STUDY NUMBER FOUR - Joshua 4:1-24

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 Israel-
ites, 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 Jor-
dan was cut off before the ark of the cove-
nant 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 com-
manded them. They took twelve stones
from the middle of the Jordan, according
to the number of the tribes of the Israel-
ites, 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[a] 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 oth-
er 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[b] 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.' "

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INTRODUCTION:

Luke 22:14-20

> And when the hour had come He reclined at table, and the apostles with Him. And He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." And having taken a cup, when He had given thanks, He said, "Take this and share it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes." And having taken some bread, when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood."

Thus far in our study of the book of Joshua we saw:

1. In chap. 1 the commissioning take place as the Lord speaks, Joshua speaks, and the people speak. They are preparing to go into the land.

2. In Joshua chap. 2 the spying expedition is successful

and:

3. In chap. 3 we see the grand and glorious event: the fulfillment of the promise in the children of Israel crossing over the Jordan River on dry ground.

We could well title chap. 4: THE MEMORIALS.

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In the reading in the gospel of Luke we read: "This do in remembrance of Me." And what we have here are the two memorials to cause the people to remember God will not allow anything to stand in His way of fulfilling the promises.

Dr. Henry Brandt has been a friend for many years. He is a Christian consulting psychologist who has traveled extensively the world round to help Christian organizations in their personnel problems. He is presently in Africa

Dr. Brandt came to see me the latter part of July while he was in the area speaking. We had a wonderful afternoon of sharing together. His wife Eva had died of cancer

It was just a few short weeks later that I received this letter:

> It has been wonderful to receive piles of letters and cards expressing your sympathy and assuring me of your prayers when you heard about Marcey's sudden death. (I am sure you will understand if I write you a letter that is also addressed to others.) Your prayers were heard by a loving God whom Marcy and I both served.
>
> Let me tell you about the last few moments we had together. It was Friday afternoon, August 22, in Birmingham. Rev. Vigneulle was waiting outside to take me, the speaker, to a men's retreat. I held Marcey in my arms. She prayed that God would make this a special retreat for the men. I asked Him to look after Marcey and to use her. We kissed warmly and I departed; never to see her alive again. But we had placed ourselves in God's hands.
>
> It was a special retreat. Many men renewed their commitment to be Godly men, husbands, fathers. On Saturday, about 5:30 p.m., we left the retreat center rejoicing. I was eager to see Marcey and report that God answered her prayer.
>
> At about 5:00 p.m. the same day, Sam and Mary Glen Peeples escorted Marcey to the Anderson home. Marcey was sharing some of her life story. She related how some years back she was a confused, lonely lady in France, far from God. Her employer had sent her there to sell some property. There she met some people who helped her find God and his forgiveness for some bad decisions she had made. Marcey declared that since then she no longer feared death. Then she said she felt very strange.

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Sam said she looked like she was about to faint. They laid her on the floor and she lost consciousness.

I arrived at the hotel about 6:30 p.m. No Marcey. Mary Glen was in the lobby. We raced to the hospital where a kindly neurosurgeon told me she would not recover. She never regained consciousness.

As I think back, Sunday is blurred. I walked around in a daze. Lori, her daughter, had arrived. We did not get final confirmation of her death until 6 p.m. on Sunday. This couldn't have happened in a better place. We were surrounded by dozens of loving friends.

Monday came. I started the day surrounded by many dear friends. As we chatted, they helped me recall some precious Biblical principles that I have been teaching for forty years. Here are some of them:

1. God is the Comforter (II Cor. 1:4)
2. The Bible tells us to "rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (I Thes. 5:16-18)
3. Joy and peace are produced in us by God's Holy Spirit (Gal.5:22)
4. Although the outward man perishes, the inward man is renewed day by day (II Cor. 4:16)

These dear friends helped me to remember to practice what I have been teaching. I recalled one of my favorite Bible verses "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that day (II Tim 1:12). Like Enoch of old, he "walked with God; and he was not, for God took him" (Gen.5:24). So it happened with Marcey. Almost as quick as the twinkling of an eye, God took her. We had been inseparable for three years. She was a cheery companion. I am only beginning to appreciate all she did for me and with me.

