

Memory & Remembrance

Zakar, Zeker, & Anamnesis

Zakar – (v.) To remember, to mark so as to recognize, to act on behalf of. Occurring 235 times in 223 verses, translated as **remember** (172 times), **mention** (21 times), **remembrance** (10 times), **mindful** (6 times), and several others.

Zeker – (n.) The thing produced by that action. A memento, abstractly recollection, by implication commemoration — translated in the KJV as remembrance (11 times), memorial (5 times), memory (5 times), remembered (1 time), and scent (1 time).

Zeker is what **zakar** leaves behind—the memorial, the mark, the lasting impression of an act of remembrance. (**Zakar**-God remembers and acts (verb) and **Zeker**-what that remembering produces—a memorial, a lasting mark.)

Anamnesis A remembering, recollection — occurring 4 times in 4 verses in the New Testament. The word carries the core meaning of recollection, a calling back to mind.

In Greek culture, particularly in Plato's philosophy, remembrance (**anamnesis**) meant the soul recalling knowledge it already possessed — a purely internal, mental exercise. Memory was about the mind reaching backward to retrieve information.

When God *Zakars*

-God Remembers Noah

Genesis 8:1 And God **remembered** Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged.

-God Remembers His Covenant

Genesis 9:15-16 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. 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.

-God Remembers Rachel and Hannah

Genesis 30:22 And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb.

1 Samuel 1:19 And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her.

-God Remembers Abraham & Lot Is Saved

Genesis 19:29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt.

-God Remembers His Mercy Toward Israel

Psalms 98:3 He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Exodus 2:24 And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

The Zeker- What Remembering Leaves Behind

-God's Own Name as a Zeker

Exodus 3:15 And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

-The Zeker of the Righteous

Proverbs 10:7 The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

-The Zeker Cut Off from the Earth

Psalms 9:6 O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end: and thou hast destroyed cities; their memorial is perished with them.

Psalm 109:15 Let them be before the LORD continually, that he may cut off the memory of them from the earth.

-Giving Thanks at the Zeker of His Holiness

Psalm 30:4 Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

Psalm 97:12 Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

-The LORD Is His Own Memorial

Hosea 12:5 Even the LORD God of hosts; the LORD is his memorial.

-The Desire for God's Zeker

Isaiah 26:8 Yea, in the way of thy judgments, O LORD, have we waited for thee; the desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee.

The Prayer That Invokes the Covenant

-The Psalmist Fights Through Darkness with Zakar

Psalm 77:3-6 I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah. Thou holdest mine eyes waking: I am so troubled that I cannot speak. I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient times. I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.

Psalm 77:10-11 And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High. I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old.

-Moses Commands Israel to Remember the Wilderness

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.

-Jerusalem Remembers in the Ruins — Zakar in National Grief

Lamentations 1:7 Jerusalem remembered in the days of her affliction and of her miseries all her pleasant things that she had in the days of old, when her people fell into the hand

of the enemy, and none did help her: the adversaries saw her, and did mock at her sabbaths.

-Nehemiah Invokes God's Covenant Promise

Nehemiah 1:8 Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations.

-The Psalmist Prays For God to Remember & Not Remember

Psalm 25:6-7 Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old. Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.

-A Prophet's Desperate Plea

Jeremiah 15:15 O LORD, thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, and revenge me of my persecutors; take me not away in thy longsuffering: know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke.

-The Sabbath as an Act of Covenant Memory

Exodus 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Deuteronomy 5:15 And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.

When God Says He Will Not Zakar

-The Promise of Isaiah

Isaiah 43:25 I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

-The New Covenant Promise of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 31:34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Anamnesis- The Greek Bridge to the New Testament

The Old Covenant's Annual Remembrance of Sin

Hebrews 10:3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.

The New Covenant's Remembrance of Christ

Luke 22:19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

1 Corinthians 11:24-25 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

Closing Thoughts

Memory and remembering are not tied solely to our mental state and should never be disconnected from the relationship we have with our heavenly Father.

When God remembers, He moves. When we, as covenant partners, remember, we are moving and living in His ways. This leaves a *zeker*, a memorial, that endures before God.