

May 22, 2011 REMEMBERING WHEN YOU GOT HERE
Joshua 4: 14-19

In the Book of Joshua the nation Israel has reached a turning point in their history. **Up to** this time, they have been slaves to the Egyptians and wanderers in the wilderness. **But**, things are changing. **God** has brought them to Canaan, the Promised Land. **The rest** of this chapter is about REMEMBERING.

First, let me explain what I mean by WHEN. **Remembering** WHEN about an event is not just about time (a day, a month, a year). **It also** includes the circumstances, the specifics, the "little" things that come to mind. **If I** asked you, "Remember WHEN you got married?" **You** would remember the day, the month, the year. **But**, you would also remember many other things. **Flowers, summer/winter, how** you slipped and almost fell, etc.

Let's also understand where HERE is. **HERE** for National Israel is Canaan. **It is** deliverance from the bondage of Egypt and 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. **HERE** is the land God gave their father Abraham in a promise 470 years earlier. **HERE** in inheriting that land. **HERE** is entering in and beginning to take possession of this long awaited promise.

HERE for Spiritual Israel is salvation. **It is** deliverance from the bondage of sin and the law. **HERE** is knowing God as a Just God and a Savior. **HERE** is resting in Christ for all of salvation.

Remembering WHEN you got here is remembering WHEN God sat you down under the Gospel, gave you eyes to see His glory in the face of Jesus Christ, and caused you to put your confidence in Christ and have "no confidence in the flesh".

Remembering presupposes a prior experience. **We can** only remember events and circumstances we have gone through before. **California** ó NO; **Alamo** ó YES.

This generation of National Israel experienced this "miraculous entry" into Canaan. **They** crossed over the Jordan on "dry ground". **By** command they gathered twelve stones from the "midst of the Jordan". **Rightfully**, they are the ones commanded to build a memorial to this event. **Rightfully**, they are the ones commanded to remember WHEN.

Those who have entered into God's REST; those who have experienced the salvation of God worked out in the doing and dying of Christ ALONE are the ones commanded to "remember WHEN you got HERE".

In our lesson today we will see that "Remembering WHEN you got here" is remembering that WHEN was:

1. PARTICULAR

2. LIFE CHANGING.
3. SPECIFIC.

First, remembering WHEN you got here is remembering that WHEN was PARTICULAR. Israel got HERE ðWHENö God ðmagnified Joshua in their sightö.

Look at Joshua 4: 14, “**On that day the LORD magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they feared Moses, all the days of his life.**”

The ðdayö being described is the one in which God revealed Joshua to be the ONE in Israel who had the words of God, the works of God, the authority of God. **By** Joshua’s command the priests took up the Ark of the Covenant. **By** his command, they entered the Jordan River. **By** Joshua’s authority, God stopped the flow of the Jordan and made it a dry riverbed. **Under** Joshua’s leadership, Israel entered safety into the land of Promise.

ðThat dayö was a PARTICULAR day. “**On THAT dayö** Joshua led National Israel into the Promised Land. “**On THAT dayö** God made a CHANGE in the thinking this nation. “**On THAT dayö** God caused Israel to ðfearö (to esteem/reverence) Joshua. **And**, as it says, to esteem Joshua as they had esteemed Moses. **Up to** ðTHAT dayö, their esteem was to Moses.

This is not JUST a picture of National Israel esteeming Joshua. **It is** a picture of them ESTEEMING Joshua and NO LONGER esteeming Moses.

Moses was the man of LAW. **He** emphasized Israel’s obedience to the LAW they had been given. **He** stressed that Israel be careful ðto observeö and ðto doö all that God commanded them. **The Book** of Deuteronomy is filled with these commands. Look at just a couple of these.

Look at Deuteronomy 11: 31-32, “**For ye shall pass over Jordan to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God giveth you, and ye shall possess it, and dwell therein.**
32 **And ye shall observe to do all the statutes and judgments** which I set before you this day.”

Look at Deuteronomy 28: 1, “**And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth.**”

It is only fitting that the man God used to ðgiveö the LAW to Israel also be the man to stress OBEDIENCE to that LAW. **Obedience** to the LAW is important. Obedience to the LAW is vital. **The** slightest disobedience to the LAW brings the ðcurse of the lawö.

