

SONGS: Whiter than Snow; Trusting Jesus; Is My Name Written There?  
CLOSE: Trust and Obey

## Monuments

### Joshua Series: 6 of 18

**Text:** Joshua 4

**Aim:** To show a thankfulness of the redeeming grace of God in Christ.  
To be reminded of the memorials of our baptism and the Lord's Supper.

### INTRODUCTION:

#### A. *It may surprise you, but MEMORIALS have a pronounced place in the Old Testament.*

1. Jacob set-up a **MONUMENT** at Beth-el in Gen. 28:16-22
  - a. Vs. 22– *“This stone”* he said, (the one he used the night before as a pillow (Vs. 18), when he dreamed of a ladder reaching up to heaven with angels ascending and descending), *“which I have set for a pillar, shall be God’s house.”*
  - b. Jacob vowed at that place, if God would be with him, he would follow the Lord and serve the Jehovah as his One and only true God and would give a *“tenth”* (tithe) of all that he had to Him.
    - 1) It would be good that all God’s children followed his example and gave a tithe of their income to the house of God where they are members.
    - 2) What a wonderful memorial it would be for each believer to commemorate to their God and Saviour for the wonderful gift of salvation the giving of the tithe.
2. **THE PASSOVER FEAST** – is a memorial that Israel was to observe every year commemorating the deliverance of God’s people from the bondage of slavery in Egypt, as a result of the death angle passing over the land taking the life of all the first born who were NOT in a house which had blood on the lintel and door posts. This event led to Pharaoh letting God’s people go and after their release enabled their escape across the Red Sea.
3. **THE POT OF MANNA, THE ROD THAT BUDDER, THE TABLES OF LAW** written in stone all inside the Ark of the Covenant were also memorials. As such, the ark was referred to in the NT as *“a tabernacle of witness”* (Acts 7:44-45).
4. If we had time we could mention many others.

Countries, today, have different national memorials – Tombs for their “Unknown Soldiers,” statues of national hero’s, plaques and monuments displayed at locations of epic historic events, with some events being celebrated yearly as national tribute, and others are commemorated by enshrining historical documents for public display—all of which have tremendous meaning.

These different happenings are *preserved by a nation* to pass on to their children—with the establishing of memorials of significant events, which are to be remembered for their moulding and fashioning of a nation. Such events and people need to be commemorated that the nation may never forget.

#### B. *Why are memorials necessary in the Bible?*

What is the reason God told Joshua to set-up these monuments on the banks of the Jordan? Why is it so necessary that we later on life we have something to point for future generations to ask questions about?

- By nature, we tend to forget people and events that had great meaning to us.

- Therefore it is good for us to review when and how we got saved.  
(Give **brief** testimony about Lumberton, N.J.– summer 1960.)

**C. In another incident while a fellow named Barry was watching the evening news...**  
...He broke into tears when he saw the faces of 3 young men who had been charged with murder. They mugged an elderly lady who died from her injuries. In response to his wife's questioning glance, Barry explained, "I ran around with those fellows for a while. It really hurts me to see the problems they have caused. Besides, if the Lord hadn't saved me, I too would have been in trouble like him, I'm so thankful for my salvation — I can hardly stand it". (Daily Bread)

- As generations pass, important events gradually lose their meaning – WE, the people who lived the history, pass off the scene but memorials will continue to tell our story – memorials help people to remember what shouldn't be forgotten.
- Memorials mean – **SOMETHING IMPORTANT HAPPENED HERE!**

***I'll never forget the first time I visited the Minute Man National Historical Park in Concord, Mass.***

There I crossed the bridge, where on the morning of April 19, 1775 seventy-seven colonial militia, know as the minutemen, stood against 700 British regulars, It was here that first colonial was killed during the fight at the North Bridge, and where the shot was fired that was heard around the world igniting the American Revolution. As I crossed the bridge and stared into the face of the memorial of "Concord Minute Man" statue, I remembered the colonists who dared to stand against the mightiest army in the world for freedom. Freedoms that most who live in America today, take for granted.

When I visit the GPO on O'Connell Street and see the pictures of the day the Irish declared independence from the same British Army, I wondered what must have gone on in the minds of those people that stood up for what they believed against such great odds?

**I would like us to consider the 2 monuments of stone in Joshua 4 from 2 aspects:**

- 1] A *Literal* Application and      2] A *Typical* Application

## **I. LITERAL APPLICATION**

### **A. In verses 21-24 there are THREE Stated Purposes For the Monuments**

1. **1<sup>st</sup> Purpose – Vs. 21-22** – Was so Israel's children—i.e. the next generation—might REMEMBER & RECOGNIZE how JEHOVAH God had kept His word to bring the nation into the promised land and did so by CROSSING the Jordan on DRY LAND!
  - a. The mound of Rocks IN the River:  
**PORTRAYED** the deserved judgement from which they'd been delivered.
  - b. The stacked Stones ON The West Bank of the Jordan  
**COMMEMORATED** their entrance into the land of Promise – Vs. 6-7.
  - c. Israel was NOT to forget that *what* they had and *who* they were was all a result of God provision and power!

