

Remember

(First Cutlerville's 125th Anniversary)
(September 16, 2018)
(Joshua 4)

When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua,
²"Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, ³and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan from right where the priests stood and to carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight."

⁴So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, ⁵and said to them, "Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, ⁶to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' ⁷tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."

⁸So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the LORD had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down.

⁹Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.

¹⁰Now the priests who carried the ark remained standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything the LORD had commanded Joshua was done by the people, just as Moses had directed Joshua. The people hurried over, ¹¹and as soon as all of them had crossed, the ark of the LORD and the priests came to the other side while the people watched. ¹²The men of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over, armed, in front of the Israelites, as Moses had directed them. ¹³About forty thousand armed for battle crossed over before the LORD to the plains of Jericho for war.

¹⁴That day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they revered him all the days of his life, just as they had revered Moses. ¹⁵Then the LORD said to Joshua,

¹⁶"Command the priests carrying the ark of the Testimony to come up out of the Jordan."
¹⁷So Joshua commanded the priests, "Come up out of the Jordan."

¹⁸And the priests came up out of the river carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before.

¹⁹On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. ²⁰And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. ²¹He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their fathers, 'What do these stones mean?' ²²tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.' ²³For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God did to the Jordan just what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. ²⁴He 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."

A. Masavat was a **standing stone**, a **silent witness**, to what God has done

1. Silent, but **sufficient** to provide a reminder of God's faithfulness
2. Silent, so people would have to **ask**, and when they did, you would **witness**

SPACE

A. **Hermeneutical Rule:** The amount of **space** dedicated to specific subject underscores the **importance** God gives to that issue...

1. God wants us to major in **majors**; to minor in **minors**
2. Scripture contains **exactly** the words God intended

B. **Spiritual Rule:** Where we spend our **time, energy, and money** illustrates what we consider to be most important...

STANDING

A. The people of Israel were **chosen** by God

1. They were eyewitnesses to his **promises and power**
2. They had been called to change the their **world**

B. They stood on the **bank** of the Jordan; the river was at **flood stage**

1. Anticipating but **apprehensive**, they longed for the **safety** they stood on
2. It is okay to be **afraid**; it is not okay to **stay** when God calls you to **go**

"Not many should presume to be teachers because we who teach will be judged more strictly..." (James 3:11)

C. Trusting God means we'll often find ourselves standing in **vulnerable** places

STONES

A. God brought his people out of **Egypt** into the **promised land**

1. God parted the **Jordan!** God kept his **promises**
2. God wants his people to **remember!**

"As you come to him, the living Stone [Jesus]—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house..." (1 Peter 2:4f)

B. We need standing Stones of God's **faithfulness** in our lives

1. For **Ourselves** (4:6a, 24) - especially people
2. For our **Children** (4:6b-7, 21-23) - so we can tell the **stories**
3. For our **World** (4:23-24) - so they can see **Jesus**

"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you. I will make you name great and you will be a blessing...and all peoples of the earth will be blessed through you."
(Genesis 12:2-3)

"There is still time to become what you were meant to be: a memorial builder amongst the people of God for the people of the world." (Arnold Glasglow)

C. Christianity isn't believing the **impossible**, it is testifying to the **incredible**

D. God has been preparing us for **125 years** for what lies ahead!