

**BOOK OF JOSHUA  
THE TWO MEMORIALS  
JOSHUA 4:1-24**

**Introduction Read: vs 1-24**

**JOSHUA'S LEADERSHIP** would be "**MAGNIFIED**" in the sight of all **ISRAEL**. They would come to know that he was **GOD'S MIGHTY LEADER** who was in the **WILL OF GOD!**

The **MIRACLE** crossing of the **JORDAN RIVER** would be just a token of what the **LORD GOD** was going to do in their midst in the coming days. **JOSHUA** had said in *Joshua 3:10*, "*Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you, and that HE WILL WITHOUT FAIL drive out from before you the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites...etc.*"

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Imagine with me for a minute and consider how an **ISRAELITE** father might walk with his son by the **JORDAN RIVER**. Looking at the water's edge the boy sees a neatly piled **MARKER OF 12 STONES** on the bank. With curiosity aroused, he asks his father, "*What do these stones mean?*"

The father, an obedient son of **ABRAHAM**, obeys the **WORD OF THE LORD** and relates the story of how **JEHOVAH GOD** had miraculously delivered the children of **ISRAEL** out of **EGYPT**, through the wilderness, and across the **JORDAN** into the **PROMISED LAND!**

In detail he describes how the **LORD GOD** parted the waters as the **PRIESTS** stepped into the flooded banks of the **JORDAN RIVER** with the **ARK OF THE COVENANT!** He further tells his son that as the **PRIESTS** held the **ARK** in the midst of the riverbed, the **LORD'S PEOPLE** walked across the **JORDAN RIVER** on **DRY GROUND** as the waters stood in a heap!

He would then tell his son how that the **LORD** instructed **JOSHUA** to have one person out of each of the **TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL** to pick up a **STONE** out of the midst of the **JORDAN RIVER** from the very spot where the **PRIESTS** held the **ARK** while the people passed through. He would tell how they took those **STONES** and placed them there on the bank of the river where the people arrived in **CANAAN!**

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He then would reveal to his son that the **LORD'S** purpose of the **STONES** was for them to be a **MEMORIAL** to each succeeding generation of the **LORD GOD'S** miraculous deliverance of **HIS CHILDREN** into the **PROMISED LAND!**

That's was the **LORD GOD'S** intent!

**I. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MEMORIALS. (Joshua 4:1-8)**  
**A. We Need To Understand That The MEMORIAL On The JERICHO Side Of JORDAN Was Established In Accordance With GOD'S COMMAND! (Deuteronomy 27:2-8)**

In **MOSES'** day, even before **ISRAEL** ever got to **JORDAN'S** banks, the **LORD GOD** told them they were to set up a **MEMORIAL OF STONES** when they crossed over into **CANAAN**.

These **STONES** were to stand as a **MEMORIAL** to remind them of their miraculous crossing over **JORDAN!**

**B. We See The Fulfillment Of The LORD'S COMMAND! (Joshua 4:1-8)**

1. One man of each tribe (12) was to take a **STONE** from the riverbed and carry it to the place of encampment.
2. There the **STONES** from the riverbed were used to build a **MEMORIAL** as to what had happened in that place.
3. The **MEMORIAL** was to be a sign to their children of the **LORD GOD'S** miraculous work that day in cutting off the waters of **JORDAN!**
4. The **Deuteronomy** account tells more about how these stones were set up on the other side of **JORDAN!**

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5. In addition to what the **LORD GOD** commanded, **JOSHUA** also set up a second **MEMORIAL** in the middle of **JORDAN**. (*vs 9*)
6. This was where the **PRIESTS'** feet rested as they bare the **ARK OF THE COVENANT** until all the people had crossed over.
7. Why did **JOSHUA** put this second **MEMORIAL** in the midst of **JORDAN** that nobody could really see once the waters covered them? Well, understand that we're not told why **JOSHUA** did that, so anything we say about it is just speculation or opinion!

