

## Putting Feet to Your Faith

### Joshua 4:1-24

- God told Joshua to wait three days before crossing over the Jordan and Joshua did just that, and when it was time to move Joshua commanded Israel to cross over, but there was one problem the River had overflowed to the point it was extremely dangerous to cross, so what should they do? **3:5** > “**Sanctify themselves**” they sought the Lord by setting themselves apart to the Lord, and once they did Joshua said they would see The Lord perform wonders.
- That’s exactly what happened, but not until the people stepped foot into dangerous waters, for once they did then The Lord caused the waters to stand still and pile up in a heap, allowing all three million people to cross over unto safety. Here’s an example of understanding that just because God promised something doesn’t mean He doesn’t expect anything out of us. Israel in order to claim their inheritance had to step out in faith to see the wonder working Power of God, what a tragedy when God’s people because of fears, doubts, and obstacles, don’t move forward in faith, but go backward in unbelief, thinking it’s safer.

### V1-24

- **V1-7** we see that Israel is finally in the Promised Land, after forty years of trials, failure, despair and death, seeing a whole generation of loved ones perish in the wilderness, they’ve finally reached their destination, so now what? Is it time to relax, throw themselves a party, begin to break out the architecture plans for their houses and businesses, not at all.
- God tells them to pick one man from each of the twelve tribes, and then take twelve stones from out of the midst of the Jordan River that they’ve just miraculously crossed, each stone representing a tribe, and to carry them to the place in which they will stay for the night. We are told that the reason for all of this is to be a reminder for all the generations to come about how they came to dwell in this land that is flowing with milk and honey.
- **V6** says this is going to be a sign, and notice the scripture says “when your children ask, not if they ask” what do these stones mean? Then you can tell them the story about how God supernaturally cut off the overflow waters as the Ark of the Covenant crossed over the Jordan River, and the stones that you’ll take and make a memorial of came from those waters. **V8-9** says God then makes them take a second set of stones and place them in the midst of Jordan River exactly where the feet of the Priests walked with the Ark of Covenant.
- So there are two heaps of stones set up as memorials of Israel’s crossing of the Jordan River, twelve will be set up here at Gilgal, and then twelve stones set up in the midst of the Jordan River. These will be reminders to the grandchildren, and great grandchildren who ask how did we get here, and who it was that brought us here, and then the answer will be The God of the universe, Jehovah Jireh, The God Who provides, Who honors faith, and works on behalf of those who trust in Him, this is so important when you think about it.

- Today we have an identity problem in society, we have people that instead of teaching our children about the great things God has done, are teaching them that we have evolved from animals into humans, or if you don't like that how about an explosion occurred and out of that we were produced. When have we ever seen anything that has exploded and then afterward created anything that was so detailed as the human body, mind, soul and spirit?
- If you tell people enough times that they've descended from Apes instead of being created in the image of a Holy, Righteous God, then no wonder they'll start behaving like animals without a conscience, which is what we're seeing today. Praise God He has given us reminders that we don't come from evolution, or some big bang theory, but were created by a Loving, Caring God, Who gave us memorials like His Word, His creation > **Ps 19:1-6**, and set it up in such a way that when we ask someone was there to tell us the Redemption story.
- **V10-14** God accomplished all that He said He would do, as everyone saw The Lord do wonders that day, and afterward as The Lord promised Joshua the people looked at Joshua with the same reverence that the generation before had respected Moses **3:7**. In multiple places scripture tells us and even warns us not to exalt ourselves but let the Lord lift us up > **Jam 4:10**, **1Pet 5:6**, both tell us to humble ourselves before God and let Him lift us up, which is what Joshua experienced that day, Because of God he didn't have to prove Himself.
- **V15-18** once all were safe the waters returned to its natural state, as an instantaneous rush of water like a torrential downpour came flowing down the River bank filling up with floodwaters once again. But what remained in the middle of that River was the twelve stones set up as a memorial of what God will do for those who put their trust in Him.
- **V19-20** they travel to Gilgal about eight miles from the Jordan River, and it's here where they'll set up the second memorial, as they place twelve stones in a heap, and it was to remain there as a reminder to all who are curious about why is this here. Gilgal is only about two miles from Jericho, and most of us would want to bypass here and onto Jericho, which could cause us to completely forget about what the Lord did for us at the Jordan River.
- Because we are always in a hurry, but not God, He is never in a hurry, never in a rush, because God is more concerned about us being totally surrendered to Him before we go and accomplish great feats for Him. So God is taking time to conquer Israel spiritually before they go and conquer Jericho physically, because God brings us out so that he might bring us into a more intimate relationship with Him.
- Something interesting happens to Gilgal after this, Joshua makes it his base of operations according > **9:6**, **10:6**, and it's the place where Israel crowned Saul as their first King > **1Sam 11:15**, and where the school of prophets trained during Elijah and Elisha's days **2 Kings 4:38**. **V21-24** how the onus is on the fathers to tell their children about the power of the Lord, too many times in so many families the spiritual head are the mothers, but that is out of order, the father's are chosen by God to lead their families in a right relationship with God