

Precious Memories

Scriptural Reference: Joshua 4:1-7

Key Verses: “To serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ 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.” (*Joshua 4:6-7, NIV*)

Life Principle

Memorials are important in our journey through life, reminding us of those pivotal events that have shaped our history. God grants us favor to be able to look back and see where and how He brought us through.

Introduction

There are specific events, landmarks, and people that have impacted our lives in ways that have pushed us to great heights or have shackled our progress. Each moment can be used with wisdom to stand as constant reminders that we are stronger, wiser, and better because of it.

God gave Israel the opportunity to hold steadfast in their hearts and history the moment when God delivered them into their promise. When God opens doors for us, our responsibility is always to surrender thanksgiving and pass on the knowledge that if it had not been for God’s navigating on our behalf, we would not have made it through.

God is constantly doing something new in our lives. God is always elevating us to accomplish what others thought impossible. With Joshua’s leadership, Israel is moving with confidence into their Promised Land, believing God for a renewed purpose, reflecting on God’s guidance, and embracing the rewards through faithful following.

BIBLICAL EMPHASES FOR STUDY

I. A Renewed Pathway (*Joshua 4:1-3*)

God showed Himself faithful to the children of Israel, guiding them across the Jordan River and progressing forward into the land promised. Venturing into a place never experienced is an amazing, yet humbling moment when we

realize how God keeps His word. Israel's past had been filled with a great deal of pain and loss, but they crossed over a new path that renewed their hope and faith.

Many of us have been in predicaments that may have left us bewildered and doubtful, yet God showed up on time and favored us. Israel took twelve stones from the riverbed (as the priests were still standing on dry ground) so that they could have as an everlasting memorial the evidence of what God had done for them.

Our testimony serves as an awesome indicator of how the mighty hand of God remains over our lives. No matter how challenging circumstances may be, we have a responsibility to always share with our children, our family, our friends, or anyone else how God worked a miracle in our lives. If He opened a new path for one, how much more can He renew the pathway for you?

II. Reflecting on God's Ability (*Joshua 4:5-6*)

At the bottom of the family bookshelf was a photo album that, when viewed, opened the door to amazing questions. Looking back at how life was and what life had offered is always encouraging to the new reader and observer. That moment connects two worlds together that affirms and crystallizes how blessed we are.

The stones Israel took were precious reflecting tools that prompted many people who would view them to ask why the stones were there. The uncommon positioning of the stones would allow others to seek out all that their fathers and fathers' fathers would have experienced. There is an important connection that each generation should have with the previous. It helps to give strength, guidance, and assurance that no matter the weariness of our journey, we have something to reflect upon God's amazing ability to lead us through.

III. Response to God's Rewards (*Joshua 4:7*)

He is the God of the impossible. Israel's response to coming through the Jordan River on dry ground is a testament that God does amazing things for His people. Where God is taking us is no surprise to Him. The terrain and mountains that lie ahead are all in God's planning. We are to trust in the Lord with all our hearts, leaning not to our own understanding—and if we acknowledge Him in all our ways, then He will direct our paths (see Proverbs 3:5-6).

God's ways are not ours, so trust Him. That was the essence of Israel's response to how God rewarded them to enter the Promised Land. When you see

the memorial of stones, remember that anything is possible. Our communities are blessed to have reminders that we as a people have endured oppressive events but were able to overcome by God’s grace.

He’s able! “God will do what He said He will do” are words etched in a gospel song that encourages the listener to keep holding on. Israel’s testament-and-response song was to keep progressing forward. God will not forsake us.

Conclusion

So many persons have given up on their paths in this life, due to the reality of difficulties we all experience. It is never easy. But we have the God of all creation standing before us, aiding in our success. Be diligent to look upon those that have to climb “mountains,” and be encouraged by their persistent belief in God.

Biblical Principles for Men

- 1. How have you kept alive gratitude for God’s goodness in your life? In what ways can you share with others your gratitude?
- 2. Is it important to share in testimony God’s love for you? If so, why? Recognize that a testimony is designed to let others know of God’s goodness in one’s life.

Closing Prayer

God, we thank You for every step You have brought us through. Continue to cover us is our prayer. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.


