

Study Guide for Joshua Chapter 4. For October 17, 1999

1. Recall a significant event in your life that you commemorated with something you displayed on your wall. Has anyone visiting your house/apartment asked you about it? What was the result of retelling that story?

2. What do these stones mean? Read through Joshua chapter 4 and remember that a stone monument was used as a memorial to remind future generations of what had happened at that place.
 - A. What was the significance of **12** stones?

 - B. Where had the stones come from?

 - C. Many interpreters understand vs. 9 to mean that Joshua also set up a pile of **12** stones in the **middle** of the Jordan River. Why do you think God had Joshua do this?

 - D. How could you memorialize some significant spiritual event in your life so that others would ask you to retell the story of how God acted at that time?

3. Timing is Everything. Reread the following verses and note **when** the events unfolded.
 - A. (vs. 10) “The priests remained standing in the middle of the Jordan _____ everything the Lord had commanded Joshua was done by the people.”

 - B. (vs. 18b) “..._____ had they (the priests) set their feet on dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before.”

 - C. (vs. 23a) “For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you _____ you had crossed over.”

What do you think God was teaching the Israel (and us) by orchestrating the timing of the Jordan’s flow in this way?

4. Passover at Gilgal.
 - A. The day. The writer is careful to note that the crossing of the Jordan occurred on the **tenth day of the first month**. What is the significance of that day (see Ex. 12:1-3)? Note what is recorded in Joshua 5:10-11?

 - B. The Place. What is the significance of Gilgal (see Joshua 10:15, 43; & 14:6) for Israel?

5. The Meaning of this Miracle. The text is very clear as to why God dried up the Jordan River. (vs. 24) “He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is _____ and so that you might always _____ the Lord your God.” How should this knowledge effect you?