

New Years 2026

The Importance of Memorials in our lives

- 2025 is almost over and for many people it was a year to forget, for others one to remember, whatever your take on this year I think we can all agree that it held many lessons for all of us that The Lord would not want us to forget. At certain important junctures God would have His people to make memorials to help them to not only remember, but also to reflect upon what had happened there, and today we also have monuments that do the same for us like the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials.
- I want to go over a story in the book of Joshua that many of you are familiar with and have throughout my life have given me countless lessons that I could share and teach about for at least a whole year. Joshua chapter 4, what I love about this story is Israel is on an emotional high, they have finally achieved the goal that has taken forty years to accomplish, and has cost them the lives of their parents-grandparents
- Yet in the midst of this excitement, joy, anticipation God is teaching them lessons that if not followed will cause them to forfeit all that they are about to gain. Lesson number one is patience, before the Israelites could enter the promised land they had to cross the Jordan river, but there was one problem, the river had overflowed to the point that it was extremely dangerous to cross, so what did Joshua do?
- He told them to wait three days before crossing, and while they waited, they were to **“sanctify themselves”**. Before we seek The Lord, and can obey The Lord, we must set ourselves apart to The Lord, and once they did that God would supernaturally prepare the way, and so He did by telling them to take up the Ark of The Covenant and carry it in the deep violently running waters and as the priest obeyed God’s commandment the waters stood up in a heap and stopped flowing and stood still.
- Patience must come before obedience, because if we are not patient then we run ahead of The Lord, manufacturing things along the way as we try and do God’s work. **V1-3** this is where we pick up the story Israel finally in the Promised Land, after forty years of trials, tribulations, despair and death, watching family members, loved ones, neighbors, a whole generation perish in the wilderness, they have finally reached their destination, so what now?

- You can believe there was some ideas going on in people's minds as they've dreamed of this moment that many thought would never come. Some probably wanted to throw a party, others break out the architectural plans for the houses and businesses, and still others let's just relax and enjoy the view.
- None of the above The Lord speaks to Joshua and tells him its time for some memorials, as 1 man from each tribe is to be chosen to take one stone from out of the midst of the Jordan where the feet of the priest stood who carried the Ark in the midst of the Jordan, and take them where you are to stay for the night.
- **V4-7** upon hearing this one would think that this was for those who had seen this mighty miracle that they would not forget, yes but not just that, it also was for the generations to come to receive knowledge and encouragement from what God did for His people. As they are to make a monument that represents the power of The Lord's Presence and His Deliverance, for that is what a stone represents. Its foundational, stable, and in those days stones were weapons of warfare also.
- **V8-14** then Joshua commanded told the people to take a second set of stones and place them exactly where the priest feet were in the Jordan, so there are two memorials set up that day > **1st** in Gilgal, **2nd** in the midst of the Jordan River, they are to be reminders to the grandchildren, and great grandchildren who ask how did we get here, and who was it they brought us here, the answer shall be Jehovah Jireh, The God of the universe, Who provides, and blesses those who trust in Him.
- Today children are asking how did we get here, who brought us here, and educators are telling them they came from monkeys, evolution, the cosmos, the big bang theory, not from a Creator Who loves us, cares for us, provides for us, Who has made us in His image. If you don't set up memorials in your home, in your life, then what will your grandkids, and great grands say about where they come from?
- **V15-24** notice Joshua didn't say "if the children ask" he says "when the children ask" because God has placed in every last child a desire to want to know where did they come from, and who was it that brought them here. Joshua says tell them it was The Lord Who prepared the way, it was The Lord Who provided The way, and it was The Lord Who led The Way, for "**The Hand of The Lord it is Mighty**".
- As believers we have four monuments that serve as memorials in our Christian walk

1. Church- Heb 10:24-25
2. Communion- Lk 22:19
3. Prayer- 1Thess 5:17
4. God's Word- 2 Tim 2:14-15