

Possessing the Promises of the Kingdom

Life On The Rocks

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April 19, 2009

Joshua 4:9-11

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 preoccupation 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. God instructed Joshua to create a memorial of twelve stones at Gilgal, the place where they lodged that night. This is a picture of living life on the rocks.

The rocks were:

1. A Sign of _____

" When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the **Lord said to Joshua**, "Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, and command them, saying, '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 4:1-3 ESV

a. The phrase "*the Lord said to Joshua*" occurs 13 times

b. Repetition in scripture emphasizes two things

i. _____ to be done *and*

ii. _____ was to be done

2. Evidence of the _____

"and command them, saying, '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

3. A Reminder of God's _____

... this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, '**What do those stones mean to you?**'⁷ 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)