I can tell you that God is there if we turn to Him and allow Him to comfort us and give us peace and joy. Strange as it may seen, I "enjoyed" the funeral preparations and the funeral. My family was there. So was Marcey's. Many, many friends came. My dear friend, Howard Ball, was by my side. I was able to visit with many of Marcey's business associates. It was like a reunion.

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After the funeral, Beth and Sue, my daughters; Lori, Marcey's daughter; and Inge, a friend from Holland, all came to Florida to help me deal with Marcey's personal things. We "enjoyed" being together. Inge and Sue stayed for two more weeks. These are pleasant days.

Four years ago, when Eva died, she left a huge hole in my life. God filled it from out of nowhere by allowing me to have these years with Marcey. I am so thankful for that. Now there is another huge hole. God has equally wonderful plans for the rest of my days. I anticipate the future eagerly and happily as He gives me vision and strength. The future is in God's steady, loving hands.

What a memorial this letter is of a Christian brother turning a tragedy into a triumph.

In our study we are going to see the memorials erected so the people will never forget the crossing of the Jordan into the land.

v. 1 When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua,

"When" tells us that, having been obedient, the Lord speaks again.

"The whole nation" refers to a bunch of people. It is certainly well over a million, and you can imagine, that's a pretty big city crossing.

The divine chain of command is:

The Lord speaks,
Joshua receives the message,
And then communicates it to the people.

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When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, now they were in the land. What a triumph of faith! What a glorious day this is!

Singing, Dancing, Laughter, Pure Joy And hollering! Better than winning the world series OR The Super Bowl! Just like heaven!

It has taken several hours for this vast company to make the crossing. And now as they stand in total and complete amazement on the soil of the land, they look back at that dry riverbed and the land on the other side. I am sure that many wondered why it took them so long just to believe God.

"When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua,"

v. 2 "Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe,

The Lord gives Joshua a command with regard to the twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe.

Back in chap. 3:12 Joshua had already taken care of this matter:

> "Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe."

Now we are going to see the reason for this choosing and the job that is going to be theirs to perform.

v. 3 and 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."

The Lord's message to Joshua is that these twelve men are to take up twelve stones, carry them over with them and put them down at the place where they are going to be staying this first night.

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The emphasis in the passage is on the middle of the Jordan." It is mentioned five times in this chapter.

The twelve men, then, are to get twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan where the priests stood and to carry them to the campsite.

v. 4 So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe,

The response of Joshua is to call these men together that he had already appointed, one from each tribe.

v. 5 and 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,

v. 6 to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?'

v. 7 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 in his talk to these twelve men, tells them to go over into the middle of the Jordan and get their stones and to take it to the campsite. These stones are to serve as a sign among them. In the future, when their children ask them about it, "What do these stones mean?" they will be able to 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.

Memorial of God At Work!

Sacred Spots!

① Camps - T.W. - Swimming Pool - 10 people.

② Oregon Coast -

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Whereas,
THE MIDDLE OF THE JORDAN is mentioned 5 times,
THE PRIESTS are mentioned 7 times,
THE ARK 8 times,
WHAT DO THESE STONES MEAN? 2 times
and THE LORD 14 times.

Because this is such a significant happening in the divine economy, the Lord does not want the children of Israel to forget it. So it is necessary for this sign--this memorial to be erected because this is the fulfillment of the promise in taking the children of Israel into the land of Canaan.

"These Stones Are to be A Memorial to The people of Israel Forever."

These Rocks tell You that I Keep My promises!

Maui Moments

Abraham - Hebron oaks of Mamre
Jacob - Bethel Peniel

v. 8 So 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.

