

GOD'S PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY

Isaiah 49.14-21, John 20.19-23

The Israelites have been years in Babylonian captivity wondering if they are still God's chosen and if they will ever return to their homeland. As a nation they have wondered aloud, "*The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me.*" (Isaiah 44.14). God responds with some images that affirm his love for his people and his commitment to their welfare. Fast-forward to Jesus, who also displayed a similar image that also declared God's love and care for all people.

HOW CAN THE LORD FORGET?

I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.
Isaiah 49.15-16

JESUS' PHYSICAL REMINDER OF GOD'S LOVE FOR US

John 20.19-20

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.
1 John 4.9-10 NLT

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5.8

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.
Ephesians 3.17-19

SO HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO SUCH LOVE?

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."
John 20.21-23

1. We can **RELAX** *Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you!" v21*
2. Make good use of **THE HELPER** *And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."* John 20.22
And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever... John 14.16 ESV
Do not quench the Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 5.19
3. Live out **GOD'S PURPOSE** for you. *As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."* v21

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What is God saying to me?

What am I going to do about it?