

# Possessing the Promises of the Kingdom

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## Don't Get Stuck In The Middle

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Joshua 4:1-11

In this chapter of Joshua, we rediscover that the God who has offered us promises for the future, which sustain us in the present, understands our tendency to lose touch with matters of ultimate concern in our pre-occupation with the unrelenting demands of the present. Therefore, He creates for us memorials, reminders that help keep our focus on our roots. This chapter dramatically reveals the importance of remembering. Israel has finally passed over the Jordan River. The priests had, all this time, kept high the Ark of the Covenant so that all those passing over could see it. The very presence of God was stationed in the midst of the Jordan River so that all of the nation might cross without getting stuck in the middle. To keep from getting stuck in the middle, we must understand its present significance, its potential setbacks, and God's prescribed solution.

### 1. Spiritual significance

'Take twelve stones from here **out of the midst of the Jordan**, from the very place where the priests' feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.'" (Joshua 4:3 ESV)

- a. The middle of the Jordan was the \_\_\_\_\_ of the river
- b. The middle of the Jordan was the \_\_\_\_\_ in the river
- c. The middle of the Jordan was the \_\_\_\_\_ of the river

GOD "CUT OFF" THE WATERS. To "cut between" is the definition of covenant. God's covenant with His children is to make a path through any obstacle.

## 2. Potential setback

And Joshua said to them, "Pass on before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, **and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder**, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel,  
(Joshua 4:5 ESV)

- a. Why a stone?
  - i. Potential – it's solid, foundational, useful in \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. Setback – it can be a \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Why the shoulder?
  - i. Potential – to develop the character of \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. Setback – to destroy with \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. God's prescribed solution

... this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, **'What do those stones mean to you?'**<sup>7</sup> then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. **So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever.**" (Joshua 4:6-7 ESV)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ your experience with God
  - i. What you \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. What you \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii. What you \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ your experience with God with your children
  - i. It is your \_\_\_\_\_ (Deut 6:4-9)
  - ii. \_\_\_\_\_ about building a heritage of faith
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ you are God's witness to the world

so that **all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty**, that you may fear the LORD your God forever."  
(Joshua 4:24 ESV)