The response of these twelve men is instant obedience. They are very quick to fulfill their responsibility of getting these stones and carrying them to their camp and putting them down.

v. 9 Johsua set up the twelves 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.

Joshua has twelve stones erected in the riverbed at the place where the priests stood holding the ark of the covenant while the people passed. These twelves stones, then, are in the middle of the Jordan at this spot where the priests have stood who carried the ark of the covenant.

Memorial #1

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My friend, may I say to you that Christ went into death for you and me, and that is set before us here in the book of Joshua. Twelve stones were put into the water of death. Those twelve stones were placed in Jordan to speak of the death of Christ. And the twelve stones taken out of Jordan and put on the west bank of the river represent the resurrection of Christ.
p. 30
Joshua - Judges by J. Vernon McGee

Some of the important things to remember in this chapter are that the Ark goes before and divides the Jordan River--not the rod of Moses. The Ark goes before, carried by priests. Christ goes before us through death, but goes with us through this life. Jordan is typical of Christ's death, not ours.
p. 32
Joshua - Judges by J. Vernon McGee

v.10 Now 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,

The picture here describes the crossing, as the priests remain standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything the Lord had commanded Joshua was done by the people.

Our text tells us, "The people hurried over..."

If You think they hurry Through Airports! You Ain't Seen Anything until You See A man hurry through A River!

You can imagine how they felt! They were probably anxious and afraid. None of them, except Joshua and Caleb had seen the Red Sea deliverance. It had to be real tough on them to commit themselves to the Lord's protection and provision of restraining that water until they could get across. I am sure many of them stepped very lightly and walked as fast as they could lest the wall of water come sweeping down and carry them away to their demise. in a flash flood

Got A Running Start

I can't believe I'm doing This!

Totally in God's Hands!

Trust You w/ my eternal destiny but I'm Afraid You might blow the next 24hrs.!

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v.11 and 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.

After everybody had made their safe and successful crossing, the ark of the Lord and the priests came to the other side while the people watched this happening.

v.12 The men of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over, armed, in front of the Israelites, as Moses had directed them.

The first group to go into the land was a military group from the two and a half tribes: Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh. You can just see the army band playing the Aggie War Hymn as these men in full military dress and armed to the teeth are ready for any eventuality and confrontation as they march in rank across the Jordan.

Moving into enemy territory!

All of this was done as Moses had directed them. You will remember the two and a half tribes wanted to settle on the east side of the Jordan, and the only way that that could be done is if they would agree to help their brothers, the other nine and a half tribes enter into their inheritance. They then could earn the right to go back and possess the land and have their inheritance on the east side of the Jordan. So this is what is happening here on this occasion. They are fulfilling their responsibilities to the requirements of Moses.

v.13 About forty thousand armed for battle crossed over before the Lord to the plains of Jericho for war.

They did not know what they were going to meet upon their arrival on the other side. And so they are completely ready militarily to face any opposition.

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v.14 That 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.

chap. 3:7

And the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses."

1 Peter 5:6

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.

v.15 Then the Lord said to Joshua,

v.16 "Command the priests carrying the ark of the Testimony to come up out of the Jordan."

v.17 So Joshua commanded the priests, "Come up out of the Jordan."

v.18 And 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.

The Lord used this time to exalt Joshua in the sight of all the people. He then turned to Joshua and commanded him to have the priests come up out of the Jordan. Joshua fulfilled this command and the priests came up out of the river carrying the ark of the covenant of the Lord. And no sooner had they set their feet on dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before.

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Evidently the presence of the ark was the one sufficient power by which those waters were restrained; for when the bearers regained the further bank, the stream flowed on as before (18). Is it not thus that the presence of the Saviour, whom the ark and the priesthood typified, arrests the avalanche of judgment incurred by our sins, and stays the penalty which was our just dessert? And, in addition, we are reminded that we should put Him between us and every threatening stroke of man or devil. Let Him stand between your heart and your dread. Nothing can hurt you, if you shelter yourself behind His living grace and power. But oh, how bitter will be the anguish of those, who, in rejecting Christ, have thrust away the only screen from the waters of death and judgment! It is suggested also that these are held back, only because God's people are yet passing through.

