. In light of your findings in question #2, carefully read Acts 2:22-23 – how does this refine your understanding? Share your thoughts with the class.

"Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God did through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know - this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of lawless men and put Him to death." (Acts 2:22-23, LSB)

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Teacher Notes

1. What do you observe about these passages in the context of God's omniscience? Against what you know about God's omniscience, do you see a problem?

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Encourage the student to grapple with apparent contradictions. Help them understand that the truth will always be able to stand up to its own merits.

When the Bible states that God remembered, it implies that He forgot which appears contradictory of omniscience.

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Guide the student in the process of using Blueletterbible.org as a study tool. Knowing how to use Bible study tools like this can be very helpful in their personal study. Encourage the student to discuss the various definitions found in the resource.

The Hebrew word "zāqar" has some nuances to the meaning of "remember." It could mean "to remember," "to recall," or "to be brought to mind." When "zāqar" is used in the context of God, it usually includes action where God acts on behalf of the one brought to mind.

When Rachel is brought to mind (Gen 30:22-24), God continues to fulfill His covenant promise to Abraham of descendants by creating Joseph, who would save God's people during the famine and through whom Jesus would come from.

When the nation of Israel is brought to mind (Ex 2:23-24), God prepares to show them that He really exists through the miracles of the Exodus and shortly later, will teach them how to be God's own possession among all the peoples, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.

Does this explain how God did not forget? Not likely. Help the student realize that understanding a word may take more time and effort to understand.

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Ask the student what he understands about this passage.

The apostle Peter is stating that Jesus suffering and death was in accordance with God's foreknowledge and predetermined plan. What is significant to understand is the timing and sequence of events, which culminates with Jesus' crucifixion when the Passover lambs are being slain.

When time is considered, God's omniscience becomes easier to perceive. Ask the student to review Genesis 30:22-24 with Joseph in mind and Exodus 2:23-24 with Moses and Pharaoh in mind. Encourage discussion.

When God remembered Rachel (Gen 30:22-24), Joseph was born and grew to interpret Pharaoh's dream, become his vizier, prepare for the famine, and save the nation of Israel. God did not forget Rachel. She gave birth at the precise time so that Joseph could do all the things he did at that precise moment in history.

When God remembered the nation of Israel (Ex 2:23-24), Moses was at the right age to be God's spokesman and with the education required to write the first five books of the Bible. God did not forget His people. God's actions were at the precise time in history when this Pharaoh had the predisposition to respond to God's plagues in the manner that would demonstrate the reality of God to the world.