Look at Galatians 3: 10, “**For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.**”

It is NECESSARY that sinners see that OBEDIENCE to the LAW is important, necessary, VITAL. **Why?** Because the FIRST design of LAW is to show sinners their utter inability to measure up to the demands of LAW. **The FIRST** design of LAW is to stop the mouths and bring sinners in guilty.

Look at Romans 3: 19, “Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.”

To whom does the LAW speak? **It speaks** to those who are under it. **Who** is that? **It is** those trying to work out their acceptance with God by THEIR obedience.

We have to take a moment right here. **On this** issue the heart of (natural) man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who can know it? **Nobody** under a message they call grace THINKS they are trying to work out their acceptance with God by THEIR obedience.

Those under such a message THINK they are trusting the blood of Christ, the Cross of Christ, the death of Christ. **They** are CERTAIN that their belief that Christ died FOR THEM proves that. **They** have made Christ their personal Savior.

Christ did not die as a private Person. **He died** as a Representative. His death cannot be EFFECTUAL to one sinner He died for and be INEFFECTUAL to another sinner He died for. **To** think that ANY sinner will perish that Christ died for is to DISCOUNT His death as the ONE cause of salvation. **It is** to make something IN THE SINNER the REAL cause of salvation.

Under this thinking, the REAL difference between saved and lost; heaven and hell is NOT the death of Christ, but the BELIEVING of the sinner. **That** makes BELIEVING a condition. **It** makes BELIEVING a WORK. **It** makes BELIEVING a DEED OF LAW. **Those** who think this way are yet under the law (although ignorant that they are).

Under the law applies to ANY sinner not looking to the imputed Righteousness of Christ alone for all of salvation. **I.e.** Under the law applies to all of us by nature.

All start out under the law. **And,** we stay here until (under the Gospel) the Spirit of God regenerates us and gives to faith toward God and repentance of dead works. **We stay** here until God stops our mouths and brings us in guilty. **We stay** here until we stop finding ANY PART of our acceptance in OUR obedience and find ALL our acceptance in Christ's obedience ALONE. **We stay** here until the Spirit of God shows us that Christ is the end of the law for righteousness.

Look at Romans 10: 4, “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.”

What (exactly) does that mean? **Until** a sinner sees Christ as ALL of his/her acceptance with God, they are under the law.

Look back at Joshua 4: 14, **“On that day the LORD magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they feared Moses, all the days of his life.”**

Up to this time in Israel’s brief history, God had magnified Moses. **And**, Moses had emphasized OBEDIENCE to the LAW. **Moses** (and that emphasis) had led this nation through their wilderness wanderings. **It had** brought them to the border of the Promised Land. **But**, it could not bring them in. **Joshua** must bring them in.

Now, was Moses wrong to emphasize the sinner’s obedience? **No! God** has never given a LAW that does not demand obedience. **Christ** Himself said in the Sermon on the Mount, “Be ye therefore perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

Understanding the LAW’S demand for obedience (perfect and continual) is what reveals to sinners their (utter) INABILITY to keep it. **Moses** (rightly) emphasized the sinner’s obedience. **That** was his part. **That** was his role. **Pointing** to Christ.

But, Moses is dead. **God** has taken Moses out of the way. **And**, there is a CHANGE coming for this nation. **It is** a change in LEADERSHIP. **But**, it is also a change in EMPHASIS. **Moses** emphasized the SINNER’S obedience to the LAW they had been given.

Under Joshua, that emphasis CHANGED. **Joshua** began to emphasize the SAVIOR’S obedience. **That is** why the Ark of the Covenant took the forefront. **It** was the Ark that stopped the Jordan River. **It was** the Ark that made that riverbed dry ground. **It was** the Ark that provided Israel’s safe way (unencumbered way) into Canaan. **And**, that Ark was Christ.

What is the SIGNIFICANCE of National Israel’s fearing (esteeming) Joshua and NO LONGER fearing Moses? **National** Israel entered in to possess a land they had ALREADY been given; a land they did NOTHING to deserve; a land they did NOTHING to obtain.

