

# "On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

# JOSHUA 4

## Joshua 4

Joshua four records the setting up of a memorial of twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan River as the children of Israel passed through it on dry ground. This is a similar miracle to what some of those walking through the Jordan had seen at the Red Sea, over forty years before. Some say that Joshua set up two piles of stones; one – in the midst of the river that could have been seen at the rivers low ebb, two – that Joshua got twelve men to take out twelve stones from the midst of the river where the priests were standing and set them up on the side where they camped, or three – that Joshua had set up twelve stones in the middle of the river until the children of Israel had crossed, then took those stones and set them up on the bank where the camp was after the Ark came out. The plain sense of the scriptures is the first, two sets of stones as memorials to the miraculous work of God. It took a miracle to get them out of Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea; and it took a miracle to get them into the Promised Land, the parting of the Jordan River.

In the Evangelical church in America, especially in the Free

Church/Separatist movements like Baptists and others, the idea of memorials is not thought of very highly; probably because of extremes that have taken place. But that is like throwing out the baby with the bathwater. That kind of thinking has brought about a disastrous effect in some measure. Memorials can become a thing of idolatry and false worship, as we will see with the "Brazen Serpent" that had been a symbol of healing, became an idolatrous thing by the time of King Hezekiah some 700 years later. But that was 700 years! Memorials are good and needed in any home, in any people and in any church or nation. They remind us of the goodness of God and where He has brought us. Some memorials remind us of a time we need to learn from, as in not to ever repeat, but most are for our good and should be.

### Prayer and Action Steps

Examples of memorials being set up are throughout the entire Bible. Places, people, and acts are to be remembered across the generations. Ask God to help you to remember His blessings through memorials you might set up for Him

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture \_\_\_\_\_

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

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What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

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Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

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Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act?

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Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions?

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Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible?

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