

# JOSHUA 4 STONES

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## THEMES

### 1. Review

- a. Joshua 1: Strong
- b. Joshua 2: Spies
- c. Joshua 3: Surge
- d. Joshua 4: Stones

### 2. Mixed up **chronology**. Put the following twelve events in the correct chronological order. (Place the number to the left of the a., b., etc.)

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|--|----|
| a. "The Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel." (vs. 14)                    | 10 |
| b. "In the future, when your children ask you, 'What does this mean?' (vs. 6)        | 12 |
| c. Joshua tells the 12 to pick up the stones. (vs. 5)                                | 6  |
| d. Reuben, Gad, and the ½ tribe of Manasseh (40,000 strong) cross. (vs. 12)          | 4  |
| e. The Lord is exalted. (vs. 24)   | 11 |
| f. Joshua commands the priests carrying the ark to come out of the Jordan. ( vs. 17) | 8  |
| g. "The Lord your God dried up the Jordan." (vs. 23)                                 | 3  |
| h. The Lord dried up the Red Sea. (vs. 23)   | 1  |
| i. Joshua chooses 12 men. (vs. 2) (note: see also 3:12!!!)                           | 2  |
| j. The Twelve pick up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan. (vs. 8)           | 7  |
| k. "The whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan." (vs. 1)                      | 5  |
| l. "Joshua set up the 12 stones " (vs. 9)  | 9  |

### 3. How many times is **twelve** mentioned in this chapter? *Five times*

- a. What does the number 12 mean? *Perfection in gov't*
- b. How many tribes are there? *12* How many tribes crossed the Jordan? *12*  
cf. vs. 8
- c. How many apostles were there?
- d. In Revelation 7, how many tribes are there?
- e. In Revelation 7, how many are sealed?
- f. In Revelation 19: 4 how many elders will sit on the throne in Revelation?
- g. In Revelation 21:12 how many gates are there?
- h. In Revelation 21:12 how many angels are there?
- i. In Revelation 21:12 how many tribes are there?
- j. In Revelation 21:14 how many foundations are there?
- k. In Revelation 21:14 how many apostles are there?
- l. In Revelation 21:16 how many stadia in length is Jerusalem?
- m. In Revelation 21:17 how many cubits is the wall thick?
- n. In Revelation 21:20 how many different types of stones were used?
- o. In Revelation 21:21 how many pearls are there?

*All answers are twelve*

### 4. What is the **purpose** of the 12 stones? <sup>6</sup> *to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?'* <sup>7</sup> *tell 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.”



Lorenzo Ghiberti's sculpture from the Florence Baptistry's Door of Paradise @ 1415

5. Who is **exalted**?
  - a. *Joshua*  
Why is this important? *Joshua now becomes as great as Moses. They trust him.*
  - b. *Jehovah*  
Why is this important? *Lord is great for Israel and for pagans.*
6. Why so much **repetition**?
  - a. Twelve men taking twelve stones - 6 times
  - b. Cut off - twice in verse 7
  - c. "In the future, when your children ask you" (vs. 6) and "In the future when your descendants when your descendants ask their fathers" (vs. 21).
7. Vss. 6-7, 21-24. **Practically, how do we pass on our faith from generation to generation?**
  - a. What was the purpose of the stones? *A memorial to help our belief*
  - b. Why is it important to have something tangible to touch and see? *To help our unbelief. Just like a wedding ring.*

- c. Heidelberg Catechism: Question 66. What are the sacraments?  
*Answer: The sacraments are holy visible signs and seals, appointed of God for this end, that by the use thereof, He may the more fully declare and seal to us the promise of the gospel, viz., that He grants us freely the remission of sin, and life eternal, for the sake of that one sacrifice of Christ, accomplished on the cross.*
- d. Do you know families where one generation was devout, the second generation less so, and the third generation shows little interest?
- e. Why do some do it well and some less well?
- f. What comfort can we give those whose children have wandered from the faith? *The final answer has not been written. Cf. Samuel.*
- g. Vs. 9. Some believe that Joshua made two piles, one in the river (vs. 9) and one at Gilgal. John Calvin writes:  
Apparently there was no use of stones under the water, and it may therefore seem to have been absurd to bury stones at a depth. The others which were placed in Gilgal being publicly visible, furnished occasion for inquiry; but *stones hidden from the eyes of men at the bottom of the water could have no effect in inciting their minds.* I admit that a monument altogether buried in silence would have been useless.

### TEXT

- 8. Vss. 12-13. Why do the men of Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh lead the way? Cf. 1:14.
- 9. According to Numbers 26:7, 18, 34 how many men are in these tribes? *Reuben: 43,700, Gad: 40,500, Manasseh: 52,700 (but ½ are going over) So under ½ cross*
- 10. Why do only 40,000 cross over? *The rest are staying home to protect their families.*
- 11. Vs. 18. What miracle occurs in this verse? *As soon as their foot left, the floods return.*
- 12. Vs. 19. “10<sup>th</sup> day of the first month.” Day that the Passover Lamb is selected. (Exodus 12:3)
- 13. Vs. 19. Gilgal is about two miles north-east of Jericho. Remember that for next week’s lesson.
- 14. Vs. 22. Why is it important that Israel crossed on “dry ground”?  
Cf. vs. 23. “Dried up the Jordan before you crossed over.”  
Cf. Vs. 23. “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.”  
Why is this a special miracle? *All the ground was dry - easier to cross over. Proves that God is God as all the dry places are dry.*
- 15. How many miracles are there in the crossing of the Jordan?  
*Three:*  
*River at flood stage stops.*  
*River bed is completely dry.*  
*River resumes its course immediately after the priests’ foot touches the bank.*