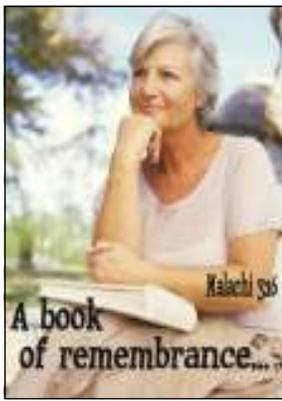


## Provoking Memories



### Remembering What Matters

Disciplined **remembrance** is institutionalized in Biblical faith because we are called to interpret our present circumstances in light of God's known faithfulness in the past. **Forgetfulness** is one of our greatest spiritual maladies! "Forget not all His benefits." Ps 103:2

**The Tomb of the Unknowns:** "Here Rests In Honored Glory An American Soldier Known But To God." Today we remember the men and women who have gone to war to protect our freedoms.

### Provoking Memories of Faith, Home and Country

#### A. Establishing A Memory/Memorial *Joshua 4:1-3*

1. **Memorial:** Something that keeps remembrance alive!
2. **Faith Memorial:** A way for future generations to participate in the great acts that God has done.  
**Example:** God tells Joshua to take stones from the Jordan to make a memorial. *Josh 4:1-3*

#### *How have you established faith memorials?*

#### B. The Purpose of Memorials *Joshua 4:4-6*

1. **Anchor what matters:** Memorials serve to anchor our history through touch, smell, taste, sight and sound.
2. **Joshua anchors faith:** These stones taken from the middle of the riverbed were evidence that the river had actually stopped flowing.
3. **When things go bad:** "Two steps forward one step back." Remembering difficulties 'over time' reveals that this is usually when we become the strongest. The strongest seam is stitched two forward—one back.

#### C. What Do These Stones Mean to You? *Joshua 4:6-8*

1. **Reminiscing:** It's fun to remember—and remember! The stones are NOT sacred—the history/memory is. When memorials lose meaning—the people lose the memory and truth of history.

#### D. The Power of Remembering *Joshua 4:9*

1. **Personal memorials:** [:9] Joshua is adding his own memorial in addition to God's command from us :3.
2. **Memories of the heart:** There are some memorials that are visible [*the stones at Gilgal*] and others that remain covered [*the stones in the Jordan*]. Some are for a nation to remember—others for only a few people or just one person.
3. **John the Baptist remembers:** "Don't just say to each other, 'We're safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.' That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones." *Mat 3:9*

### Joshua 4:1-9

**:1** And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying:

**:2** "Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe,

**:3** and command them, saying, 'Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.' "

**:4** Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe;

**:5** and Joshua said to them: "Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel,

**:6** that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?'

**:7** Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever."

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

**:9** Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day.