

# ***The Covenants***

## ***Part 9***

### ***“A Memorial***

#### ***To***

### ***The grace of God”***

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#### **Intro:**

In our message today we will see another important aspect of the doctrine of the Covenant.

That is: the biblically ordained principle of Memorial.

The first mention of the word “Remember”

Is found in Genesis

It is set in the context of the Covenant with Noah.

*Gen 9:13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.*

*Gen 9:14 And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:*

***Gen 9:15 And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.***

Gen 9:16 *And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, **that I may remember the everlasting covenant** between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.*

Gen 9:17 *And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.*

Note,

The word Remember

Is the Hebrew:

זָכַר *zâkar* *zaw-kar'*

**“A primitive root; properly to mark (so as to be recognized)”**

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In this chapter the main theme is the Memorial Stones that are to remind Israel of the crossing of the river Jordan.

**We note 1;**

In verses 1-3

**The Idea of the Memorial Stones came from the command of God.**

**Jos 4:1** *And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying,*

*Jos 4:2 Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man,*

*Jos 4:3 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.*

Consider:

There was divine basis and Authority for this act of Memorial.

App:

We should never, in the Church, establish a practise which lacks the divine command.

*As Calvin says:*

*"We may not adopt any device [in our worship] which seems fit to ourselves, but look to the injunctions of him who alone is entitled to prescribe. Therefore, if we would have him approve our worship, this rule, which he everywhere enforces with the utmost strictness, must be carefully observed. . . . God disapproves of all modes of worship not expressly sanctioned by his word."*

*Or in our confession of Faith:*

## **Chapter 22: Of Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day**

1.\_\_\_\_\_ *The light of nature shews that there is a God, who hath lordship and sovereignty over all; is just, good and doth good unto all; and is therefore to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted in, and served, with all the heart and all the soul, and with all the might. **But the acceptable way of worshipping the true God, is instituted by himself, and so limited by his own revealed will, that he may not be worshipped according to the imagination and devices of men, nor the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representations, or any other way not prescribed in the Holy Scriptures.***

**Note 2;**

**This memorial was to be for all the people of God.**

Therefore we read in verse 2

*Jos 4:2 Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man,*

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**Note 3;**

In verse 4.

**The calling of the twelve.**

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

Consider:

The similarity between this and

***Mark 3: 13-19***

*Mar 3:13 And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him.*

*Mar 3:14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,*

*Mar 3:15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:*

*Mar 3:16 And Simon he surnamed Peter;*

*Mar 3:17 And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder:*

*Mar 3:18 And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite,*

*Mar 3:19 And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.*

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**Note 4;**

In verse 5

**The work given to the twelve.**

*Jos 4:5 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:*

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**Note 5;**

In verses 6-7

**The purpose of the work**

*Jos 4:6 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?*

*Jos 4:7 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.*

Consider:

In and of itself the taking of twelve stones seems insignificant.

But what they symbolized was of great significance!

App:

We will, God willing take the bread and wine this morning.

Of themselves nothing much.

But what they represent, Eternal significance!

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**Note 6;**

In verse 8

**The Character of Israel's obedience.**

**Jos 4:8 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.

Consider:

Verse 8 does not say:

**What** Joshua commanded

But

**As** Joshua commanded

A very important distinction.

Illus:

If I was to ask you to do something for me and you did it.  
You would have done **what I asked**.

But if also I gave a number of instructions of how it was to be done and you followed all my instructions, you would be doing it **as I asked**.

App:

So when it comes to the worship of God.

It is not just what we do that matters but how we do it!

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**Note 7;**

In verse 9

**The second set of stones.**



*Jos 4:9 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.***

Consider ;

The relation of both sets of stones.

The stones with the people were to be a solemn **reminder** of God's mercy.

The stones in the river **evidence** of God's mercy.

App:

God has given us so many evidences and reminders for the building up and establishing of our Faith.

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**Note 8;**

In verse 10:

**The work of the priest's seen as a type of the work of Christ.**

*Jos 4:10 For the priests which bare the ark stood in the midst of Jordan, until every thing was **finished** that the LORD commanded Joshua to speak unto the people, according to all that Moses commanded Joshua: and the people hastened and passed over.*

**Joh 19:30** *When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

## **“Finished”**

GK

Τελέω *teleō tel-eh'-o*

*From G5056; to end, that is, complete, execute, conclude, discharge (a debt): - accomplish, make an end, expire, fill up, finish, go over, pay, perform.*

Τέλος *telos tel'-os*

*From a primary word τέλλω *telō* (to set out for a definite point or goal);*

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### **Note 9**

In verse 11

**The scope of the work of the priest's bearing the Ark.**

*Jos 4:11 And it came to pass, **when all the people were clean passed over**, that the ark of the LORD passed over, and the priests, in the presence of the people.*

Consider:

The scope of their work included all the children of Israel.

Not 1 less!

Not 1 more!

They did not wait around to see if any passers by wanted to cross over!

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### **Note 10**

In verses 12-13

**God's mercy to his people leads to warfare with the world.**

*Jos 4:12 And the children of Reuben, and the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh, passed over armed before the children of Israel, as Moses spake unto them:  
Jos 4:13 About forty thousand **prepared for war** passed over before the LORD unto battle, to the plains of Jericho.*

Q.

Are you prepared for War???

## **Note 11**

In verse 14

### **Joshua as a type of our Lord.**

*Jos 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.*

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## **Note 12**

In verses 15-19

### **The Priest's commanded to come out of Jordan.**

*Jos 4:15 And the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying,*

*Jos 4:16 Command the priests that bear the ark of the testimony, that they come up out of Jordan.*

*Jos 4:17 Joshua therefore commanded the priests, saying, Come ye up out of Jordan.*

*Jos 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.*

*Jos 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.*

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### **Note 13**

In verse 20

#### **Where the stones were pitched.**

*Jos 4:20 And those twelve stones, which they took out of Jordan, did Joshua pitch in Gilgal.*

*gilgâl*

*ghil-gawl'*

*A variation of H1534: - wheel.*

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### **Note 14**

In verses 21-24

#### **The purpose and meaning of the stones.**

*Jos 4:21 And he spake unto the children of Israel, saying, When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these stones?*

*Jos 4:22 Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land.*

*Jos 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:  
Jos 4:24 That all the people of the earth might know the  
hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear  
the LORD your God for ever.*