



Joshua 3:9-17; 4:1-7

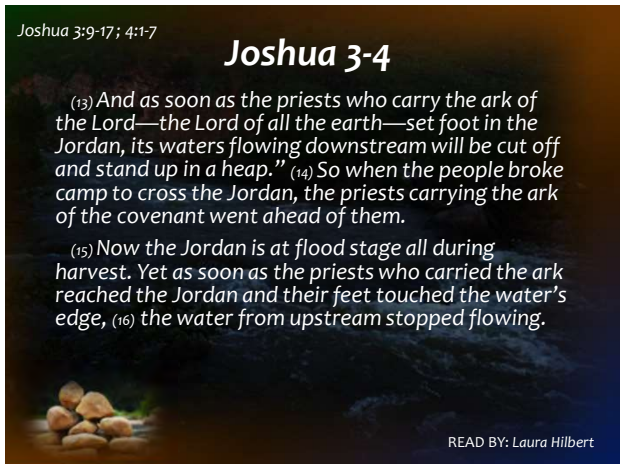
Joshua 3-4

⁽⁹⁾ Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God. ⁽¹⁰⁾ This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites.

⁽¹¹⁾ See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. ⁽¹²⁾ Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe.



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Joshua 3:9-17; 4:1-7

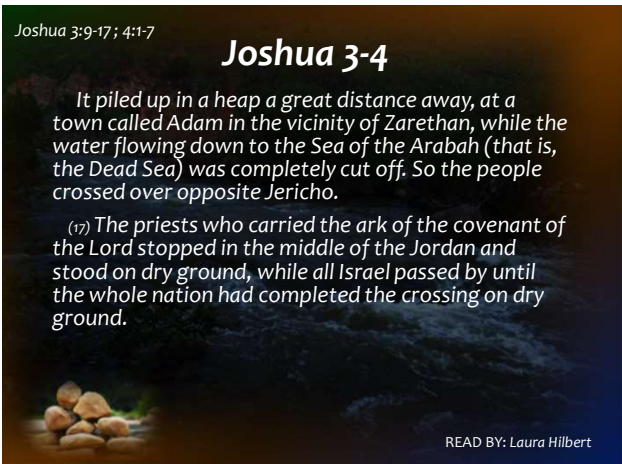
Joshua 3-4

⁽¹³⁾ And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the Lord—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.” ⁽¹⁴⁾ So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, ⁽¹⁶⁾ the water from upstream stopped flowing.



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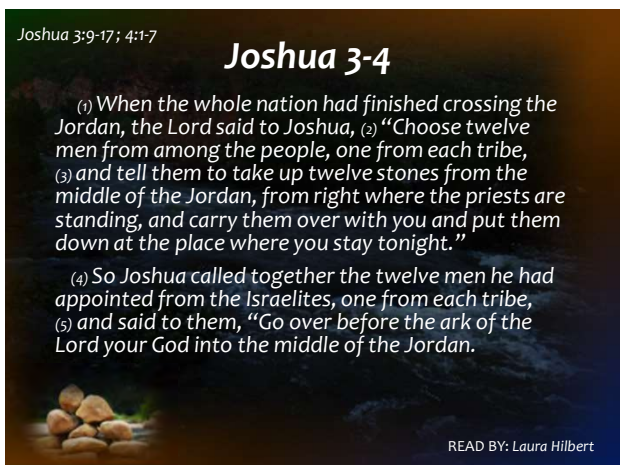
Joshua 3-4

It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

⁽¹⁷⁾ The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.



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Joshua 3:9-17; 4:1-7

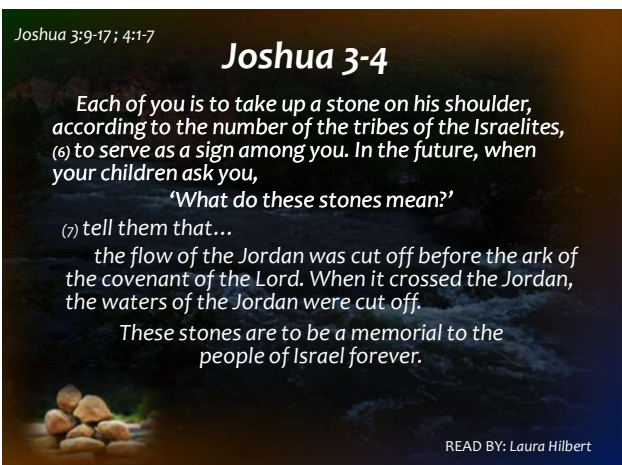
Joshua 3-4

⁽¹⁾ When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, ⁽²⁾ “Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, ⁽³⁾ and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.”

⁽⁴⁾ So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, ⁽⁵⁾ and said to them, “Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan.