I Thess. 2:

p. 16

Choice Notes on Joshua - 2 Kings by F. B. Meyer

Reading of this passage of the river we find one great omission. The omission was purposed. There was no way of retreat provided. The river did not stand back until the Israelites saw what they could do with Jericho; no sooner were they over than the river came down as before, and Israel was locked up to his work. Thus God brings us into face-to-face conflicts; thus divine providence drives us into close quarters with the enemy. It is supposable that a host advancing to conquer a walled and ancient city might have had to bear the pressure of some sudden terror and might have desired to retire; but the river was rolling on to the Dead Sea, and there was no promise made that it should be cut in two again for the accommodation of timid or cowardly men. Some of us must be forced up to our work. We do not know what is in us or what we can do until there is no escape--battle, or death; battle, or victory.

Blocked All Retreat

p. 119

Preaching Through the Bible - Vol. III by Joseph Parker

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Exodus 14:26-31

> Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and their horsemen." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal state at daybreak while the Egyptians were fleeing right into it. Then the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. And the waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen--even Pharaoh's entire army that had gone into the sea after them. Not even one of them remained. The sons of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea and the waters were like a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians. And Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. And when Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

v.19 On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho.

Can you imagine what it must have been like as the Israelites stood on the riverbank watching as the hurrying torrent covered up their path, and then lifting their eyes to look at the opposite side where they stood that morning? There was no returning now. A new and exciting chapter in their history had begun.

But this was not the time for reflection. Joshua led the people to Gilgal, their first encampment in Canaan, about two miles from Jericho. There the stones taken out of the Jordan were set up, perhaps in a small circle. The name Gilgal means "circle."

The purpose of placing the stones was to remind Israel for generations to come that it was God who had brought them through the Jordan, just as He had taken their fathers through the Red Sea.

pp. 34-35
No Time for Neutrality by Donald K. Campbell

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Do you know what that word "Gilgal" means? It means that "the reproach has been rolled away." I want to say here that any believer, man or woman, boy or girl, living in the wilderness of carnality and spiritual defeat and failure, is a reproach. But if we have established a bridgehead, and have crossed over Jordan, the reproach has been rolled away, and Gilgal is the place of resurrection.
p. 71
Victorious Christian Living by Alan Redpath

Sin is A Reproach to Any People!

The great company of people moved on up the road just a little ways away from Jericho and set up camp at Gilgal.

v.20 And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan.

We now have twelve stones in the bed of the river, and we have twelve stones here at their initial campsite in the land. The question that comes to us is What is the significance of these two sets of stones?

We have already learned that they are to be a sign or a memorial that God has done a great work and has been faithful in the fulfillment of his promise.

The invisible stones in the riverbed are a reminder to Joshua of the place where God was faithful.

The visible stones set up at Gilgal are a memorial of the power of God to the children of Israel and the people of the earth.

Death
Resurrection

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It is another thing altogether to bury all our self-born aims and desires in Jordan's swift flowing flood, and to pass through to that higher life where no desires or purposes are tolerated but those of our blessed Lord Himself. It was one thing for Abram to leave Ur of the Chaldees and go out in faith at God's behest. It was another thing--for him to climb Moriah and lift the knife to slay his beloved Isaac. Yet the crisis must be. There was no other way of decisively determining whether God was to be supreme in the life and love of the soul. There was no need for further testing after that; and God said: "By Myself have I sworn, because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son, that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore." Abraham's Moriah and Israel's Jordan are the same crisis under different names. There is an Isaac to be sacrificed, a Jordan to be crossed, in the history of every redeemed soul. Abraham yielded his Isaac. Israel crossed the Jordan.

