

Hunter Whiddon

TBC – Arlington, Texas

October 11, 2020 – Sunday Morning

# Setting Memorials In Life

Joshua 3–4

## Joshua 3:1–17

### I. Joshua preparing God's people physically

**1** And Joshua rose early in the morning; and they removed from Shittim, and came to Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. **2** And it came to pass after three days, that the officers went through the host; **3** And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it. **4** Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore.

## **II. Joshua preparing God's people spiritually**

**5** And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.

**6** And Joshua spake unto the priests, saying, Take up the ark of the covenant, and pass over before the people. And they took up the ark of the covenant, and went before the people.

**7** And the Lord said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee. **8** And thou shalt command the priests that bear the ark of the covenant, saying, When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan.

## **III. Joshua preparing God's people mentally**

**9** And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, Come hither, and hear the words of the Lord your God.

**10** And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you, and that he will without fail drive out from before you

the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites, and the Perizzites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Jebusites. **11** Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth passeth over before you into Jordan.

#### **IV. Joshua commanding Israel according to the direction of the Lord**

**12** Now therefore take you twelve men out of the tribes of Israel, out of every tribe a man. **13** And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap.

#### **V. The people of Israel follow God's command**

**14** And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people; **15** And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,) **16** That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came

down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho.

**17** And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.

### **What have they been through?**

- 40 years of wondering
- Waiting on the report from the two spies
- Deciding whether they were going to trust God's direction
- The transition of Joshua becoming the leader of the Jews
- The crossing of the Jordan River

### **What did God do for them?**

- Delivered them from the 40 years of wondering
- Received a good report from the spies
- God kept His promises
- God empowered Joshua to lead the Jews
- God provided a way across the River

## Joshua 4:1–10

### VI. God commanding His people to make a memorial

**1** And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the Lord spake unto Joshua, saying, **2** Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man, **3** And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night. **4** Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man: **5** And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of Jordan, and take you up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel:

### VII. The significance of a memorial

**6** That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones? **7** Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.

## **VIII. The Israelites obey the command of God**

**8** And the children of Israel did so as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones out of the midst of Jordan, as the Lord spake unto Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them unto the place where they lodged, and laid them down there. **9** And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood: and they are there unto this day.

**XI. The priests continued on with their duty of standing in the river so the other people could fulfil the will of God for their lives.**

**10** For the priests which bare the ark stood in the midst of Jordan, until everything was finished that the Lord commanded Joshua to speak unto the people, according to all that Moses commanded Joshua: and the people hastened and passed over.

**We need to** set up memorials in our life so we can see where we have been, how we have grown spiritually, and how God has brought us from where we were to where we are today.

**What can be a memorial today?** Wedding ring, communion table, Bible, house, church building, etc.

We all need to set memorials through our lives so we can see the work of God in our lives.