

YOUTH WORSHIP

26 September 2026

Text: Joshua 4

Title: "That you may fear the LORD your God forever" Joshua 4:24

INTRODUCTION

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| 1. Crossing of the River Jordan | Joshua 3 |
| 2. The Miraculous Crossing was to be remembered | Joshua 4 |

REMEMBERING THE SPECIAL CROSSING

¹ And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying: ² "Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, ³ and command them, saying, 'Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.' "

⁴ Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; ⁵ and Joshua said to them: "Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, ⁶ that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones *mean* to you?' ⁷ Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever."

Joshua 4:1-7

1. A command from the Lord
2. Twelve men would be chosen
3. Each tribe would select one person
4. They would take one stone from the River Jordan
5. They would become Memorial Stones in the place where they would camp that night (Gilgal)

OBEDIENCE OF JOSHUA AND THE PEOPLE

⁸ And the children of Israel did so, just as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the LORD had spoken to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them

to the place where they lodged, and laid them down there. ⁹ Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day.

Joshua 4:8-9

1. Joshua gave the Command
2. The Memorial Stones were taken from the River Jordan
3. An Additional Memorial Feature
 - a) Twelve Stones were placed together IN the River Jordan
 - b) When the River Tide is low, these Memorial Stones would be seen

SUPPORT FROM THE EASTERN TRIBES

¹⁰ So the priests who bore the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the LORD had commanded Joshua to speak to the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua; and the people hurried and crossed over. ¹¹ Then it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over, that the ark of the LORD and the priests crossed over in the presence of the people. ¹² And the men of Reuben, the men of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh crossed over armed before the children of Israel, as Moses had spoken to them. ¹³ About forty thousand prepared for war crossed over before the LORD for battle, to the plains of Jericho. ¹⁴ On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they had feared Moses, all the days of his life.

Joshua 4:10-14

1. The Eastern Tribes
 - a) Reuben
 - b) Gad
 - c) Half of Manasseh
 - d) They sent 40,000 fighting men to help the other tribes to conquer their Enemies
2. Exalting of Joshua
 - a) God exalted Joshua
 - b) The people held a high regard for Joshua

THE COMMAND TO THE PRIESTS

¹⁵ Then the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying, ¹⁶ “Command the priests who bear the ark of the Testimony to come up from the Jordan.” ¹⁷ Joshua therefore commanded the priests, saying, “Come up from the Jordan.” ¹⁸ And it came to pass, when the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD had come from the midst of the Jordan, *and* the soles of the priests’ feet touched the dry land, that the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks as before.

Joshua 4:15-18

1. The priests were standing in the River Jordan all this while
2. As long as they were there, the Riverbed remained dry
3. When the Priests came out of the River Jordan, the waters returned
4. This was a historic moment that must not be forgotten

THE MEMORIAL STONES IN GILGAL

¹⁹ Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth *day* of the first month, and they camped in Gilgal on the east border of Jericho. ²⁰ And those twelve stones which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal. ²¹ Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: “When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, ‘What *are* these stones?’ ²² then you shall let your children know, saying, ‘Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land’; ²³ for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, ²⁴ that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever.”

Joshua 4:19-24

1. Base Camp was at Gilgal
2. The Memorial Stones were set up
3. The Reason for these Memorial Stones
 - a) For Posterity
 - b) This Miracle was to be set up for the future generations to remember God
 - c) This Miracle was compared to the Crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 14)

4. Remembering who God is

- a) That the children of Israel might know the mighty hand of God
- b) That they might fear the Lord their God forever

OUR CHALLENGE

1. To face up to the problems of

- a) Forgetfulness
- b) Shallowness

2. To consciously

- a) Recall
- b) Remember
- c) Reverence the Lord