**C. We See the LORD GOD Was Leading Them Miraculously!**  
*(Joshua 4:10-14)*

1. This was the final act of separation from the bondage of **EGYPT** and from the past. They now were in the **PROMISED LAND!**
2. All the people, including 40 thousand of the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and ½ the tribe of Manasseh, were "*clean passed over.*"
3. Not one of those who were supposed to cross over was left behind...all were delivered safely and completely!
4. Only the **LORD GOD** could have worked this miracle!
5. It was clear that they were being led by the powerful hand of the **LORD GOD!**  
*Psalm 107:7-8—“And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation. Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!”*

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6. **JOSHUA** was magnified in the sight of all the people!  
*(vs 14)*

**D. The Power Of The LORD God Is Seen In The Completion Of This Wonderful Work!** *(Joshua 4:15-18)*

1. The **LORD GOD** instructed **JOSHUA** to bring the **PRIESTS** out of **JORDAN**.
2. As the soles of the **PRIESTS'** feet touched down on the other side...**GOD** released the waters of **JORDAN**.
3. As it had begun...so it ended.
4. The waters flowed again even over the banks and it would have covered all evidence that they had crossed over except...
5. The two **MEMORIALS** stood as witness to what took place!

**II. THE IMPORTANCE OF MEMORIALS.** *(Joshua 4:19-24)*

**A. We Are Prone To Forget!**

*Deuteronomy 4:9—“Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;”*

1. The **LORD GOD** had warned the nation to be careful **NOT TO FORGET**, but they did.
2. The **SCRIPTURES** record that they did forget the **COVENANT** they had made with the **LORD!**  
*Judges 3:7—“And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves.”*

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3. Of course the ultimate result would be their **CAPTIVITY** at the hands of the **ASSYRIANS** and the **BABYLONIANS**. (*Deuteronomy 28:49-68*)

**B. But Their Act Of Putting Up The Twelve Stones, One For Each Tribe, Was In OBEDIENCE To The WILL Of GOD!**

1. **MEMORIALS** are placed to remind us!
2. When our family went to **Washington D.C.** back in August of 2001, we saw all kinds of **MEMORIALS**. *The Washington memorial, The Lincoln memorial, the Vietnam wall, etc.*
3. Along with many other **MEMORIALS** these are there to do two things.
4. They are to get our attention and the attention of succeeding generations.
5. They cause us to ask *"Why?"*.
6. Then as we investigate their purpose, they answer the question as we are reminded of what they **MEMORIALIZE**.

**C. The Purpose Of These MEMORIALS! (Joshua 4:21-24)**

1. The purpose was to cause their children to ask *"what mean these stones?"*
2. Another purpose was for them to stand as a reminder to *"all the people of the earth"* that the **LORD GOD** is an awesome **GOD** who does mighty and wonderful works on behalf of **HIS PEOPLE!**
3. The purpose was to cause **HIS PEOPLE** to **FEAR** and **REVERENCE HIM FOREVER!**

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**III. WHAT ABOUT THE MEMORIALS OF CHRIST?**

**A. We Have Two MEMORIALS (Ordinances) That Are Given To The CHURCH!**

1. **One is in water and one is out of water.**
2. **BAPTISM** and the **LORD'S SUPPER!**
3. Both are similar in that they serve to remind us of the mighty work of **GOD** in our **SALVATION!**
4. They remind us that we **have crossed over from darkness to light...from death unto life.**  
*John 5:24*—*"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."*

**B. We Need To Keep In Mind That MEMORIALS Are Reminders Not Originators!**

1. The **STONES** stood as a **TESTIMONY** to what the **LORD GOD** had done for **HIS PEOPLE!**
2. In the same manner, **BAPTISM** and the **LORD'S SUPPER** stand as reminders of what **CHRIST** has done for us as **BELIEVERS!**
3. There are those who would make them the way of **SALVATION!**
4. But that makes as much sense as saying that **ISRAEL** crossed over **JORDAN** on the **STONES!**

We need **MEMORIALS** to remind us of what a **MIGHTY** and **WONDERFUL GOD** we serve. We are so prone to forget **HIS WONDERFUL WORKS** in our lives.

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It would be easy for us to look at **ISRAEL** with disdain and shame them for their forgetfulness, but we can sometimes be just as guilty!

The **LORD** initiated the **MEMORIALS** for us because **HE** knew us! *"As oft as ye do this do it in remembrance of me..."*

**Conclusion**

To those who don't know the **LORD**, the **MEMORIALS** don't really mean anything, but to us who know **HIM**, they ought to mean a lot!

Let's **REMEMBER** what **GOD** has done for us? How **HE** gave **HIS SON** that we might have eternal life? Let's not forget **HIM** and what **HE HAS DONE** for us! Let's **REMEMBER** and live for **HIM**!