

# Joshua 3:14-17 & 4:1-9

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Lesson: Remembering God's Works

Today, the Spirit gave me a little longer lead-in for the lesson, so I trust that it will help us when we start to go through the verses.

Q: What does it mean to be remembered?

<Pause for responses. There will be many responses for this question.>

A: The desire to be remembered is a way to span over time, to reach from where you are here, into the consciousness of someone else in the future.

Did you have one of those climbing pegboards in gym class? You had two dowel rods that fit into holes on a wall pegboard. You were supposed to climb up by holding yourself up with one hand and reaching up to put your peg into a higher hole. It was really hard, but back then we didn't weigh anything and our hearts were pumping blood through completely unobstructed blood vessels, so a lot of people could do it. I can't recall if I could do it.

So, the desire to be remembered is a way to span over time, to reach from where you are here, into the consciousness of someone else in the future, and it's like that pegboard climb because you have to do two things to make it work, and they are both hard.

1. Being in someone's thoughts/heart.
2. Being in someone's thoughts/heart, years from now.

Q: Have you ever been to a High School reunion?

<Raise hands.>

How often do you think about those people?

In my case, those are people I have not seen in 40 years. I don't think about them too often. When I do, I wonder what they've accomplished or the challenges

they've overcome, but not enough to try very hard to find out. They meant a lot to me a long time ago, but as time passed there wasn't a connection between us.

So, they are not in my heart and I have to assume that I'm not in their heart in a meaningful way today, and what little connection there is today fades more and more each year. It is hard to create a connection, and very hard to create a connection that lasts.

We would all like to be remembered, and maybe there is something that each of us does to try to achieve that.

I wrote the books so that my sons and wife would one day have them to read and remember me when I was gone, and now I like to think that my grandchildren might read them one day and it would be like I was reading to them.

I write notes in my Bible with the hope that one day my sons will read them and know how I felt about a verse or what I felt God was telling me.

I have a video that I made to play at my funeral with the last things I wanted to say to my family.

I put a lot of thinking and effort into being remembered.

Everyone does this in different ways. Martha's garden and flowers will be here when she's gone. That's one of her ways of being remembered. She has created a legacy of all the love she's shown for people and I am sure people will remember her for that.

**Genesis 1:26** says "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" – and He certainly did, so we know that this desire within us, to be remembered, came from God, and is in God Himself.

A man's life is **fleeting** and an **Eternal** God wants us to remember Him.

**James 4:14**: "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

**Psalms 103:15-16**: David says, "As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more."

**Deuteronomy 8:2:** "And thou shalt **remember** all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no."

**Numbers 15: 39-40:** "And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and **remember** all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes... That ye may **remember**, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God."

Now let's watch how God the eternal arranges for His creation to remember Him.

### Joshua 3:14-17 (KJV)

14 And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people;

15 And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,)

16 That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho.

17 And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.

## God uses patterns a lot in the Bible

Romans 15:4: "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

Sometimes this is called "typology", or "foreshadowing". In fact, we **think** He uses a lot of patterns, when we're probably not even recognizing all of them **as** patterns.

Patterns God gave us:

- Noah's Ark foreshadows the Day of the Lord
  - Matthew 24:37-38: Jesus said, "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,"
- Passover and the Lord's Supper
- The Tabernacle and the Church
- Adam and Jesus
- Revelation: The new Heaven and the new Earth.
- Melchizedek foreshadows Jesus
  - See Appendix A.
- Ahaz foreshadows Donald Trump
  - Jehu was a warrior king and unlikely leader raised up by God to confront and overthrow a corrupt, idolatrous ruling house (the house of Ahab [Bill Clinton] and Jezebel [Hilary Clinton]).
  - He acted decisively to "clean house," destroy Baal worship/idolatry, and restore the nation.
  - Cahn draws parallels to Trump as a disruptive, non-traditional political figure called to "drain the swamp," confront moral and spiritual corruption in America, and help turn the nation back toward God.

