

1 ☐ Studies in Joshua
Study #5

“The Importance of Remembering”

[Joshua 4:1-24]

2 ☐

■ **“So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from among the people, one from each tribe, and said to them, ‘Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites. to serve as a sign among you.’”**
Joshua
4:4-5

3 ☐

■ **“Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. ...”**
Verse 9

4 ☐ **“What is the typical and spiritual significance of this event?”**
“What do these stones mean?”

■ **“... these stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.”**
Joshua
4:7b

5 ☐

■ **Some people are ‘past oriented’ and are ultra conservative**
■ **Other people are “future oriented,” they are radicals**
■ **“The problem with the ultra conservative and the ultra radical is that both are escaping from the present into a fantasy world.”**
John Huffman

6 ☐

■ **Christians are called to live an “abundant life” [Jn. 10:10] - i.e. balanced and contented - in the present!**

7 ☐

■The Christian views the present in the light of the reality of the past and the future - seeing a 'continuity,' a 'cohesiveness' because he sees God working behind the scenes as the righteous, just, and compassionate Lord of History. He sees there is a God Who is in control and that history itself has a meaning and a goal.

■The Christian knows: (1) where he came from; (2) why he is here; and, (3) where he is going!

8 ☐ Scripture underscores the importance of remembering and the importance of our being reminded!

■II Peter 1:12, "... So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have."

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■verse 13, "... I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I am in the tent of this body ..."

■verse 15, "And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things."

10 ☐

■ Psalm 42:

✓verse 4: "These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng."

✓verses 5 & 6: "Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me; Put your hope in God, My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you ..."

11 ☐ God created specific devices to be certain the children of Israel would remember Him and His commandments:

■ Numbers 15:37-40a - "The LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: Throughout the generations to come you are to make tassels on the corners of your garments, with a blue cord on each tassel. You will have these tassels to look at and you will remember all the commands of the LORD, that you may obey them and not prostitute yourselves by going after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes. Then you will remember to obey all my commands and will be consecrated to your God."

12 ☐

■Exodus 13:3 "... commemorate this day, the day you came out

of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the LORD brought you out of it with a mighty hand.”

■ Exodus 20:8 “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

13 ☐ Scripture also warns that we can pervert and misuse the ability to remember:

■ Numbers 11:5 “We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost - also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna.”

■ This sort of ‘remembering’ is akin to Lot’s wife when she longingly looked back at Sodom and Gomorrah.

14 ☐ Lessons from the monument at Gilgal

1. God takes pains to see that His people remember His mighty works and He expects us to take pains to remind ourselves of these things.

15 ☐

■ All sorts of memorials were established by God in the Old testament.

- 1) The Tabernacle was full of memorials
- 2) The Sabbath
- 3) The passover

■ For the Christian church, the greatest examples are: worship on the Lord’s day [Sunday], baptism and the Lord’s supper.

16 ☐

2. God’s ordering of this memorial is also a solemn reminder of how prone our hearts are to forget God’s past interpositions and interventions on our behalf.

a) *“Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love. Here’s my heart Lord take and seal it, seal it to thy courts above.”* [From: “Come Thou Fount”]

17 ☐

b) Psa. 78:11 *“They forgot what he had done, the wonders he had shown them.”*

c) Psa. 106:13 *“But they soon forgot what he had done and did not wait*

for his counsel.”

- 18 ☐ III. The lesson of the 12 stones at Gilgal also suggests the wisdom of using suitable means in our own lives to assist us to recall & remember the warnings and encouragements God has given to us personally.
- A prayer diary. - cf. Col. 4:2 “*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.*”
 - Journaling - recording great trials we have been through in the past, and how God demonstrated His faithfulness in delivering us out of those difficult circumstances.
- 19 ☐ **Some of the benefits of such practices:**
1. Deepens our confidence in the Lord; holds our focus on Him; helps us remember to count on Him in present circumstances and emergencies.
 2. Helps us look to Him for future deliverance.
 3. Fortifies our soul; strengthens and nourishes our soul; makes us more prepared for the trial of death.
- 20 ☐ IV. Besides our own deliverances, we also need to treasure up God’s mercies to His people in times past.
- *“The ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.”*
cf. Isaiah 51:9-11, verse 11
- 21 ☐ **Why did the Lord record and preserve:**
- Noah’s deliverance from the flood?
 - Lot’s deliverance from Sodom?
 - Daniel from the lion’s den?
 - ... To assure us that “... *the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation [trials]*” [II Pet. 2:5-9]
- 22 ☐
- Rom. 14:4 “*What was written before was written for our learning and for our comfort.*”
 - Psa. 119:52 “*I remember your judgments of old, O Lord, and have comforted myself.*”
- 23 ☐ V. The monument at Gilgal also teaches us the wisdom of making provision for the next generation -

- i.e. establishing godly “traditions” in our families [regular attendance at church each Sunday A.M.; family prayer at meals, etc.; family participation in church ministries, support of the church, propagation of the Gospel, etc.].

24 ☐ VI. The monument of the 12 stones at Gilgal teaches us that we should always recognize and own our corporate unity with all of God’s people in all ages!

- In Rev. 21, when one of the angels of heaven showed the apostle John the spectacular vision of the heavenly city, the new Jerusalem, we are told:

25 ☐

- a)v. 12 - *“It had a great high wall with twelve gates, ... On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. ...”*
- b)v. 14 - *“The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the lamb.”*

26 ☐ In Eph. 2:19-22 we read:

- *“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. ...”*

27 ☐ Note several important truths about these verses:

- The 12 sons of Jacob [Israel] were extremely diverse in their personalities and their temperaments. And the 12 tribes which grew out of them and which constituted the nation of Israel were diverse and multifaceted.
- BUT - God created a fundamental oneness which He recognized throughout the Old Testament, regardless of the individual diversity among this nation and people.

28 ☐

- When it comes to the nature of the vast multitude which constitute the redeemed of all ages, there will be a vast diversity in terms of nationality, languages, cultures, personalities and temperaments! Heaven will be made up of every kind of people imaginable.
- NEVERTHELESS, God has produced a fundamental oneness and unity

among this vast multitude! And the unifying factor is the head of this crown, the Lord Jesus Christ! He has fashioned them into one large, eternal family!

29 ☐

■ **The passage in Revelation 21:14 says the foundation of this eternal city, which is the eternal dwelling place of the redeemed, is 12 stones with the names of the twelve apostles written upon them.**

■ **All true Christians, in every generation are like those first Christians in Acts 2:42; they have “*devoted themselves to the apostles’ doctrine!*”**

30 ☐ **The great pillar doctrines of the apostles have been the foundation upon which Christ has built His church:**

- **Man’s Total Depravity;**
- **God’s righteousness and holiness;**
- **the wrath of God against all unrighteousness;**
- **justification by faith;**
- **sanctification [positional and progressive];**
- **the doctrine of regeneration, resurrection, and ...**
- **the final glorification of the redeemed!**