

Church-Counterculture 8
Recapturing 4

Text: Deut.1:1-4, 28-33, Judges 2:10 (16-17), 6:13; Ps 78.

The previous message emphasized the church as Israel, we must realize and depend on God working through us to confront giants and refuse to be intimidated. We can resist the gigantic challenges in culture—Deut. 3:10-11; Ps.135:10-11. The book of Deuteronomy starts as a recap lesson from Israel's past applicable for the counterculture church. A recap, review or reflection is like what's called a **“picture memory.”**

- Culture—the beliefs, customs, practices, and social behavior of a particular nation or people.
- Counterculture--a culture whose values and norms of behavior differ from those of mainstream society, sometimes diametrically opposed to mainstream.
- Recapturing: getting back, reacquiring, reclaiming, re-collecting, recouping, recovering, regaining, repossessing. (Merriam Webster).
- Memory— Memory is the faculty of the mind by which data or information is encoded, stored, and retrieved when needed. It is the retention of information over time for the purpose of influencing future action. (en.wikipedia.org).

A picture memory is a picture you take in your mind when things are very positive and accomplishing. When challenged or confronted with a gigantic situation you can look or review your picture memories.

Three textual passages emphasizing the importance of countercultural voice.

- Judges 2:7-10, 16 and 17—generation hadn't seen or experienced things as Joshua and contemporaries. They didn't embrace a relationship; keep in mind the works of God, and in time positive examples of ancestors.
- Judges 6:13—reveals knowledge of ancestors telling of God works—“His **miracles** which our fathers told (recount, rehearse)...” NKJV, emphasis added. **Miracles**, the verbal root of *pala'* has the basic meaning to be surpassing and conveys the ideas extraordinary, beyond one's imagination or expectations or be too difficult, beyond one's capability (cp #6381 Strong's concordance). Ps. 78 expands.

Summation of the three passages:

1. Tell what you have seen and experienced of God's greatness.
2. Trust God that the time will come when question of your testimony will connect for further demonstration of God's greatness—Gideon—Judges 6:13-14ff. More space is devoted to Gideon in the Book of Judges (100 verses) than to any other judge.
 - Time (Kairos), a strategic moment or opportune seasons.
 - Gideon's language revealed a weak theology. God's training and discipline were proof of His care and presence with His people—cp Heb.12:6.
3. Teach/instruct repetitiously what we have heard and known to be true Ps 78.
 - Don't allow culture to deceive you in thinking your message is irrelevant.
 - Don't hide or cut off from the present or future generation—v4.
 - The story of what God has done and can do is the only hope of stability for the present and future generations.