## Parting of the Red Sea and the Jordan River

God set these two bookends, with the parting of the Red Sea (Exodus 14) **beginning** the Israelites journey into the Wilderness and with the crossing of the Jordan River marking the **end** of the wandering and the entering into the Promised Land.

**Joshua 4:23:** "For the LORD your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over:"

God's use of patterns transforms isolated events into a memorable, repeating patterns, like the chorus of a song. Knowing that God uses patterns encourages us to watch for them in present day events and anticipate them in future events – in both cases, God, and our trust in God are kept in our thoughts and hearts.

Joshua 3:16: That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho.

The waters backed up and flooded the area upstream as far as 15 to 20 miles away. Hurricane Helene flooded hundreds of miles by comparison, so what is amazing about the stopping of the Jordan is that it was pinpoint focused, showing God's power directed exactly at the point He wanted to make. It would not be some widespread catastrophe that left everyone wondering "Why did this happen?" It was God, ushering His people into the land that He promised them after so many years of wandering in the desert.

## Genoa

We visited Genoa, Italy and saw Christopher Columbus' home there. There were statues of him and references to him everywhere there. He was a heroic figure, who won the chance to risk his life in wooden ships in the open ocean. The waves on our ship were scary coming up to splash the windows of the deck we were on. After a month at sea the crew believed they were lost and wanted to turn back. Columbus met with the captains of the other two ships and then told the men they would turn back if no land was sighted in the next few days, after a few days he told them they'd come too far to turn back, and fortunately a few days later they sighted an island in the Bahamas.

He was a hero, and we used to celebrate him that way in America, but now the history books discount his achievement and call him a colonizer that invaded the peaceful native peoples.

Reading the Bible is a privilege. It is a written history that has survived the attempts of Satan and all of the wicked people under his direction. We have the memories that God established for us, thousands of years later. We are on the right side of history, Amen?

## Joshua 4:1-7 (KJV)

1 And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying,

2 Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man,

3 And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night.

4 Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man:

5 And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel:

6 That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones?

7 Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.

Q: Why did God stop the waters of the Jordan?

A: "That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, **What mean ye by these stones?**

Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off **before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off:** and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever."

This was not to keep the Israelites' feet dry, it was to demonstrate God's glory, and the reverence that men should have for God, the water was kept from the ark, not from the Israelites. One of the best things we can do as Christians is to always remember how elevated God is from us, and that history is about him, not about any man, and certainly not about us. Pride is the chief sin because it elevates man toward God.

## 12 Stones

God shows us patterns that help us remember that He is directing history.

There are 12 tribes of Israel, he directs 12 men to collect stones from the center of the river and put them in a place where future generations would see them and ask about them. There will be 12 disciples. When Judas Iscariot died, they were quick to replace him with Matthias – the number was important to God. Maybe there is a power in the number, or maybe it is to keep a pattern to help us remember. It is clear that God wants to help future generations remember what He did.

### Revelation 21:12-14 (KJV)

12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

[Revelation 22:2](#): In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare **twelve manner of fruits**, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 7:4-8 describes the 12,000 people from each of the 12 tribes of Israel.

Patterns and repetition are how we memorize, God uses that designed-in mechanism to lock a place in our memory.

### Hiking example

We've come across areas when hiking where people have stacked stones. There was one place where the stream flowed around a bend and over the years this bend collected thousands of smooth round stones. People stacked the stones carefully, balancing them, stacking them two feet high or higher in places. There were stacked stones all around, and it was an eerie feeling to come through wilderness and then suddenly see this place of stacked stones. It felt like there were forces in that place that you might not

understand. Something that drew people to do this and something that prevented other people from just knocking them all down. It stayed in my memory forever, and I am sure you remember it too, right Martha?

I also want to say that when you see the great cathedrals of Europe, you come away feeling how much greater God is than He feels sometimes here. When you see that thousands of people worked together from 1248 to 2880 (632 years) with the labor of hundreds of men and it was built to house the relics (bones) of the three wise men.