And, that is a PICTURE. **It is** a PICTURE of Spiritual Israel entering into a salvation they have ALREADY been given; a salvation they have done NOTHING to deserve; a salvation they have done NOTHING to obtain. **It is** a PICTURE of God’s elect finding Righteousness in Christ’s obedience ALONE, where they ONCE found righteousness in THEIR efforts; in THEIR obedience.

I think it is Paul’s description of himself in Romans 7. **Brother** Casey covered this last week in his study of Romans. **But**, it is applicable to this lesson as well.

Look at Romans 7: 9, **“For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.”**

In the first part of this verse, Paul is describing a time in his (religious) life when he was ignorant of Christ, and, therefore, ignorant of the law (its strictness/its demand for perfection). **In the** second part he is describing a time after God delivered him from this ignorance.

Like all of God's elect by nature, Paul was ignorant of who Christ was. **He was** ignorant of what Christ had done in His life and death to ACCOMPLISH the complete salvation of His people. **He was** ignorant of "God's righteousness" and, therefore, (automatically) "going about to establish a righteousness of his own".

When Paul says here that he was "alive without the law", he does not mean when there was no law. **He does** not mean apart from the law. **He** means WITHOUT seeing what Christ's obedience has done to fulfill the law's demand for obedience and what His death has done to satisfy its demand for punishment.

"Without the law" is without an understanding of Christ's satisfaction to law and justice; the Righteousness He worked out by His life and death. "Without the law" is without the knowledge of a Just God and a Savior.

To be "without the law" is to be in bondage to my own (misguided) notions that I can, (by my efforts) work out my acceptance with God. **It is** to be motivated by the "fear of death" (fear of punishment). **It is** to be in need of a deliverance that only Christ can bring.

Look at Hebrews 2: 14-15, "**Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**"

Ignorance of Christ's work under the law; ignorance of the salvation He ALREADY worked out on the behalf of every sinner He lived and died for, can only lead a sinner to "trying his/her best" to make themselves acceptable to God.

This is a cut and dried issue (There is no middle ground). **Either**, the Gospel has taught you of and brought you to Christ, who has saved you (the ungodly/unbelieving) sinner by His obedience ALONE. **Or**, you are still "under the law" seeking to be accepted by YOUR efforts.

You either see yourself totally, unchangeable acceptable to God based on the imputed Righteousness of Christ alone. **Or**, you have no alternative but to be working to make yourself acceptable through YOUR obedience.

The latter is what we are doing by nature. **It is** what we continue to do, ("until the commandment comes"), until God delivers us through the revelation of Christ.

Before National Israel could enter Canaan, they had to be delivered from the leadership of Moses and put under the leadership of Joshua. **They** had to be delivered from the emphasis of THEIR obedience to the LAW to an emphasis of Christ's obedience.

Before Spiritual Israel can enter "spiritual" Canaan, (before the elect can enter into the "rest" that is found in Christ ALONE), they must be delivered from the REIGN of LAW and put under the REIGN of GRACE. **They** must be delivered from thinking that THEIR obedience to the LAW gave them acceptance with God to knowing that their full/complete acceptance is in "the

belovedö. **They** must be made to östand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made them freeö.

That is why I see the **FIRST** part of remembering **WHEN** you got here; (i.e. remembering when you came to **REST** in Christ alone for all of salvation), is remembering that **WHEN** was **PARTICULAR**.

SECOND, remembering **WHEN** you got here, is remembering that **WHEN** was **LIFE CHANGING**.

Look at Joshua 4: 15-17, “**And the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying, 16 Command the priests that bear the ark of the testimony, that they come up out of Jordan. 17 Joshua therefore commanded the priests, saying, Come ye up out of Jordan.**”

Now, look at Joshua 4: 18, “**And it came to pass, when the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD were come up out of the midst of Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up unto the dry land, that the waters of Jordan returned unto their place, and flowed over all his banks, as they did before.**”

When the priests brought the Ark of the Covenant up out of the Jordan, it flowed and overflowed, just like before. **In** a short while things appeared to be right back to önormalö.

To the unaffected, (to those not a part of this ömiraculous entryö; to the rest of the world), it was as if nothing had happened.

But, to those who had witnessed (and experienced) this great miracle, it was far from öback to normalö.