***How were future generations to know what these stones meant?***

- **The answer should be obvious** – The parents were to teach God's ways and works to their children. A Jewish father was NOT to send off his child to a Levite priest for the answers to his questions. **The father was to answer them himself!** The book of Judges reveals they didn't do a very good job >> **READ Judges 2:6-10.**
- Daddy took a stand, grand-dad stood, they both fought the battles side-by-side, conquered the enemy, lifted up the banner & the heritage of Gods people, BUT they did not take the necessary time to teach their children how important it was to live for God

and to keep on fighting the battle to evict the pagan people from the take the land and make it completely theirs as God had promised them.

- It wasn't long after crossing the Jordan that the Israelite children were making pacts & treaties with the Canaanites, eventually inter-marrying with them and embracing Canaan's gods. Why? —Because their fathers didn't teach them to fear God and follow His ways. Right now—in this very day, secular education in our schools, and the T.V. in the home are teaching your children the very opposite of what God has taught us and what He wants us to know! And you as the parents let them do so! **What are you doing to counter act these things?**
  - We need to teach our children to REMEMBER that God created the earth and that Satan corrupted man making it necessary for Christ to go to Calvary to shed his blood for our redemption.
  - Our children need to RECOGNISE that because of sin they are sinners by birth and they need to be saved—born-again, just like their mom's & dads, accepting Jesus' payment for their sin so they won't have to go to hell.
- 2. **2<sup>nd</sup> Purpose** –The pillars of stone were to be a **REMINDER** of God's delivering power! **Vs. 24** – *“That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that IT IS MIGHTY!”* Mighty to deliver from any enemy or any circumstance.
  - a. Every Amorite, every Canaanite would look at **the pile of 12 Stones** and know that Israel was given victory over them by Jehovah God's power.
    - 1) These people as the enemy of God were a terror stricken people – **5:1**
    - 2) A Redeemed and victorious people always disheartens God's enemies.
  - b. Every Jew could look at that monument and say, “We couldn't do it, we didn't have the ability, we didn't have the answers, but God did and brought us over—HE DID IT ALL!
- 3. **3<sup>rd</sup> Purpose** – These pillars of stone would remind the nation of Israel and all the earth to **REVERE** the LORD! **Vs. 24** – *“That ye might fear the LORD your God forever.”*
  - a. Jehovah wanted them to **REALISE** that since He had delivered them from the Egyptians in Crossing the Red Sea, provided for them in and lead them through the wilderness, and since it was He who brought them across the Jordan, then the Lord God could also deliver the Canaanites into their hand!
  - b. Remembering Monuments of past victories are to remind us that God will continue to give us victory as we trust and serve Him.
    - 1) They were to fear Jehovah and not the pagan deities.
    - 2) Like them, we are to stay true to Him and not to compromise with unbelief.
    - 3) Your steadfastness and stand for Christ and His Word may be a living monument that enables another believer to take heart and stand.
  - c. The nation of Israel was to fear God forever —i.e. stay true to Him!
    - 1) Joshua didn't have to teach a crash Bible course in cults—there were scores of them all around them in the land!
    - 2) How were these people to be prepared for all the conflicting beliefs they would face in the Promised Land? —They were to know the true God!

### **ILLUSTRATION – Training of U.S. Treasury Agents**

- The agents don't study the piles of counterfeits that could and that do come there way—they become professionally schooled in the real thing—what a genuine bill is to look like so they can instantly recognise a phoney bill!
- It was the same for me when I worked in the computer business fixing equipment. I wasn't trained to repair every fault nor I did have to know every problem that could arise, causing the machine to act strange. My responsibility is to know how the machine was supposed to work!
- We are to so know the truth that we'll be able to recognise a falsehood or lie instantly. And that ability only comes by staying close to God and being in His Word.

#### **B. It is Tremendously Important to Leave Memorials for Our Children**

1. Our **LIVES** should be a legacy—a Monument to our children.
2. Our **CHURCH** should be a Monument to our children.
3. Our **MARRIAGE** relationship should be a Monument to our Children. They should be able to look back and say, I want a husband or I want a wife like my Mom/Dad.

Having considered a LITERALS Application let us now consider these monuments for...

