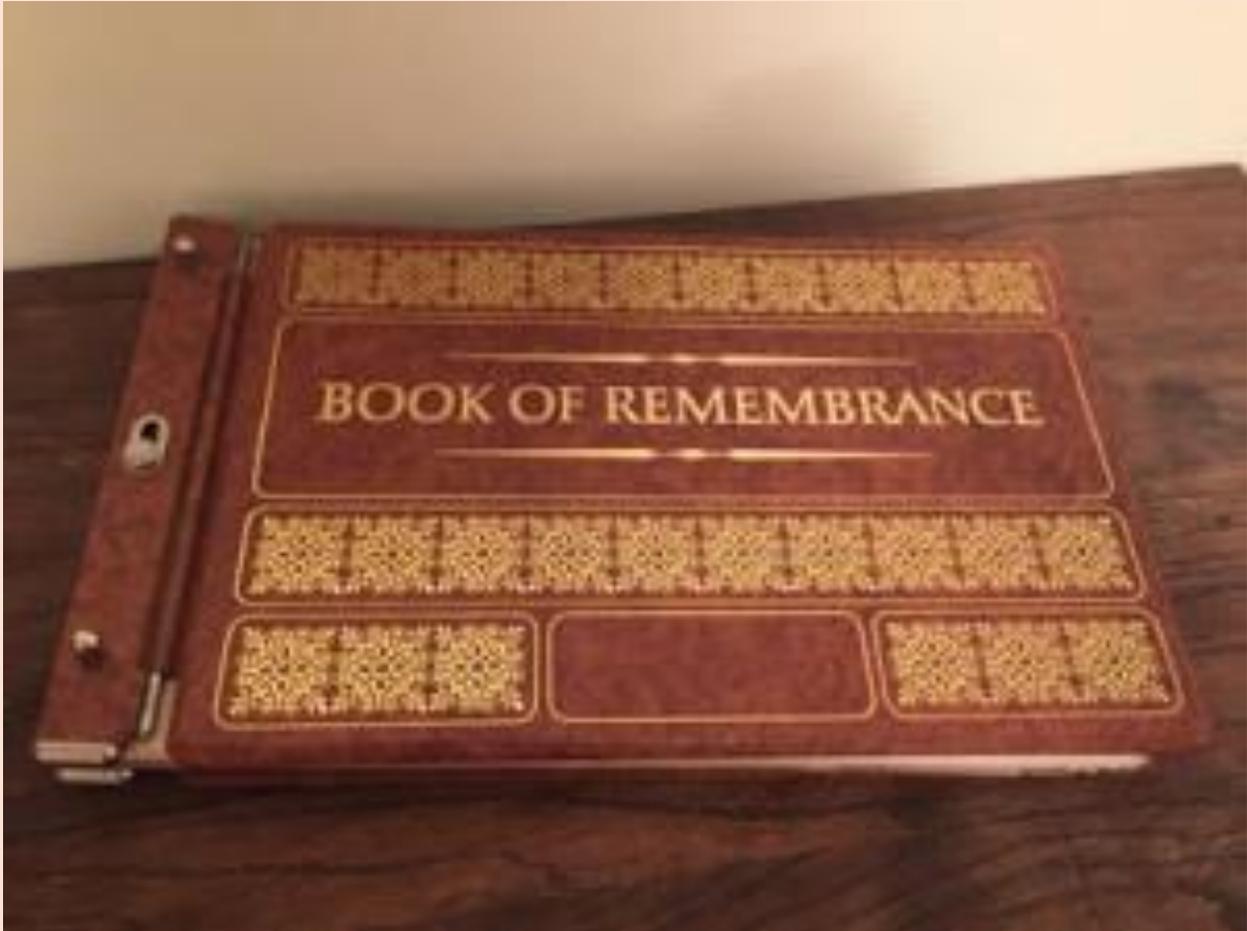


A BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE



Then those who feared the Lord talked often one to another; and the Lord listened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him of those who feared the lord and who thought on His name (Mal. 3: 16)

I remember when young while living in the orphanage in Brazil, I was given a book of remembrance where friends and acquaintances wrote beautiful thoughts of encouragement and what they thought of me. It registered sentiments that would later bring me memories of those days, although not all positive, but sifting them through in my mind, there were a few wonderful memories which I treasured. They bring me joy as I relive those days. It is to me a privilege to know that the Lord is aware and taking notice of the things we say that is pleasing to Him to the point of having them written in a special remembrance book.