They would never be the same. **They** had begun a journey that would take them through the rest of their lives. **In** a promise to Abraham 470 years earlier God had given National Israel this land. **Those** of this generation were the designated heirs of that promise. **On THIS DAY** they had begun to take possession of their (rightful) inheritance.

This is a picture of a sinner (one of Godö elect) **BEGINNING** to possess the salvation they were given in Christ öbefore the world beganö. **Now!** Mind you! **This** is just the **BEGINNING** point. **There** will be (many) struggles, (many) battles. **They** would face (numerous) circumstances ahead. **Some**, they would handle well, some, not so well. **They** would stumble and fail and falter.

But, Israel entering into this land is a **BEGINNING**. **And**, it is a **PICTURE** of every Spiritual Israelite **BEGINNING** to possess their örestö in Christ alone. **It is** a death and resurrection (spiritually speaking). **That is** how dramatic it is. **Those** who were (previously) ödead in trespasses and sinsö are given (Spiritual) life and faith to look to Christ **ALONE**.

In the book of Acts when Paul and Silas came to Thessalonica, preaching the Gospel of Christ crucified, the Jews of that city who opposed their message described them as öthose that have

turned the world upside down. **That is** what the Gospel does (literally) to everyone affected by this message.

Paul said in Philippians that it made him count those things he once saw as ögainö to be ölossö; (even) ödungö **“for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord”**.

WHEN for National Israel was just a short trip across a small river. **But**, the PICTURE is a LIFE CHANGING event.

So, remembering **WHEN** you got here, is not only remembering that **WHEN** was PARTICULAR, but also remembering that **WHEN** was LIFE CHANGING.

And, the **THIRD** (and last thing), remembering **WHEN** you got here, is remembering that **WHEN** was SPECIFIC.

Look at Joshua 4: 19, **“And the people came up out of Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and encamped in Gilgal, in the east border of Jericho.”**

National Israel entered into the Promised Land on öthe tenth day of the first monthö. **Their** (initial) possession of this land was on a SPECIFIC day of a SPECIFIC month. **When** Israel departed Egypt, God designated the month they departed to be their **FIRST** month.

Look at Exodus 12: 1-2, **“And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,
2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.”**

And, the **TENTH** day of this **FIRST** month was the day they ötook to them a lambö.

Look at Exodus 12:3, **“Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of *their* fathers, a lamb for an house.”**

The lamb Israel öshut upö on this **TENTH** day was the Passover lamb. **It** was the lamb whose blood would keep them safe when God poured out His wrath on the land of Egypt.

The DAY Israel entered into the land of Canaan was 40 years (lacking 5 days) from the time they departed Egypt. **The FIRST** month is the month they observed the Passover. **The TENTH** day was the day they öshut upö the lamb that would be the Passover.

WHEN did you; **WHEN** did I; **WHEN** does any sinner enter into possess the örestö that is in Christ alone? **We do** so **WHEN** God öshuts us upö to Christ **ALONE** for all of our salvation. **We do** so **WHEN** God shows us the futility of trying to work out a righteousness of our own and ösealsö us into the Righteousness Christ worked out.

It is the day a sinner becomes crucified to the world as the world has already been crucified unto them.

Look at Galatians 6: 14, “**But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.**”

Paul makes two statements here. **He** says that by Christ (His Cross death) the world has been crucified unto me. **And**, that by Christ's death (His Cross), that he (Paul) had been crucified to the world. **The** world crucified to Paul. **Paul** crucified to the world.

Paul is speaking of himself as a TYPE of God's elect people, here.

The world crucified to the elect ó **Nothing** that takes place in the world can separate God's elect from the love of God or sever them from the CERTAINTY of the Final Glory they were given IN CHRIST before the world began.

The elect crucified to the world ó when a sinner is brought to the Savior who has bought his/her complete salvation.

When was the world crucified unto Paul (and all the elect)? **In the** Everlasting Covenant of Grace when Christ was made their Surety.

When are the elect crucified to the world? **When** God shuts them up to Christ; when the commandment comes, their mouths are stopped and they are brought to Christ ALONE for all of salvation. SPECIFIC.

Remembering WHEN you got here: PARTICULAR, LIFE CHANGING, SPECIFIC. **May** God bring His people to this place. **May** He cause us to remember WHEN we got here.

By **Mark Pannell**