## **II. TYPICAL APPLICATIONS**

The Book of Joshua is known as the **Ephesians** of the OT. **Ephesians** is a book that deals with *practical* Christianity. Both books teach that the victorious life of faith is lived in obedience and dependence upon God. In referring to Israel's experiences in the OT, Paul writes in **1 Cor. 10:11** – *Now all these things happened unto them for [our] examples and they are written for our admonition.*

So, how does Israel's experience apply to us today?

#### **C. The Two Piles of Stone Illustrate the Believers Spiritual Union with Christ**

1. The 12 Stones **IN the river** REPRESENT the condemnation from which we have been saved by God's grace.
2. The 12 Stones **ON the bank** REMIND us of our new Position as members of God's family and heirs of heaven.
  - a. When Christ died, we are said to have died with Him!
  - b. When Jesus was buried we are said to have been buried with Him!
  - c. And when the Lord arose from the grave, victorious over death and the penalty of sin, we are also said to have risen victorious with Him –  
**TURN >> Romans 6:6, 4-5; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 2:5-6; Col. 2:12-13**

#### **D. Today, the NT Local Church has Two Memorials, Concerning These Great Truths.**

1. The two monuments in Joshua 4 are typical of two monuments of the Local Church.
  - a. One of the monuments is *IN* the water.
  - b. One is similar to those set up at Gilgal—the rallying point for the nation.
  - c. Can you guess what these monuments typify?
2. **The 1<sup>st</sup> Memorial** is found in **Joshua 4:9** and typifies **BAPTISM**.
  - a. The monument of stones **IN the water** reminds us that water baptism was set-up as a N.T. requirement for believers.

- b. **READ >> Matt. 3:13-17** – Jesus went *down* into the Jordan to be baptised by John. This was pleasing to the heavenly Father & fulfilled righteousness.  
**So does your baptism because of salvation please Him!**
3. **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Memorial** – is found in **Joshua 4:20** and typifies the **LORD’S SUPPER**.
- a. **LOOK >> Josh. 5:8-11** – Israel made Gilgal their base camp. There is a play on word here. Gilgal meaning “rolling away” marks the place where God “*rolled away the reproach of Egypt.*”
- b. **Josh. 9:3-6** – The events in this portion of Scripture occur sometime after Israel moved into the Promised Land. **NOTE: Vs. 6** “*Camp at Gilgal.*”
- c. **TURN >> 10:6** “*Camp at Gilgal.*” As Israel moved into the land to subdue it, Gilgal remained a place where the nation rallied together.
- 1) Gilgal was probably a **refuge** for their families to stay, while the men went to subdue the land.
  - 2) It was a secure place for “**R&R**”– Rest & Relaxation.
  - 3) It was a place for **re-arming** themselves: making arrows and other weapons, and sharpening swords.
  - 4) It was a place for **worshipping God** – they made sure of their relationship and received spiritual rejuvenation before they went back into battle.
- d. **Does this not remind us of the Lord’s Supper?**
- 1) The Supper is the rallying place of the NT church today.
  - 2) It points us *back* to Christ’s death and *ahead* to His coming again.
  - 3) It is where we REMEMBER the cost of our salvation and REMINDS ourselves of who we are and what we have in Christ.
- e. In the Book of Acts, over and over again we see the local church as the place where believers went for comfort, for help and for encouragement – where missionaries were sent out from and often returned to.
- f. **Heb. 10:25** – Warns us we are not to forsake “*the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*”
- g. **TURN >> 1 Cor. 11:23-26** – Lord’s Supper is a time to remember.
- 1) Have your children ever asked what’s in the cup?
  - 2) This is the best opportunity you’ll ever have to present Jesus Christ’s sacrificial death on the cross for their sins.

### **E. What Do These Monuments Of The Local N.T. Church Mean?**

1. Remind us for what and whom Christ came and died for! It was for the **Lost**, sinners wandering in the wilderness, bound in Egypt, sentenced to die!
2. Reminder of what Christ did for us.
3. They stand as guards over the Gospel – They are a means by which to keep the message pure.
4. In **Baptism** the Gospel is preached.
  - a. Immersion is a declaration that one has died and have been buried with Christ
  - b. Rising out of the water declares our future resurrection with Christ.

- c. When Jesus was baptised it was a prophecy of His approaching death, burial and resurrection – that is what a Christian declares!
  - d. Pouring or sprinkling water on the participants is perversions of Believer’s baptism by immersion.
    - 1) St. Patrick was reportedly dunked in a well at his baptism and, as Ireland’s apostle, he is claimed to have personally baptised 12,000 at one time in a well in Connaught during the 5th Century.
    - 2) At one time the R.C.C. immersed babies and the Greek Orthodox still does.
5. **Lord’s Supper** – preaches the suffering of Christ for sinners.
- a. Tells us there is no other way for us to commune with God other than on the basis of the broken body & shed blood of Jesus Christ.
  - b. Declares we are in fellowship with God & other believers and have personally experienced the soul saving power of Christ’s shed blood!
  - c. Reveals we are looking for His immediate return—a return that will take us to our home in glory!