John 12:24, 25

p. 257

Explore the Book by J. Sidlow Baxter

In our study of chapter 3 we noted together that:

> Egypt represents the natural man.
> The Red Sea represents salvation.
> The wilderness represents the desert experience of a carnal Christian living in the flesh rather than in the spirit.
> The Jordan represents the moment of surrender and
> Entering into the land of Canaan represents the spiritual man.

Coming to these stones in the river, then, we are dying to ourselves--we are surrendering ourselves up to the Lord and to His purposes for our lives. We are going to let Him LEAD and LIVE and LOVE through us. His will is our primary concern. His desire is uppermost in our thoughts and lives--what does He want us to do and how does He want us to live?

So Send I You

to leave Your life's Ambition

to die to dear desire

Self will Resign. . . To Labor long + Love where

men Revile You So Send I You to lose Your life

in mine.

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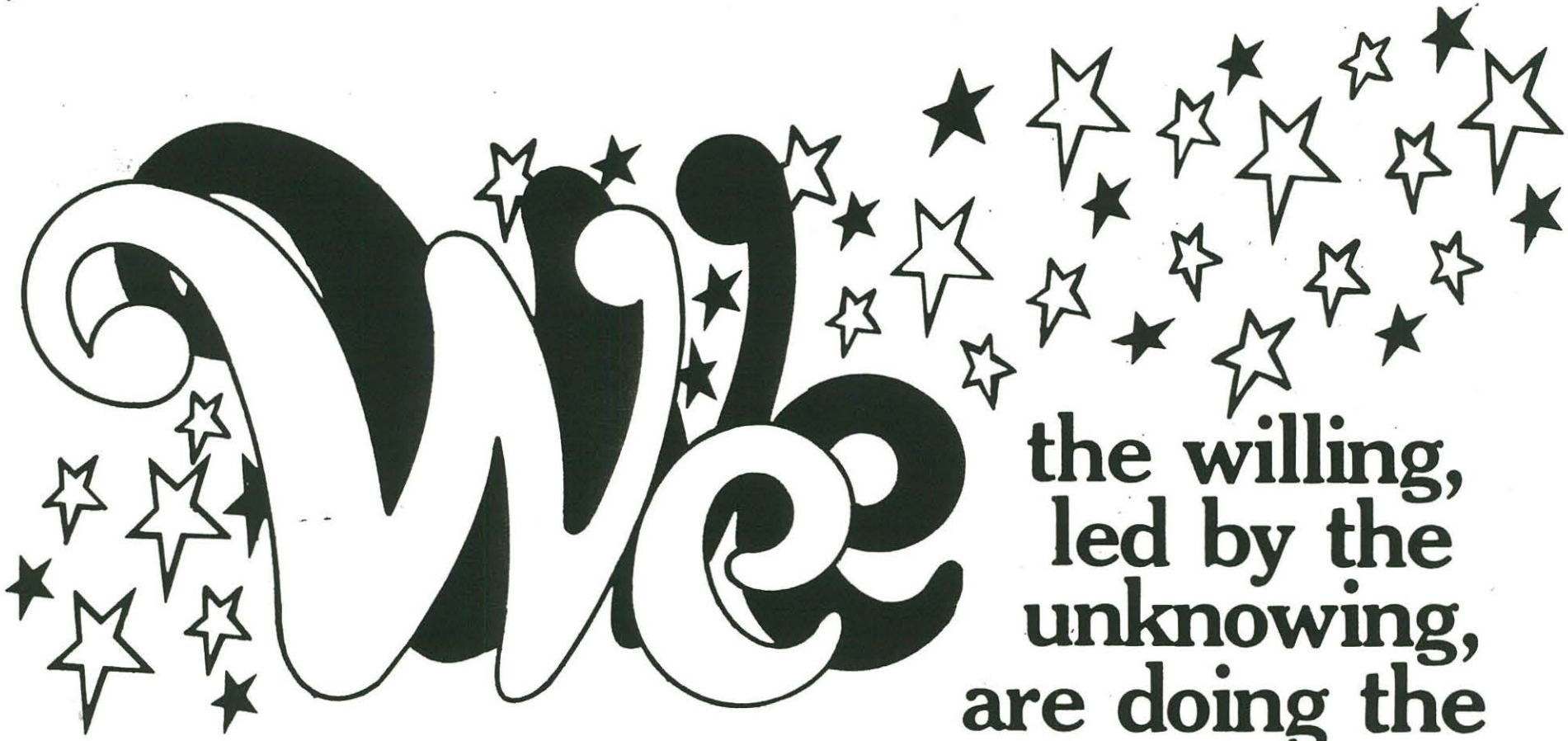

