

Help! I'm New to Torah, and I Don't Know What to Do!

Lesson 6: What Does the Tanach Mean by “Remember”?

Zachar (H2142) appears 235 times in 223 verses in the Tanach.

To Simply “Remember” or “Recall” Something	
Genesis 42:9	Joseph “remembers” (<i>vayizkor</i>) his dreams
Numbers 11:5	The people “remember” (<i>zacharnu</i>) the food in Egypt
2 Samuel 8:16	“Recorder” (<i>mazkir</i>)
1 Kings 17:18	Call sins to remembrance (<i>l'hazkir</i>)

Hashem “Remembers” Someone (Looks favorably upon them)	
Genesis 8:1	<i>Noah</i> —v.1-3; <i>v.1-vayizkor</i> ; v.3-the floodwaters “returned” (shuv H7725)
Genesis 19:29	<i>Abraham</i> — <i>vayizkor</i> ; His righteousness (26:2-5)
Genesis 30:22	<i>Rachel</i> —v.22-23; <i>v.22-vayizkor</i> ; Notice Hashem acted on her behalf and listened to her prayers
1 Samuel 1:11, 19	<i>Hannah</i> —v.11-20; She prayed for a child, and Hashem “remembered” her by helping her conceive; <i>v.11-uz'chartani</i> ; <i>v.19-vayizkreha</i>
2 Kings 20:3; Isaiah 38:3	<i>Hezekiah</i> —2 Kings 20:1-7; Isaiah 38:1-8; (<i>z'char</i>) This prayer of repentance was heard by Hashem. According to the Talmud, Hezekiah was being punished because he was refusing to have children because he saw the wickedness of his son, Manassah, through prophetic insight. Isaiah reprimanded Hezekiah and reminded him that he is not to concern himself with Hashem's plan. Rather, Hashem has commanded him to keep His commandments—Ties back to Deuteronomy 29:29
Nehemiah 13:14, 22, 30	<i>Nehemiah</i> — <i>zachrah</i> ; His prayer is that Hashem would remember his good deeds.
Psalms 25:6-7	<i>David</i> —v.6- <i>z'chor</i> ; v.7- <i>tizkor</i> , <i>z'char</i> ; Your mercies, and not the sins of my youth
Psalms 78:35, 39	Read v. 34-39; <i>v.35-vayizkru</i> ; <i>v.39-vayizkor</i> ; Man is but flesh
Psalms 79:8	Read v. 5-8; <i>v.8-tizkar</i> ; The sins of the ancients; this is a prayer of repentance
Isaiah 43:25, 26	Read v. 22-26; Hashem wanted to forgive their sins, but they refused to call on Him; <i>v.25-ezkor</i> ; <i>v.26-hazkirani</i>
Lamentations 5:1	<i>Z'chor</i> ; This is a prayer of repentance
Habakkuk 3:2	<i>Tizkor</i> ; A prayer for Hashem to be merciful in a time a wrath

Hashem “Remembers” His Covenant	
Genesis 9:15-16	<i>V.15-v'zacharti</i> , <i>v.16-lizkor</i> ; After the flood (Covenant with Noah); 9:1, 12-17 (v.16-brit olam)
Exodus 2:24	V. 23-25, <i>v.24-vayizkor</i> ; Covenant with Abraham, Issac, and Jacob
Exodus 6:5	V. 2-9, <i>v.5-vaezkor</i> ; With the fathers
Exodus 32:13	V. 11-14, <i>v.13-z'chor</i> ; With the fathers (incident with golden calf)
Deuteronomy 9:27	V. 25-29, <i>v.27-z'chor</i> ; With the fathers
1 Chronicles 16:15	V. 14-19, <i>v.15-zichru</i> ; Covenant forever
Nehemiah 1:8	V. 5-9, <i>v.8-z'char</i> ; The word He commanded His servants
Psalms 105:8	V. 7-12 (v.8- <i>zachar</i>), 37-45 (v.42- <i>zachar</i>); His covenant
Psalms 111:5	V. 2-6, <i>v.5-yizkor</i> ; Forever
Jeremiah 14:21	V. 19-22, <i>v.21-z'chor</i> ; Do not forget your covenant
Ezekiel 16:60, 61, 63	V. 60-63 (v.60- <i>v'zacharti</i> , v.61- <i>v'zachart</i> , v.63- <i>tizk'ri</i>); Everlasting covenant