#### **F. What Should These Monuments Mean To The Believer Personally?**

1. Baptism – means Identification
  - a. *FIGURATIVELY* with Christ’s death, burial, resurrection & soon return
  - b. *VISUALLY* with God’s Agent for this age—the Local Church & it’s mission.
  - c. *PRACTICALLY* with the doctrine of local church
2. Lord’s Supper – means Fellowship & Communion with God and with those church members who profess to be saved, baptised partaking of the table at the same time.
3. Where does all this happen?  
In the place called Gilgal – the rallying point for the N.T. believer = **Local Church.**

#### **CONCLUSION:**

##### **A. These two Monuments in Joshua 4 bring to mind three others than those described—three that relate to my Christian life.**

**First One** – Like the monument in the water, you can’t see it! — That is because it is set up deep down in my heart – it is the day I got saved. **READ>> Joshua 4:9** Joshua said this monument is “*there unto this day!*” This is the day I died in Christ (Rom 6:1-10)

**Second One** – Like the monument on the bank, this occurred visibly the day I was baptised.

When I initially got saved I thought that there was no need for me to be baptised as my parents had water poured on my head as an infant. That all changed when Kathi and I started attending a The Church of the Open Bible in Riverside, N. J.

I would often meet with Pastor Calvin Dobson on Saturdays pestering him to answer my questions that arose from my reading and study of the Word that week. Oh, I had a lot of ‘em!

One Saturday, I was so anxious to share with him a new discovery that before we ever got to his study I stop him and blurted out, “Pastor, I found something very interesting in the Scriptures this week.” He stopped and inquisitively looked me in the eye as I explained, “I found something very interesting in the Scriptures. I can’t believe how many people were baptised right after they were saved. Every time someone got saved in the Bible they immediately were baptised. There was no, hesitation, no praying, no arguing they just got baptised.”

*He said, “What do you make of that?”*

I said, “I thought it interesting,” and then sorta apprehensively queried, “Well, I guess I don’t need to be baptised seeing that I am already baptised – do I?”

“Well,” he wisely said, “that depends when you got saved? Just when did you get saved?”

“You know, I already told you, when I was 15, at the Methodist youth camp in Lumberton, N. J.!” I swiftly came back.

He then inquired, “When did the people in the Bible get baptised?”

I saw clearly that it was AFTER their salvation and NOT BEFORE and said, “Immediately after they were saved.”

“Well then, when did you get baptised? “He asked?

“I told you that too, “When I was a baa-bi-ee, Oh I see. Hmmm—well then Pastor, when can I get baptised?

**Third Monument** – This one occurred inwardly & visibly at a church in Rosemount, Minnesota. For 12 years I wandered around in a spiritual wilderness after my salvation until one Wed. night at a mid-week service in church I came to the realisation I never surrender my life as a living sacrifice to Jesus, yet I claimed I was willing to do anything for Him. That night in that church was where I reckon myself *“to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Rom. 6:11) and decided to start living for Jesus and not for self. Apart from salvation, that was the most dramatic event that moulded my walk with God.

### **B. Are these three monuments set up in your life?**

- **One** is under the surface — it can’t be seen—it has to do with salvation and the sealing of your soul for all eternity in the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ. Are you saved?
- **Another** is where a few can see a one-time identification in baptism by immersion with Jesus. Have you identified with other folk like yourself who also are believers and, as such, you have been baptised by immersion and joined a local church?
- **The third**, is what everybody sees daily—i.e. what your dedication is as being a living sacrifice for the Lord that gave His all for you. Are you actively sharing with those around you the blessings of your salvation?

The Jews **COULD NOT** get victory in Canaan and overcome the enemy without **FIRST** submitting to God and obeying Him by going in the Jordan and passing through its waters. Nor can the Christian today overcome their spiritual foes unless they die to self, reckon themselves crucified with Christ, and allow the Spirit of Christ to give them resurrection power!

*Do you have that power?  
Is that power evident in your life?  
Have you truly trusted Christ as your Saviour?  
If you profess to be a Christian have you be scripturally baptised?  
Are you a member of a local Bible-believing church like this one?*

5 May `91 - Lifegate B.C. – Dublin  
1991 – Calvary BF – Cork  
1 Sept. `91 – Galway BF – Galway  
10 Dec. 1995 – River Valley BC – Leixlip, Co. Kildare  
18 August 2002 – River Valley BC – Leixlip, Co. Kildare  
22 Mar. 22, 09, Eve – River Valley BC – Leixlip, Co. Kildare  
23 Mar. 22, 14, Morn – River Valley BC – Leixlip, Co. Kildare