the willing, led by the unknowing, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful. We have done so much for so long, with so little, we are now qualified to do anything with nothing.

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As soon as they arrive at the campsite, Joshua sets up these twelve stones that were taken out of the Jordan. First he does this, and then he speaks to them.

v.21 He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their fathers, 'What do these stones mean?'

Joshua brought this to the twelve representatives from the tribes earlier in the passage. He is telling them to get the stones and then in verse 6 he says,

> to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?'

v.22 tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.

pink

That cairn of stones was to signify that Israel had not crossed the Jordan by their own ability, but because of the miracle-working power of God. It was a representation unto them that they had passed through the river's bed dryshod. More especially, it was an earnest and pledge of what God would yet do for them.

Second, that monument was designed as a "memorial" that Israel had passed through the river of death, that they were now (typically) on resurrection ground, that judgment lay behind them. Israel upon the Canaan side of Jordan adumbrated that blessed truth expressed by our Redeemer in John v, 24, where He so definitely assures His people that each soul who hears His word and believes on the One who sent Him "hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life." The reason why he shall not "come into condemnation" is because in the person of his Surety he has already been condemned and suffered the full judgment of God upon all his sins, and therefore,

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judicially, as federally united to Christ, he "is passed from death [that death which is the wages of sin] unto life"--that "life" which is the award of the Law, as it was "magnified" by the Saviour and "made honourable" (Isa. xlii, 21). As the ark of the covenant entered the river of death and judgment the flow of its waters was stopped until the ark had secured a safe passage for all who followed it; so Christ endured the unsparing wrath of God that by His atoning death those who were legally one with Him, and who are made voluntary followers of Him, shall be delivered from all future judgment.
p. 114
Gleanings in Joshua by Arthur W. Pink

What do these stones mean? Tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.'

v.23 For 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.

Joshua and Caleb are the only two who had experienced this phenomenon. The rest of them had only heard about it. And now by personal experience they have seen the Lord faithful in making provision for his own in drying up the Jordan. And so it is critical for them to memorialize this occasion in their history. The way they choose to do it is by these twelve stones at Gilgal.

v.24 He 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.'"

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Exodus 14:31

> And when Israel saw the great power which the Lord had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Deut. 3:24

> O Lord God, thou hast begun to show thy servant thy greatness, and thy strong hand: for what God is there in heaven or on earth, who can do such works and mighty acts as thine?

Zeph. 3:17

> The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.

There is a two-fold purpose here for all the peoples of the earth. ① It is so that they might know the hand of the Lord is powerful, and ② for the Israelites that they might fear the Lord their God. They might worship, respect, and recognize his great desire to bless and make provision for them as they are obedient to his word.

The memorial stones had yet another purpose, "that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty". Thus, as the families of Israel spent their first night in the land, their hearts may well have been filled with uncertainty and fear. The mountains rising steeply to the west looked foreboding. But as the people looked at the 12 stones out of the Jordan, they were reminded that God had done something great for them that day. Surely they could trust Him for the days ahead.
p. 36
No Time for Neutrality by Donald K. Campbell

** Memorializing what has been done gives confidence for the future! What He has done + will do

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These stones are to be a sign and a memorial of God's great power and his ability to fulfill his promises.

