

Joshua
Capturing the Moment
Joshua 4

Kodak Moments

4:1-7

The Hebrew word translated here *memorial* meant more than simply calling something to mind. It involved remembering with concern; a loving reflection with a corresponding degree of action.

The verb “passed over” is also the root of the noun, Hebrew—the entire salvation story of Israel is captured in their being Hebrews—those who crossed over the Euphrates, the Red Sea, and, now, the Jordan.

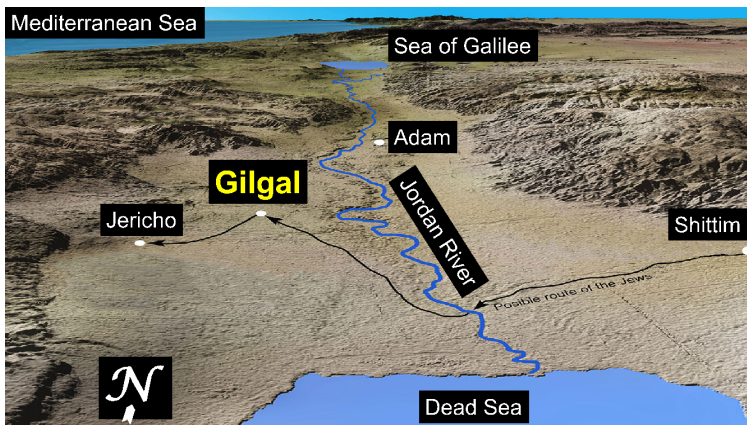
In every case, It was an outward act that represented an inward reality—they crossed over from paganism into a covenant relationship with the true and living God.

4:11-13

“pass over” is found 21 times in **chapters 3 & 4**, a clear point of emphasis of Israel’s identity, five of which are found here.

4:19-20 - Two important details:

- 1) *The place—Gilgal* – the site chosen for Israel’s first encampment in the land.



The Hebrew word “Gilgal” signifies a circle, meaning the stones may have been set up in a circle, rather than a pile.

Gilgal played an important role in Israel’s history.

God’s people need a Gilgal—a place where we can re-center our lives, where we return to our roots in the craziness of life.

Like Israel, Jesus gave his disciples a “Gilgal”—an eternal memorial by which we remember the mighty hand of God in saving us—Communion, tangible elements by which we remember Jesus (Note: from the Passover feast).

Gilgal means more than a circle. The word is derived from the Hebrew verb “to roll” (cf. **chapter 5**),

Joshua uses Gilgal to teach Israel and us a profound gospel lesson. In Yahweh’s saving grace he “Gilgaled” us; he *rolled away* our shame!

Just as Israel passed through the waters of the Red Sea and were “baptized” into the Mosaic Covenant, so we have passed through the waters of baptism into Christ and the New Covenant. *If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!* (**2 Corinthians 5:17**)

2) *The date—10th of the first month* (Nisan)

The fact that they crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land on that day underscores the intricacy of Yahweh’s plan and his sovereign control over the history and destiny of his people, down to the finest detail—both Israel’s and ours.

The 10th of Nisan was the day the Passover lamb was selected, in preparation for its sacrifice on the 14th day of Nisan, the day of Israel’s Exodus (**Exodus 12:3**), memorialized forever in feast of Passover.

4:21-24aAs the Red Sea, so the Jordan!

Tying the Red Sea event to the Jordan event for the Jewish people is like Paul saying to us in **Colossians 2:6** *Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him.*

The realities commemorated in our water event—our baptism, our being crucified, buried, and risen with Christ in *our exodus*, are the same realities by which we enter our inheritance by faith every day in our walk with Christ.

Tim Keller - The Gospel isn’t merely the ABC’s of Christianity; it’s the A through Z of Christianity.

Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Remembering Jesus in Communion and Baptism is essential to discipleship and disciple-making.

The litmus test for how much the Gospel means to us: How we pass it on to our children, whether biological or spiritual. *“When your children ask their fathers in times to come, ‘What do these stones mean?’ then you shall let your children know...”*

Every adult Christian is a parent, whether you are married and have children or not.

You cannot impart what you do not already possess.

“Parents” have a sacred duty to tell the stories of God’s redeeming acts to their “children.” In other words, miracles are not SOP in the kingdom of God, but that’s okay. Future generations are able to participate in the great acts of God by faith through primal relationships, whether biological or spiritual.

- The Bible
- Baptism
- Communion
- Our own personal encounters with the living God

We must be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us (**1 Peter 3:15**).

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 *“Hear, O Israel: Yahweh our Elohim, Yahweh is one. You shall love Yahweh your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*

4:24b – From the microcosm of the family, the purpose of the memorial reaches the macrocosm of Israel and the nations.

*...so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of **Yahweh** is mighty...*

*...that you (Israel) may fear **Yahweh your Elohim** forever.*

In the Psalms, the motivation for fearing Yahweh is his unfailing love.

Each of us can be present in the mighty acts of God’s saving grace of old, through the imagination of faith informed by God’s inerrant Scripture and the memorials Jesus gave us in Communion and Baptism. Moreover, through bearing witness from our own personal

Remembering is an essential part of Christian discipleship and disciple-making,

Psalm 103:2

*Let all that I am praise Yahweh;
may I never forget the good things he does for me.*