This is one of many cathedrals, and not even the largest or most impressive. God has been the center of mankind's focus for all time, drawing people to Him in ways that they show in paintings, sculptures, buildings – all to memorialize God.

### Joshua 4:8-9 (KJV)

8 And the children of Israel did so as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones out of the midst of Jordan, as the LORD spake unto Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them unto the place where they lodged, and laid them down there.

9 And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood: and they are there unto this day.

"And they are there to this day". This is the fundamental description of memory. A memory is something that is created to last, to remain into the future, to be shared with the next generation so that they remember God's glory and feel the same way that people felt when God moved into man's perception.

It is our job to pass the excitement, and the feelings of joy and amazement of God to the next generation. Individually, it feels small, the few people we make an impression on, the few times we testify, we're not in books and statues are not made of us. We make small differences, but that is God's plan, and millions of people throughout history that did the same helped get us to today, where God is still great and His people still celebrate Him and look forward to His return.

Everything seems to be working.

# APPENDIX A: Melchizedek and Jesus

## Hebrews 7:15-17 (KJV)

15 And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest,

16 Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

17 For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

D.A. Carson (Author/Theologian): “The figure Melchizedek turns out to be one of the most instructive figures in the Bible for helping us put our Bibles together. He is both king and priest - something the Levitical system never allowed. The name Melchizedek means ‘king of righteousness,’ and he is king of Salem, which means ‘king of peace.’

In the narrative of Genesis 14, he suddenly appears, blesses Abraham, and receives a tithe from him. The writer of Hebrews seizes on these details: Melchizedek is greater than Abraham (and therefore greater than Levi, who was yet in Abraham’s loins), and his priesthood is not based on genealogy or the law but appears eternal.

Thus Melchizedek serves as a profound type of Christ — the true King of Righteousness and King of Peace, whose priesthood is superior to the Levitical order because it is based on the power of an indestructible life (Hebrews 7). He shows that God’s plan always included a better priesthood and a better covenant fulfilled in Jesus.”

### 1. Both Are Kings and Priests

- **Melchizedek** was uniquely both **king of Salem** (peace) and **priest of the Most High God** (Genesis 14:18).
- **Jesus** is the ultimate fulfillment: “**a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec**” (Hebrews 5:6; 6:20; 7:17). He is both King of kings and our Great High Priest.

### 2. No Recorded Beginning or End of Priesthood

- **Melchizedek** appears suddenly in Genesis 14 with **no genealogy**, no recorded birth or death — “**without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life**” (Hebrews 7:3).

- This points to **Jesus**, who is eternal: "**Thou art a priest for ever**" (Hebrews 7:17, quoting Psalm 110:4). His priesthood has no beginning or end.

### 3. Superior to the Levitical (Aaronic) Priesthood

- Melchizedek blessed Abraham (the father of the Israelite nation), and Abraham gave him a tithe (Genesis 14:19-20).
- Hebrews 7:4-10 argues this shows Melchizedek's priesthood was **greater** than the later Levitical priesthood (which came from Abraham's descendants).  
**Hebrews 7:11** — "If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood... what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not after the order of Aaron?"

Jesus belongs to this superior, non-Levitical order, making His priesthood perfect and permanent.

### 4. King of Righteousness and King of Peace

- The name **Melchizedek** means "**King of Righteousness**," and he was king of **Salem** ("**King of Peace**").
- Jesus is the ultimate King of Righteousness and the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6; Jeremiah 23:6).

### 5. Eternal and Unchanging Priesthood

- The Levitical priests died and had to be replaced (Hebrews 7:23).
- Melchizedek's order is **eternal** — Jesus "**continueth ever**" and "**hath an unchangeable priesthood**" (Hebrews 7:24).

### 6. Brings Blessing and Bread/Wine

- Melchizedek brought out **bread and wine** and blessed Abraham (Genesis 14:18).
- Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper with **bread and wine**, symbolizing His body and blood, and is the source of all blessing.