

# THREE TOUCHSTONES FOR 2023

*<sup>14</sup> But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me." <sup>15</sup> "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! <sup>16</sup> See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.*

Isaiah 49:14-16

*<sup>15</sup> LORD, you understand; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. You are long-suffering--do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.*

Jeremiah 15:15

I. The First / This year you must remember that it is not about the destination, but the journey.

\* Who you are, and what you've become, is exactly God's intent.

\*\* Just by being yourself, you torment darkness, and Radiate God's kingdom to others.

II. The Second / This is the year where God is going to confront and remove our practical agnosticism. (Hebrews 11:6)

*<sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

\* God is banishing our isolation by reconciling us to one another in the body of Christ.

\*\* I'm not supposed to be able to believe "for me." You are!  
(I Corinthians 12:12)

*<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.*

III. The Third / This is your year of remembrance before God and significant others. / Hope for those who feel forgotten.

\* When God remembers, He comes to a point of action on your behalf.

A. God remembered Noah (Genesis 8:1)

\* The ark is landing, not crashing. The waters will recede, and your new world will appear.

B. God remembered Abraham. (Genesis 19:29; Psalm 105:42)

C. God remembered Rachel. (Genesis 30:22)

D. God remembered Hannah. (I Samuel 1:29)

E. God remembered Ephraim, His greatest enemy.  
(Jeremiah 31:20)

*<sup>20</sup> Is not Ephraim my dear son, the child in whom I delight? Though I often speak against him, I still remember him. Therefore my heart yearns for him; I have great compassion for him," declares the LORD.*

F. The cup bearer who forgot you (Genesis 40:23) will remember you this year! (Genesis 41:9-13)

[Gen 40:23 NIV] <sup>23</sup> *The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.*

[Gen 41:9-13 NIV] <sup>9</sup> *Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "Today I am reminded of my shortcomings." <sup>10</sup>*

*Pharaoh was once angry with his servants, and he imprisoned me and the chief baker in the house of the captain of the guard. <sup>11</sup> Each of us had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own. <sup>12</sup> Now a young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us, giving each man the interpretation of his dream. <sup>13</sup> And things turned out exactly as he interpreted them to us: I was restored to my position, and the other man was impaled."*

\* Significant people who have forgotten you will remember you even at the pain of their own hurt.