

# Possessing the Promises of the Kingdom

---

## A Trip Down Memory Lane

Pastor William D. Tyree, III

April 26, 2009

Joshua 4:1-24

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. Like Israel, the believer is challenged to remember:

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ God has given us.

"Then Joshua called the twelve men from the people of Israel, whom he had appointed, a man from each tribe. 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, that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?'" Joshua 4:4-6 ESV

This victory is to be looked upon as an expression of \_\_\_\_\_.

"It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt." Deuteronomy 7:7-8

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ God has given us.

"**And the people of Israel did just as Joshua commanded** and took up twelve stones out of the midst of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, just as the Lord told Joshua. And they carried them over with them to the place where they lodged and laid them down there." Joshua 4:8 ESV

Blessings come through \_\_\_\_\_.

"And Samuel said, "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? **Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice**, and to listen than the fat of rams."

1 Samuel 15:22

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ God has performed for us.

"And he said to the people of Israel, "When your children ask their fathers in times to come, 'What do these stones mean?' **then you shall let your children know**, 'Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.'"

Joshua 4:21-22

- a. Tell them that God \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Tell them that in \_\_\_\_\_ God showed up.
- c. Tell them that \_\_\_\_\_, not even the elements can \_\_\_\_\_ our God.
- d. Tell them that our God is in heaven and \_\_\_\_\_.

"Command the priests bearing the **ark of the testimony** to come up out of the Jordan.'" Joshua 4:16 ESV