

GOD'S PROMISES FULFILLED
A Study in the Books of Joshua and Ruth

Crossing the Jordan (continued) Joshua 4

"He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God." Joshua 4:24

Read Joshua 4:1-24.

1. In the ancient Near East, setting up stones as memorials or markers was a common practice. At the beginning of this chapter God tells the Israelites to erect a memorial (vv. 1-9).
 - a. Why was it important that one man from each of the twelve tribes was asked to bring out a stone?
 - b. Where do the stones for the memorial come from? (vv. 3, 9) (Why not just take them from the edge of the river?)
2. The stones were set up at Gilgal (v. 20).
 - a. Who is this memorial for? (vv. 6, 21-24)
 - b. Why is it important? (vv. 7, 22-23)
 - c. Further study: For other examples of stones of remembrance see:
 - a. Gen. 28:16-22
 - b. Gen. 31:44-52
 - c. Gen. 35:14
 - d. 1 Samuel 7:12
 - e. Josh. 24:26-27

3. What does it say about our human nature that we need memorials?

What event does the church today continue to celebrate? (1 Cor. 11:23-26; 1 Pet. 2:4)

4. What are some ways that you seek to remember God's power and faithfulness?

5. Why do you think God directed the priests and the ark to cross the Jordan last? (vv. 10-11, 18; Is. 52:12)
6. The mighty men of what three tribes passed over first through the riverbed? (v. 12)

What is the significance of mentioning these three tribes? (1:12-15)

7. On the first day of the tenth month the crossing was complete (v. 19). According to the law of Moses, what else is to happen on this day? (Ex. 12:3)

Many years later (coincidentally?), this date coincides with what other memorable event? (Matt. 26:6-13).

8. In verse 23, Joshua compares the Jordan River crossing to the Red Sea crossing. Skim Exodus 14. Consider some of the similarities and differences between these two miracles.
 - a. According to verse 24, what two purposes did these two crossings have in common?
 - b. How is God more fully revealed in the crossing of the Jordan?
 - c. What are some ways that the crossing of the Jordan is a movement from death to life?
9. Why did God exalt Joshua before the people? (v. 14; 3:7)
 - a. How does this event prefigure Jesus? (Jn. 1:28-34)
 - b. Read Israel's response/promise to Joshua's exaltation. (1:16-18)
 - c. What should be our response to the even "greater Joshua."