

**“Historical Books Of The Bible”**

**Joshua 4:1-24**

**Wednesday May 2, 2012**

**Joshua 4:1-8**

**Israel’s monument was to magnify the greatness and goodness of God!**

**Josh. 3:9-10**

**Joshua 3-5** – Chapters of crossing.

**Joshua 3** – Israel takes her first step and crosses the Jordan.

**Joshua 4** – Israel sets up a memorial from her crossing.

**Joshua 5** – Israel renews her covenant with God, the past, present, and future.

**We will look at 3 areas this evening:**

**1. Verses 1-7 – Encouragement From God:**

**2. Verses 8-18 – Faithfulness Of God:**

**3. Verses 19-24 – Testimony Of God:**

**1. Verses 1-7 – Encouragement From God:**

Joshua 4:1

Joshua 3:17

“Jordan” – Jordan spoke of “death, dying to self, surrender, dependence upon God alone.”

Joshua 4:2-5

Mark 4:37-40

Joshua 4:6

“sign” – “signal, warning”

Signs Impart Information:

Signs Authenticate: Mark 6:30-44

What was the sign saying? God was with Joshua and Israel; that God intervened and resurrected them from the Jordan

The Israelites would need to teach and remind the next generations because we forget God's faithfulness.

Joshua 4:7

"memorial" – "reminder, remembrance"

This was a new generation that was going into the land; they needed encouragement.

## **2. Verses 8-18 – Faithfulness Of God:**

Joshua 4:8

Gilgal – means "the reproach has been rolled away"; That the people had been a reproach for 40 years.

The word "Hebrew" means "people from across the river", Gen 14:13

Joshua 4:9

Rom. 6:1-4

Israel would, in the future, set up several more heaps of stones:

1. Stones of blessing and cursing. Duet. 27:1-8, Joshua 8:30-35
2. Stones over Achan household. Joshua 7:25-26
3. Witness stone at the close of Joshua's life at Shechem. Joshua 24:24-28, Judges 9:6

Warren W. Wiersbe said, "Glorifying the past is a good way to petrify the present and rob the church of power. The next generations need reminders of what God has done in history, but these reminders must also strengthen their faith and draw them closer to the Lord."

Joshua 4:10

1. Obedience Of The Priests – For the priests who carried the ark were standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything was completed that the Lord had commanded Joshua
2. The Priests Were To Remain Until All The People Were Safely Across – And the people hurried and crossed;

We in the church should do everything possible to keep the weight light for our spiritual leaders.

Joshua 4:11-14

1 Thess. 5:24

Joshua 4:15

We have again the Lord at the right time giving direction to Joshua.

Joshua 4:16-18

### **3. Verses 19-24 – Testimony Of God:**

Joshua 4:19 – The first Passover lamb had been selected 40 years to the date. (Ex. 12:2-3) That they arrived on the day the lamb needed to be selected.

Joshua 4:20-21

“When your children ask their fathers”

Joshua 4:22

Deut. 6:4-9 Shema.

Joshua 4:23-24

The memorial was a testimony to the existence and nature of the one true God.

### **Application:**

1. Encouragement From God – God Did The Impossible For Israel By Parting The Jordan, Thus Declaring Himself To Be God. We Are To Ever Keep In Our Remembrance That God Has Done The Impossible For Us To By Sending Jesus To Take Our Place.
2. The Faithfulness Of God – God Was Faithful To Fulfill His Promise To Israel By Making Them A Nation And Removing Their Reproach. The Word Hebrew – Means, “People From Across The River”; The Word Gilgal – Means, “The Reproach Has Been Rolled Away.”
3. The Testimony Of God – Each One Of Us Must Personally Know God. God Is Great, And God Is To Be Feared. We Can’t Take Our Children Or Others Where We Ourselves Have Not Been.