

**Joshua 4:20** “And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan.”

**Joshua 4:21** “He said to the Israelites, “In the future when your descendants ask their parents, ‘What do these stones mean?’”

**Joshua 4:22** “Tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’”

**Ephesians 6:4** “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

## **B. This memorial was used to encourage the people of Israel.**

**Joshua 4:23** “For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The Lord your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over.”

**Isaiah 41:13** “For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear; I will help you.”

## **C. This memorial was used to exalt the Lord.**

**Joshua 4:24** “He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God.”

**Psalms 150:1** “Praise the LORD. Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty heavens. <sup>[2]</sup> Praise Him for His acts of power; praise Him for His surpassing greatness.”

**I Chronicles 29:11** “Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; You are exalted as head over all.”

## **Don't Forget! Joshua 4:1-24 Lesson #8 10/20/24**

**Joshua 3:14** “So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them.”

**Joshua 3:15** “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.”

**Joshua 3:16** “The water from upstream stopped flowing. 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.”

**Joshua 3:17** “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.”

## **I. God's command to Joshua included some stones from the Jordan.**

### **A. Twelve men were to pick-up a stone.**

**Joshua 4:1** “When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua.”

**Joshua 4:2** “Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe.”

**Joshua 4:3a** “And tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, ....”

### **B. Twelve men were to place the stones at the campsite.**

**Joshua 4:3b** “... and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.”

## **II. God's command was imparted to the twelve men.**

## **A. Joshua conveyed God's message concerning the stones.**

**Joshua 4:4** "So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe."

**Joshua 4:5** "And said to them, "Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites."

## **B. Joshua clarified God's purpose for the stones.**

**Joshua 4:6** "To serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?'

**Joshua 4:7** "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."

**Psalms 89:1** "I will sing of the LORD's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations."

**Psalms 145:4** "One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts."

**Joel 1:3** "Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation."

## **III. God's command involved the effort of Joshua and the twelve men.**

### **A. The men carried the stones to the camp.**

**Joshua 4:8** "So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the Lord had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down."

### **B. Joshua constructed a memorial out of the twelve stones.**

**Joshua 4:9** "Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day."

**Joshua 4:10** "Now the priests who carried the ark remained standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything the Lord had commanded Joshua was done by the people, just as Moses had directed Joshua. The people hurried over."

**Joshua 4:11** "And as soon as all of them had crossed, the ark of the Lord and the priests came to the other side while the people watched."

**Joshua 4:12** "The men of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over, armed, in front of the Israelites, as Moses had directed them."

**Joshua 4:13** "About forty thousand armed for battle crossed over before the Lord to the plains of Jericho for war."

**Joshua 4:14** "That day the Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they stood in reverence for him all the days of his life, just as they had revered Moses."

**Joshua 4:15** "Then the Lord said to Joshua,

**Joshua 4:16** "Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant to come up out of the Jordan."

**Joshua 4:17** "So Joshua commanded the priests, "Come up out of the Jordan."

**Joshua 4:18** "And the priests came up out of the river carrying the ark of the covenant of the Lord. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before."

## **IV. God's command was intended to encourage his people.**

**Joshua 4:19** "On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho."

### **A. This memorial was used to educate the next generation.**