

Our Covenant God – Part Seven

More about remembering...

It is very important that we understand that when the Bible talks about remembering, it doesn't just mean 'not to forget'. It actually means 'to fill your mind', to be 'mindful'. It means to **"RE-MIND"**.

In the last lesson we looked at the fact that God set the rainbow in the sky to appear whenever it rained as a reminder of His covenant with all of Creation. Imagine that! God set the properties of white light to refract through raindrops in such a way that a rainbow consisting of seven different colours would appear! He built that quality into light! We know that Jesus is the Light of the World so the reminder of the covenant is actually built into His very substance! That is something to just sit and chew on!

The rainbow appears twice in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 4:3 (NKJV) And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and *there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.*

Homework Question #1: A rainbow is actually a circle. When we see it, we only see half of the rainbow and so it looks like an arc. But in Revelation 4:3, the rainbow appears in its full glory, as a circle. What is the significance of it being a circle?

Homework Question #2: What is the significance of the rainbow being around the throne of God?

Revelation 10:1 (NKJV) I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.

Homework Question #3: The word translated angel means messenger. Revelation 10:1 is speaking about Jesus. Bearing Genesis 8:9-17 in mind, what is the significance of there being both a cloud as well as a rainbow in this verse?

Homework Question #4: What relevance could there be for the rainbow (once again a full circle) to be on Jesus' head?

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Now, let's fast forward a few hundred years to 400 years after God cut covenant with Abraham. His descendants had become slaves in Egypt. They began to cry out to God to save them. The cries of the people caused God to once again remember the covenant that He had made with Abraham. This is when God raised up Moses to set His people free.

Exodus 2:23-25 (NKJV) Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. So God heard their groaning, and **God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.** And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them.

In fact – remembering the covenant is extremely powerful! Later on, when those same people abandoned the worship of God to worship a golden calf that they had made, thereby breaking covenant with God, they were not killed because Moses reminded God of His covenant with their father Abraham! In so doing, Moses actually changed God's mind! Both parties of the covenant must remember the covenant – must keep it in mind. And both parties have the right to remind the other of the covenant, as we see Moses doing:

Exodus 32:13-14 (NKJV) **Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel,** Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, "I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever." So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.

Deuteronomy 9:26-28 (NKJV) Therefore I prayed to the LORD, and said: "O Lord GOD, do not destroy Your people and Your inheritance whom You have redeemed through Your greatness, whom You have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand. **Remember Your servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob;** do not look on the stubbornness of this people, or on their wickedness or their sin, lest the land from which You brought us should say, "Because the LORD was not able to bring them to the land which He promised them, and because He hated them, He has brought them out to kill them in the wilderness."

Other examples to consider are:

Deuteronomy 8:18 (NKJV) "And **you shall remember the LORD your God,** for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His **covenant** which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Psalms 111:5 (NKJV) He has given food to those who fear Him; He will ever be **mindful** of His covenant.

Psalms 115:12-13 (NKJV) The LORD has been **mindful** of us; He will bless us; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron. He will bless those who fear the LORD, Both small and great.

Psalms 144:3 (NKJV) LORD, what is man, that You take knowledge of him? Or the son of man, that You are **mindful** of him?

King David understood this so very well. He knew God's heart and he knew that God's covenant people were always on God's mind! Isn't that an awesome thought? God saying to you: "YOU are always on my mind!" His mind is full of you! He is mindful of His covenant that He made with YOU!

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The Lord's Supper / Communion

Luke 22:19-20 (NKJV) And He [Jesus] took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**" Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."

The Lord's Supper is one of the main ways that we remember our covenant with God today. It reminds us of what Jesus did for us. It is a blood covenant meal just like the one that Jesus shared with His disciples the night before He was crucified. This is why we called it communion (common union.)

There is no frequency of the Lord's Supper prescribed in scripture. Jesus told us to do it in remembrance of Him. There is no reason why God's people should not do this on a daily basis today. There is also no Scripture that says that only an ordained minister or priest can administer it.

The Blood of Jesus was poured out on our behalf because, while God is the Covenant Keeper, Man is the Covenant Breaker. The penalty of breaking the covenant was death. Jesus paid that debt on our behalf. It is the Blood that purchased our forgiveness. Glory to God!

Jesus' Body was also given for us. The crucifixion scars were testimony to Jesus paying the death penalty on our behalf. There were the scars from the nails that went through His feet and hands. Then there were the scars from the scourging – the whipping and lashings that He received. These 'stripes' across His back were inflicted using whips consisting of multiple lashes with barbed metal pieces on the ends of each lash. These would grip and tear the flesh to ribbons, removing chunks of flesh and exposing the internal organs. These scars on Jesus back were inflicted for our healing.

1 Peter 2:24 (NKJV) who Himself [Jesus] bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed.

Life For Today - Verse By Verse Bible Commentary By Andrew Wommack

Some people have taken this statement by Jesus, "This is my body," to mean that the elements used in communion actually become the physical flesh and blood of Jesus. However, it is not scriptural to say that the elements actually change into Christ's flesh and blood.

Jesus also said, "I am the door of the sheep" (Jn. 10:7,9), and "I am the true vine" (Jn. 15:1), but that didn't mean He was claiming to be a physical door or vine. He used expressions symbolically many times and this is what He is doing in this instance.

Both Luke and the apostle Paul emphasize that the purpose of communion is to remember Jesus and His atoning work (Lk. 22:19; 1 Cor. 11:25). There is no power or holiness in the elements themselves. The benefit that is derived from observing the Lord's Supper comes from our faith as it is stirred up through remembering what Jesus did for us.

REMEMBER! ALWAYS REMEMBER WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE FOR YOU!

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Communion is often taught in a way that terrifies people and brings condemnation. This stops people from sharing in it. Bearing in mind that it is such a powerful memorial of the price that Jesus paid on our behalf and is such an integral reminder of the Covenant God made with us, surely this is something that we should do often?

Let's take a look at what Paul wrote about Communion:

1 Corinthians 11:23-31 (NKJV) For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

Some teach that you must examine your heart to see if you have any wickedness inside it because if you do then you need to abstain from partaking of communion. But that is not what the Word says. It says that the judgment came because they did not "discern the Lord's body." When you read this in context you will find that they were mistreating their poorer brothers and sisters in Christ. Your brothers and sisters in Christ are your fellow members of the Lord's Body, i.e. the Body of Christ. We must judge our actions towards each other.

1 Corinthians 11:20-22 (NKJV) Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk. What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.

How we treat each other in the Body of Christ is how we treat Jesus.

As we look at 1 Corinthians 11:30 we see that people are not supposed to be sick in church.... and certainly not supposed to die as a result of sickness. It was not a normal thing, which is why Paul took special note of the fact that was happening.

In the early church they had such a Divine revelation of what God had done on the Cross - which is why healing was such a part of their lives. For them to be sick and even die was exceptional.

It is still not supposed to happen!

Hebrews 13:8 (Amplified) Jesus Christ (the Messiah) is [always] the same, yesterday, today, [yes] and forever (to the ages).