Not Serving Hashem	
Judges 8:34	V. 33-35, v.34-zachru ; The children of Israel did not remember Hashem by worshipping idols
Psalms 74:18	V.18-21, v.18-z'char ; The foe blasphemed Your Name
Hosea 9:9	V. 8-9, v.9-yizkor ; Note the parallel between “remember their iniquity” and “punish their sins”

“Remember” as a Recalling or Retelling (leading to action)	
Exodus 13:3	The day of the Passover (leaving Egypt) (positive mitzvah— zachor)
Exodus 20:8, Deuteronomy 5:15	The Sabbath (positive mitzvah— zachor); In Deuteronomy, it says shamor (guard)
Exodus 20:24	The place where Hashem’s name will be remembered forever (azkir)
Exodus 23:13	The names of other “gods” (negative mitzvah— lo tazkiru)
Numbers 15:39-40	Recalling commandments through tzitzit (v.39-uzchartem ; v.40-tizkaru) The uses of the words “remember” are part of the commandment of wearing tzitzit
Deuteronomy 7:18	What Hashem did to Pharaoh in Egypt (positive mitzvah— zachor)—A positive command, but not part of the 613 (exhortation)
Deuteronomy 8:2	The wandering in the wilderness (v'zachartah) Not counted in 613, more exhortation
Deuteronomy 8:18	Hashem (v'zachartah) Not counted in 613, more exhortation
Deuteronomy 16:3	The day of the departure from Egypt all the days of your life (positive mitzvah— tizkor)—Not a new mitzvah, but reinforces Exodus 13:3
Deuteronomy 24:9	Miriam (positive mitzvah— zachor)
Deuteronomy 25:17	Amalek (positive mitzvah— zachor , viewed as both physical and spiritual; In Jewish thought, Amalek is the archetypal enemy of the Jewish people. Historically, it was an ancient tribe. Spiritually, Amalek represents the forces of unprovoked hatred, doubt, and cynicism)
Deuteronomy 32:7	The days of yore (z'chor) Not part of the 613, but considered an exhortation
Joshua 1:13	The words of Moses (zachor)
Joshua 23:7	The names of other “gods” (lo tazkiru)
1 Chronicles 16:12	V. 8-13; Wonders (zichru)
Psalms 103:14, 18	V. 11-18; His commandments (v.14-zachor, v.18-ulzochrei)
Psalms 119:55	Remembering Your Name = Keeping Your law (zacharti)
Isaiah 26:13	Mention Hashem’s name (nazkir)
Isaiah 46:8, 9	V. 1-11; Idols cannot tell the end from the beginning like Hashem (zichru)
Jeremiah 14:10	He will remember their iniquity = Punish their sins (yizkor)
Jeremiah 20:9	V. 7-9; Jeremiah has to recall Hashem (ezkarenu)
Jeremiah 23:36	V. 33-40; burden—masa H4853 (tizkaru)
Jeremiah 51:50	Remember Hashem in captivity, read footnote in Tanach (zichru)
Ezekiel 3:20; 18:22, 24; 33:13, 16	3:20-21 (tizacharna); 18:1-3, 19-24 (v.22-yizachru, v.24-tizacharna); 33: 12-16 (tizacharna); Leviticus 19:17 —rebuke your neighbor if you know he will repent. However, Proverbs 9:7-9 is a warning about rebuking a scoffer
Ezekiel 20:43	V.39-44; Remembering your ways leads to repentance (uzchartem)
Ezekiel 23:27	Remembering Egypt no more = No more idolatry (tizkari)
Ezekiel 25:10	Ammon will not be remembered among the nations (tizacher)
Amos 1:9	Covenant between David and Hiram (zachru)
Micah 6:5	Even during harsh judgement, Hashem still forgave the children of Israel (z'char)
Zachariah 10:9	Ties to Deuteronomy 30:1-6 (yizkaruni)
Malachi 4:4	The last of the prophets ended with a strong plea (zichru)