

JOSHUA CHAPTER 4

¹ And when the people had completely passed over the Jordan, the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying, ² "Take men from among the people, one from each tribe, ³ and command them; and you shall take out of the midst of the Jordan twelve fit stones, and having carried them across together with yourselves, place them in your camp, where you shall encamp for the night." ⁴ And Joshua, having called twelve men of distinction among the children of Israel, one of each tribe, ⁵ said to them, "Advance before me in the presence of the Lord into the midst of the Jordan, and each having taken up a stone from there, let him carry it on his shoulders, according to the number of the twelve tribes of Israel, ⁶ that these may be to you continually for an appointed sign, that when your son asks you in the future, saying, 'What are these stones to us?' ⁷ then you may explain to your son, saying, 'The River Jordan was dried up from before the ark of the covenant of the Lord of the whole earth, when it crossed over'; and these stones shall be for a memorial for you for the children of Israel forever."

⁸ And the children of Israel did so, as the Lord commanded Joshua; and they took up twelve stones out of the midst of the Jordan, (as the Lord commanded Joshua, when the children of Israel had completely passed over) and carried these stones with them into the camp, and laid them down there. ⁹ And Joshua also set twelve other stones in the Jordan itself, in the place that was under the feet of the priests that bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord; and they are there to this day.

¹⁰ And the priests that bore the ark of the covenant stood in the Jordan, until Joshua *had* finished all that the Lord commanded him to report to the people; and the people hurried and passed over. ¹¹ And it came to pass when all the people had passed over, that the ark of the covenant of the Lord passed over, and the stones before them. ¹² And the sons of Reuben, and the sons of Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh passed over armed before the children of Israel, as Moses commanded them. ¹³ Forty thousand armed for battle went over before the Lord to war, to the city of Jericho. ¹⁴ In that day the Lord magnified Joshua before all the people of Israel; and they feared him, as *they did* Moses, as long as he lived.

¹⁵ And the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying, ¹⁶ "Command the priests that bear the ark of the covenant of the testimony of the Lord, to go up out of the Jordan." ¹⁷ And Joshua commanded the priests, saying, "Come up from the Jordan." ¹⁸ And it came to pass when the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord had come up from the midst of the Jordan, and set their feet upon the land, *that* the water of the Jordan rushed back to its place, and went as before over all of its banks.

¹⁹ And the people went up out of the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month; and the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, to the east of Jericho. ²⁰ And Joshua set these twelve stones which he took out of the Jordan, in Gilgal, ²¹ saying, "When your sons ask you, saying, 'What are these stones?' ²² Tell your sons, that Israel went over this Jordan on dry land, ²³ when the Lord our God had dried up the water of the Jordan from before them, until they had passed over; as the Lord our God did to the Red Sea, which the Lord our God dried up from before us, until we passed over. ²⁴ That all the nations of the earth

might know, that the power of the Lord is mighty, and that you might worship the Lord our God in every work.”