There have been many memorials given in human history that remind us, especially at the time of death, how meaningful the departed one's contribution to life has been.

Dwight L. Moody:

At the funeral services he offered the most affectionate tribute to that mother's wisdom and loving devotion.

Holding in his hands the old family Bible and the worn book of devotions, he stood by the form of the departed one, and said:

"It is not the custom, perhaps, for a son to take part in such an occasion, but, if I can control myself, I should like to say a few words. It is a great honor to be the son of such a mother. I do not know where to begin; I could not praise her enough. In the first place, my mother was a very wise woman. In one sense she was wiser than Solomon; she knew how to bring up her children. She had nine children, and they all loved their home. She won their hearts and their affections; she could do anything with them.

"Whenever I wanted real, sound counsel, I used to go to my mother. I have travelled a good deal, and have seen a good many mothers, but I never saw one who had such tact as she had. She so bound her children to her that it was a great calamity for them to have to leave home. I had two brothers that lived in Kansas and died there. Their great longing was to get back to their mother. My brother, who died in Kansas a short time ago, had been looking over the Greenfield papers for some time to see if he could not buy a farm in this locality. He had a good farm where he was, but he was never satisfied; he wanted to get back to mother. That is the way she won her family, she won them to herself.

"I have heard something within the last forty-eight hours that nearly broke my heart. My eldest sister has told me that the first year after my father died mother wept herself to sleep every night. Yet she was always bright and cheerful in the presence of her children. Her sorrows drove her to the Lord. I would frequently wake up and hear her praying. She used to make sure her children were all asleep before she poured out her tears.

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"There was another remarkable thing about my mother. If she loved one child more than another, no one ever found it out. Isaiah, he was her first boy; she could not get along without Isaiah. And Cornelia, she was her first girl; she could not get along without Cornelia, for she had to take care of the twins. And George, she couldn't live without George. What could she ever have done without George? He stayed right by her, through thick and thin. She couldn't live without George. And Edwin, he bore the name of her husband. And Dwight, I don't know what she thought of him. And Luther, he was the dearest of all, because he had to go away to live. He was always homesick to get back to mother. And Warren, he was the youngest when father died, it seemed as if he was dearer than all the rest. And Sam and Lizzie, the twins, they were the light of her great sorrow.

"She never complained of her children. It is a great thing to have such a mother, and I feel like standing up here today to praise her. And just here I want to say, before I forget it, you don't know how she appreciated the kindness which was shown her in those early days of struggle. Sometimes I would come home and say, 'Such a man did so and so,' and she would answer, 'Don't say that, Dwight; he was kind to me.'

"Friends, it is not a time of mourning. I want you to understand we do not mourn. We are proud that we had such a mother. We have a wonderful legacy left us. What more can I say? You have lived with her, and you know about her. I want to give you one verse, her creed. It was very short. Do you know what it was? I will tell you. When everything went against her, this was her stay: 'My trust is in God.'"
(The Life of Dwight L. Moody by W. R. Moody)

(While practicing law in his native state, George G. Vest, a one-time United States Senator from Missouri, was called upon to defend a farmer whose dog was accused in some relatively unimportant damage suit. In the course of his defense, Vest delivered the following impassioned plea to the jury, and as a result won the case, and a reputation of oratory. The dog long ago died of the ills of advancing years, but Vest's tribute lives on, and is today one of the most frequently quoted bits in the English language.)