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Joshua 3:9-17; 4:1-7

Joshua 3-4

Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, ⁽⁶⁾ to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you,

“What do these stones mean?”

⁽⁷⁾ tell them that...

the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off.

These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.




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Joshua 1:1-2 –
 “Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ servant, saying, ‘Moses My servant is dead; now you therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, and enter into the land which I am giving to them...’”

No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life.

AS I WAS WITH MOSES, SO I WILL BE WITH YOU.
 I will never leave you nor forsake you.
 Joshua 1-5



Joshua 3:10 –
 “This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Gergashites, Amorites and Jebusites...”

He is WITH you! He is FOR you!

Confidence in God

Joshua 3:10 –
 “This is how you will know...”

- As it’s happening: Now! You!**
- Future generations: Thru the testimony of the memorials!**

Confidence in God

Joshua 3:16
 “So the people crossed over opposite Jericho.”

Joshua 3:16
 “the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam...”

18-20 miles!




Joshua 3:16
 “So the people crossed over opposite Jericho.”


(15) “Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest..”

NLT: “It was the harvest season, and the Jordan was overflowing its banks.”

- The Jordan River has 2 major sections: NORTH of the Sea of Galilee where 4 rivers join to create the Jordan and SOUTH of Galilee. It is 156 miles long in total.
- In the biblical period, the Jordan River was shallow and easy to cross in the north, and deep and difficult to cross in the south.
- It is estimated that the Jordan at this time may have swelled from a typical 100-foot width to as much as 1 mile wide!
- This is the river in which John the Baptist baptized Jesus and the Father declared His love and pleasure for His Son.
- After wandering in the wilderness, the Jordan is the final barrier to their entry into the Promised Land.





At the center of the river...
 At the center of the story...
The ark of the covenant!



Joshua 5

Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, (6) to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' (7) tell them that...
 the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off.
 These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.

These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.

"... twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan..." (4:7)
 1 for each tribe!

"are to be a memorial"
 An object, event, activity, or place that helps people remember a significant person or occurrence.

"to the people of Israel"

Declaring the mighty works of God!

Word: OEXKF
 Pronounce: zik-ron-eh
 Strong: H2148
 Orig: from 2142, a memento (or memorable thing, deed or writing) - memorial, record. H2142
 Gnk Strong: G284 G285 G2142
 memento, memorial, remembrance

Forever!




These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.

(6) In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' (7) tell them...

"... the flow of the Jordan was cut off from before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off."






Others may come upon this heap of stones and see just a pile of rubble but...

... to the people of God...

These...
"stones of remembrance"

... would be a perpetual reminder of God's abiding presence and wonder-working power on behalf of His people.



There are many other "stones of remembrance" in the Scriptural record...

Exodus 13:3-6; 24:4 – Consecration of first-born, feast of unleavened bread

Deuteronomy 27:1-8 – An altar and 12 stone pillars at the foot of Mt Sinai

Joshua 24:24-28 – Joshua sets up a "stone of witness" upon renewal of the covenant

1 Samuel 7:12 – Samuel sets up a pillar of remembrance at Mizpah to commemorate their victory over the Philistines


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Joshua 4

(8) So the sons of Israel did exactly as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, just as the Lord spoke to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Israel; and they carried them over with them to the encampment and put them down there.


But here's a curious thing...

(9-NLT) Joshua also set up another pile of twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan, at the place where the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant were standing. And they are there to this day.



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- "Passing through the waters" is symbolic throughout the Bible of baptism
 - Descending = our "DEATH"
 - Ascending = our "NEW LIFE"
- This is only possible because of the covenant established through the blood of Jesus! By His substitutionary death, we gain new life!
- Joshua commemorates what God did in pulling back the barrier that would have kept them separated from the full life promised on the other side and...
 - he does this in the place at which where the symbol of their covenant stood!



Voluntarily!

(9-NLT) Joshua also set up another pile of twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan, at the place where the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant were standing. And they are there to this day.

Memorials!

We are prone to forget!

REMIND!
TESTIFY!



(9-NLT) Joshua also set up another pile of twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan, at the place where the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant were standing. And they are there to this day.

Memorials!


We are prone to forget!

Deuteronomy 4:9

"Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them."



(9-NLT) Joshua also set up another pile of twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan, at the place where the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant were standing. And they are there to this day.



At the place where God's covenant with His people connected with the earth!

(9-NLT) Joshua also set up another pile of twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan, at the place where the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant were standing. And they are there to this day.

2 Corinthians 5:21 – "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

1 Peter 2:24 – "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."

Romans 6:6:11 – "We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ... (therefore) count yourselves as dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus."

Colossians 3:3-5 – "For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature..."