While some denied and complained about the Lord, several others stood for Him. Israel misrepresented the loving-kindness the Lord showed them by their words and actions. In their complaint they expressed a complete denial of God's attributes. In Psalm 73 we read how the Psalmist Asaph fell into this attitude, but repented of the envy of his heart and acknowledged God's goodness to Israel. He wrote: Truly God is good to Israel, even to those who are upright and pure in heart. But as for me, my feet were almost gone, my steps had well-nigh slipped, for I was envious of the foolish and arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked (vs. 1-2). Envy is, according to Webster's dictionary, a feeling of discontent and ill because of others prosperity; resentful dislike of another who has something desirable. Asaph found himself in ignorance, and lacking understanding of this matter until He went to the house of the Lord. There he understood the end of the wicked people. He repented concluding, But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God and made Him my refuge, that I may tell of all Your works (Ps. 73:16,17,28).

But in the midst of those people there was a remnant who stood for the Lord and honored His name. As Asaph, they too feared the Lord and expressed their trust in Him one to another. The presence of the Lord was welcomed in their midst; He listened and heard their words. They rose to Him in an aroma suave and pleasant. Yes, He accepted them and in return He had a book of remembrance written specifically of them and He had this to say: They shall be **Mine**, says the Lord of hosts, in **that day** when I **publicly recognize** and openly declare them to be My jewels. And I will **spare** them, as a man spared his own son who serves him (Mal. 3:17). A book of remembrance of those who fear the Lord will be opened some day. They will hear the wonderful words, Well done, faithful servants, enter the joy of the Lord. The Lord will acknowledge their faithfulness and will reward them with salvation in the day of His vengeance. They will not suffer under His wrath; but instead He promised them that the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings, and His beams, and they shall go forth and gambol like calves from the stall and leap for joy (Mal. 3:2).

Day after day the believer has an opportunity either to join the crowd of complainers, or stand for God. When his heart is filled with contentment it will resound throughout his world that God is good no matter the circumstance he is in. God's goodness is not measured by temporal circumstances in the life of a

believer, but by all spiritual blessings. it will shine in his life when he learns to be an overcomer. Making a declaration that God is good all the time will cause God to move the blessings toward the believer, whose faith will be honored in a book of remembrance which will be written in his favor. David declared the faithfulness of the Lord in Psalm 23. He said, The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. I shall not want even though the fig tree does not blossom and there is no fruit on the vines, the product of the olive fails and the field yield no food, and the flock is cut off from the fold and there are no cattle in the stalls. Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation (Habakkuk 3:17-18).

What picture of the Lord are we Christians portraying to the world? Is God pleased with the believer's testimony so to bend His ears to hear his words? Remember that loyalty to our Lord will not go unnoticed, neither unrewarded in this world and in the world to come.

Mordecai, the uncle of Queen Esther, was rewarded many years later due to his loyalty toward the king of Persia. The Bible registers that one night when the king could not sleep he ordered that the book of memorable deeds, the chronicles, be brought... it was found written there how Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's attendants who guarded the door, who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. The king said, What honor or distinction has been given Mordecai for this? Then the king's servants who ministered to him said, Nothing has been done for him. The king ordered that Haman (enemy of Mordecai) be given Mordecai an apparel and a horse for him to be mounted on. Then Haman conducted Mordecai on horseback through the open square of the city, proclaiming before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor (Esther 6). The Lord YAHSHUA assured the people that even in giving a cup of water to one of His disciples, there will be a reward (Mat. 10:42). A book of remembrance is an important book for us to remember when speaking, when acting towards others. Paul encourages us by saying, Let us not lose heart and grow weary and faint in acting nobly and doing right, for in due time and at the appointed season we shall reap, if we do not loosen and relax our courage and faint...Let us do good to all people. Be mindful to be a blessing, especially to those of the household of faith (Gal. 6: 9-10).

The work we have done will become known; for the day [of Christ] will disclose and declare it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test and

critically appraise the character and worth of the work each person has done (I Cor. 3:13). Only those words and actions that will exalt and bring glory to our God will stand and be written in the book of remembrance. Knowing that, what manner of believers should we be? He wants us to remember Him in His death and resurrection. Paul passed unto us the manner in which we must remember our Lord: that the Lord YAHSHUA on the night when He was treacherously delivered up and while His betrayal was in progress 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 to call Me to remembrance. Similarly, when supper was ended, He took the cup also, saying, This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, to call Me to remembrance, for every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are representing and signifying and proclaiming the fact of the Lord's death until He comes (I Cor. 11: 23-26). We too must remember the sacrifice of our Lord for us. It was the fulfillment of God's love promised long ago. His death and resurrection should compel every believer to faithfulness in remembering Him until He comes.