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Gentlemen of the Jury,--

The Best Friend a man has in the world may turn against him and become his enemy. The son or daughter that he has reared with loving care may prove ungrateful. Those who are nearest and dearest to us, those whom we trust with our happiness and our good name may become traitors to their faith. The money that a man has he may lose. It flies away from him, perhaps, when he needs it most. A man's reputation may be sacrificed in a moment of ill-considered action. The people who are prone to fall on their knees to do us honor when success is with us, may be the first to throw the stones of malice when failure settles its cloud on our heads. The one absolutely unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is his dog. A man's dog stands by him in prosperity and poverty, in health and sickness. He will sleep on the cold ground where the wintery winds blow, and the snow drives fiercely, if only he may be near his master's side. He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer; he will lick the wounds and sores that come in an encounter with the roughest of the world. He guards the sleep of his pauper master as if he were a prince. When all other friends desert he remains. When riches take wings and reputation falls to pieces, he is as constant in his love as the sun in its journeys through the heavens. If fortune drives the master forth an outcast in the world, friendless and homeless, the faithful dog asks no higher privilege than that of accompanying him, to guard against danger, to fight against his enemies. And, when the last scene of all comes, and death takes the master in his embrace, and his body is laid away in the cold ground, no matter if all other friends pursue their way, there, by the grave-side, will the noble dog be found, his head between his paws, his eyes sad, but open to alert watchfulness, faithful and true, even in death. (KIXL "Think-It-Overs")

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How quick we are to forget the horrible price that was paid for our redemption. We have been commanded to memorialize this in the ordinance of the Lord's Supper: "This do in remembrance of me."

Romans 6:1-10

> What then shall we say? Are we to continue in sin in order that grace might increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that in the same manner as Christ was raised up from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we too might walk in a new life. For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with him, in order that the sinful body may be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; for the one who died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we are believing that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, no longer is dying; death is no longer exercising lordship over him. For the death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life that he lives, he lives to God.

It is precious indeed when one enters into the reality of all this. The hymn writer has expressed it beautifully in the following verses:

> Jesus died and we died with Him,
> Buried in His grave we lay;
> One with Him in resurrection,
> Soon with Him in heaven's bright day.
> Death and judgment are behind us,
> Grace and glory are before;
> All the billows rolled o'er Jesus,
> There exhausted all their power.

p. 54
Joshua, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther by H. A. Ironside

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Identifying with Jesus Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection is the foundation for victory over sin in our daily lives. Living in union with the indwelling Christ provides the way to victory.

CONCLUSION:

What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: God wants us to call to remembrance his mighty works.

LESSON #2: The Lord always goes before us to lead the way.

LESSON #3: The stones in the middle of the river speak of our death and burial with Jesus Christ.

LESSON #4: The stones at Gilgal speak of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and our new life in him.

LESSON #5: The people hurried over because they were still anxious and afraid.

LESSON #6: God has waited until now to exalt Joshua before the people.

LESSON #7: The hand of the Lord is powerful.

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LESSON #8: God is faithful to fulfill his promises to us.

120 people were waiting in Jerusalem. In their togetherness, they were united. Their hopes were high. Their hearts were all set to be lit and set aflame. (Read all about this tense hour of history of the Bible, in the first chapters of Acts.)

120 people were filled with the Third Person of the Godhead. They became fervent in spirit. They started preaching. . . healing. . . evangelizing. . . traveling. . . working. . . and writing. You may not understand all that took place but one thing is for sure. . . there were 120 people shaken and left with hearts burning for God.

Their thermostats had been turned up! The fire was in the furnace of their hearts and minds. . . not just in their emotions. This first century Optimists Club has had few equals in history.

Cheerful . . . happy . . . overflowing . . . this was their outlook on life and their attitude toward living itself. Like a tea kettle . . . they kept on singing until they were up to their noses in hot water.

Pessimist or optimist . . . join the 120 club. (Always Too Soon to Quit by Robert D. Foster)

what Kind of Memorial Are You leaving behind

Fervent
Faithful
Fruitful

Don't Have Any Memorials. Haven't Responded to God!

(1) Guy Falling OFF The Roof
Let Go & Trust Me.
Anybody else up there.

(2) Catching Monkeys in the Celebes!

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