



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny

March/April, 2017

God And The Stones

In **Joshua 3**, God worked a miracle for the people of Israel – He dried up the Jordan River. The people of Israel reached the Jordan at flood stage. It was impossible for them to cross this river and go into the Promised Land. They had to have a miracle. And that's exactly what happened!

Joshua 4 records the peoples' response to this miracle. They build a memorial of stones. This memorial served as a reminder of God's mighty work in their behalf. It pointed them to the faithful and powerful God whom they worshiped and served.

In this chapter, we see three actions. *The first is the command to build a memorial (4:1-10).* In these verses, the Lord commands that one man from each of the twelve tribes be chosen. That man will represent the tribe and will pick up a stone out of the Jordan River and carry it to the other side. Joshua is then to assemble these stones on the other side in the Promised Land. This memorial is a reminder of what God has done for them.

It stands as a testimony to them and to future generations.

The second action is the completion of the miracle (4:11-18). The text reveals that the priests stood with the Ark of the Covenant in the Jordan until all the people had crossed over. The Ark of the Covenant signifies the presence of God. While it is in the middle of the Jordan, the waters are controlled to allow the Israelites to pass over. The two and a half tribes with land on the other side cross over too. They keep the promise they made to the Lord and to Moses. Once the priest cross over with the ark, the waters of the Jordan come rushing back. God completes His mighty miracle!

The final action in this text is the confirmation of the reason for this memorial (4:19-24). Once the people cross over, Joshua takes the stones from the Jordan River and builds the memorial. He then instructs the people the reason for the memorial. It would serve as a reminder to them and their future generations what God had done for them. They would look at the memorial and have visible reminder

of the power and grace of God in their behalf.

You may be thinking, “This is a great Old Testament event. It’s good to know about this. However, what does this mean to me? How can I apply this to my life today?” The following are some practical applications that we can take from this text.

First, we need to remember and reflect on God’s miraculous deliverance. The purpose of this memorial was to remind them of God’s salvation (4:23). When they looked at this, they were to remember what God had done for them. They were to reflect on God – His grace, His power, and His work in their behalf. The memorial was a tangible sign that should provoke them to remember and reflect of who God is and what He had done for them.

Obviously, we don’t have a memorial of stones to look at today. However, we have the cross and the empty tomb! An even more tangible sign is the Lord’s Supper. In **Luke 22:19**, Jesus’ command is “Do this in remembrance of me.” Here is a tangible sign of a greater miracle than the crossing of the Jordan River – the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We need the visible, tangible reminder of what lies at the heart of our salvation. We need to recall what it cost Jesus to open the way to our Father and to heaven. We need to reflect on how God miraculously worked through Christ to

redeem us and make us His own. By remembering and reflecting on these things, it strengthens our faith, stirs our love, and encourages us to continue in the faith.

Second, this shows us that our spiritual memories are short. This text reveals that we are quick to forget the goodness and the grace of God. In the busy flow of life, we often forget the spiritual realities on which we are grounded.

God knew their need just as He knows ours. That’s why they have the Word of God written in permanent form. That’s why we need the Lord’s Supper. That’s why we must reflect on the Cross and the empty tomb. That’s why we have corporate worship in which we worship and are taught the Word of God. We can keep coming back to them and get reminded of who God is and what God has done for us. Because of our short memories, we are need to be reminded of the most basic realities of Christian experience, the foundations on which everything depends.

Third, parents have a special responsibility to pass the truth on to their children. Joshua exhorts the parents to use this memorial as an object lesson (4:21-22). They were to teach their children who the Lord is and what the Lord had done. Children can easily forget the faith and the instruction of their parents. Parents are exhorted to instruct and remind their children of who the Lord is and what He

has done. This memorial would be a tangible tool for doing this.

This text is a powerful reminder of parents' responsibility to pass on the truth with conviction to their children. Parents are to point their children to the Cross and empty tomb. They are to instruct their children in God's grace, power, and salvation. Parents are to use all the means of grace – the Word, worship, the Lord's Supper – as a way of reminding their children of God and His amazing deliverance through Jesus Christ our Lord. By word and example, we must tell the next generation that God is mighty – that He is a saving God!

This text reveals that the nations need a tangible reminder of the existence and nature of God. This memorial was also a reminder to the nations (4:24). It testified to the existence of God – that all others are false and human inventions. It also witnessed to the power of God. It showed that God is a saving, delivering God. For those who trust Him, God can save and deliver.

We give a tangible reminder today by proclaiming the Cross and the empty tomb. We give this witness by partaking of the Lord's Supper. These are tangible reminders that God does exist. They show that God is a faithful God of power and mercy. They testify to the fact that God is holy and merciful, righteous and gracious at the same time. He is the mighty God who works wonders and saves those who trust in Him. This is the tangible sign to

who God is and what God has done. God wants the entire world to know that He is the one, true, and mighty God. He has given tangible signs to prove this – His Word, His worship, the Lord's Supper, the Cross and the empty tomb. We must labor to remember and reflect on these realities ourselves. Then we are to proclaim them to the world. We are His "stones" that cry out to a lost and dying world.

World Prayer Plan

May

- 1-Hungary-The Lost
 - 2-Iceland
 - 3-India-The Church
 - 4-India-Spiritual Warfare
 - 5-India-Mission Efforts
 - 6-India-Bible Translation \ Distribution
 - 7-India-Massive Conversions
- States of India:
- 8-Andhra Pradesh; Arunachal Pradesh
 - 9-Assam
 - 10-Bihar; Goa; Gujarat
 - 11-Haryana; Himachal Pradesh
 - 12-Jaamu; Kashmir; Karnatara
 - 13-Kerala; Madhya Pradesh
 - 14-Maharashtra
 - 15-Manipur; Meghalaya
 - 16-Mizoram; Nagaland
 - 17-Orissa; Punjab
 - 18-Rajasthan; Sikkim
 - 19-Tamil Nadu; Tripura
 - 20-Uttar Pradesh
 - 21-West Bengal

22-The Seven Union Territories
 23-Indonesia-The Church/Revival
 24-Indonesia-Government
 25-Indonesia-Lost/Mission Efforts
 26-Indonesia-Young People
 27-Iran-The Church
 28-Iran-The Lost
 29-Iraq-The Church
 30-Iraq-The Lost
 31-Ireland

25-Lebanon
 26-Lesotho
 27-Liberia
 28-Libya
 29-Liechtenstein
 30-Lithuania

June

1-Israel-Mission Efforts
 2-Israel-Peace
 3-Italy-The Church
 4-Italy-The Lost
 5-Italy-Spiritual Awakening
 6-Jamaica
 7-Japan-The Church
 8-Japan-The Lost
 9-Johnston Island
 10-Jordan
 11-Kazakhstan-The Church
 12-Kazakhstan-Mission Efforts
 13-Kenya
 14-Kiribait
 15-North Korea-The Church
 16-North Korea- Open Doors For
 Gospel
 17-North Korea-The Lost
 18-South Korea-The Church
 19-South Korea-Continued Revival
 20-Kuwait
 21-Kyrgystan-The Church
 22-Kyrgystan-Mission Efforts
 23-Laos
 24-Latvia

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