

Joshua Ch 4

Living a life of Victory

Book of Joshua is a historical record of the nation Israel entering & possessing the land God promised to Abraham and his descendants—today known as **Palestine**.

Joshua **Heb** form of NT Jesus—**God is salvation**. XXL calls it the **book of Jesus**. As Joshua led Israel into the promise land, Jesus leads all believers into the full blessings of God using spiritual principles & strategies to access all Gods has for us--abundant life—victorious Christian living

Ephesians 1:3;18,19 Blessed be the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

Crossing the Jordan ch 3,4 by faith—only way to access Gods promises.

We discover many enemies to be conquered on our journey of faith. God gives His word, He's conquered & already given victory--our part is battling before the blessing--**theme of the book & of our Christian experience**.

A rule thru-out is the **bigger** the battle the **bigger** the blessing. Aim determines our life w/ Him—none, low, mediocre, or best & highest.

Before rushing into battle we must assess, take inventory & learn some lessons. First is waiting on the Lord for the battle plan. God always gives strategy to defeat the enemy. If act hastily, impetuously **w/o divine wisdom** & rush in rashly, in energy of flesh **we mess things up**. **Peter/sword, Ai/flesh**

Joshua Ch 4

Living a life of Victory

1 Now it came about when all the nation had finished crossing the Jordan, that the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying, 2 "Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from each tribe, 3 and command them, saying, 'Take up for yourselves twelve stones from here out of the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet are standing firm, and carry them over with you, and lay them down in the lodging place where you will lodge tonight.'" 4 So Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the sons of Israel, one man from each tribe; 5 and Joshua said to them, "Cross again to the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan, and each of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Israel. 6 "Let this be a sign among you, so that when your children ask later, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' 7 then you shall say to them, 'Because the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off.' So these stones shall become a memorial to the sons of Israel forever." 8 And thus the sons of Israel did, as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, just as the LORD spoke to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Israel; and they carried them over with them to the lodging place, and put them down there.

By faith we enter the land of promise & by faith we conquer the enemy.

Gilgal is home base as Capernaum home base of Jesus & disciples.

Beginning of promises fulfilled w/ Gilgal **Dt 11:30** . They return often in times of victory & defeat--place of remembrance (**rolled away reproach 5:10**)—what God had done in the past gives hope & faith to do again in the future.

Alan Redpath-Do you know what that word "Gilgal" means? It means that "the reproach has been rolled away." I want to say here that any believer, man, woman boy or girl, living in the wilderness of carnality & spiritual defeat & failure, is a reproach. But if we have established a bridgehead, & have crossed over Jordan, the reproach has been rolled away, & Gilgal is the place of resurrection

12 stones in river bed while priest stand as they bring them to promise side & make a pile as a memorial

Matthew Henry Concise Commentary-**The works of the Lord are so worthy of remembrance, & the heart of man is so prone to forget them, that various methods are needful to refresh our memories, for the glory of God, our advantage, & that of our children. God gave orders for preparing this memorial.**

Setting up physical memorials to spiritual milestones reinforces the reality of God's power in our lives

Joshua Ch 4

Living a life of Victory

I lost **two memorial bibles** one in **India** left on train other **parking lot** across from Empress. Israel's stones of remembrance reproach rolled away- **Also** **Ebenezer** stone-stone of help-Israel victory Philistines at Mizpah **1Sam 7:12**

Our property—plumb line-**Amos 7:8a** *And the LORD said to me, "What do you see, Amos?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "Behold I am about to put a plumb line in the midst of My people Israel....* Alignment, upright, tool to finish the work--perfect vertical wall so not veering off. **Hale koa branch**—date May 16, 2004

9 Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan at the place where the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant were standing, and they are there to this day. 10 For the priests who carried the ark were standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything was completed that the LORD had commanded Joshua to speak to the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua. And the people hurried and crossed; 11 and it came about when all the people had finished crossing, that the ark of the LORD and the priests crossed before the people. 12 And the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over in battle array before the sons of Israel, just as Moses had spoken to them; 13 about 40,000, equipped for war, crossed for battle before the LORD to the desert plains of Jericho. 14 On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; so that they revered him, just as they had revered Moses all the days of his life. 15 Now the LORD said to Joshua, 16 "Command the priests who carry the ark of the testimony that they come up from the Jordan." 17 So Joshua commanded the priests, saying, "Come up from the Jordan." 18 And it came about when the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD had come up from the middle of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up to the dry ground, that the waters of the Jordan returned to their place, and went over all its banks as before.

Twelve stones representing each tribe. God is concerned for each person & families. He is faithful to bring those of faith into all His promises by His miracle working power. Stones on banks of promise land & in middle of Jordan. Memorial to succeeding generations how God makes a way thru the impossible to any and all who exercise faith in Him.

A little boy was in a church w/ his grandfather. Full of curiosity, the boy kept asking, "What does that mean?" Grandpa patiently explained everything that was going on. When the minister began his sermon, he took off his watch & placed it on the podium. The boy whispered, "What does that mean"? Grandpa, who had heard many long sermons, that sent the service into overtime, answered, **"Not a thing, son. Not a thing."**

Joshua Ch 4

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For NT believers there is great meaning--Jordan & Gilgal a symbol **or** type of death & resurrection—old buried & newness of life coming out of water.

No matter how deep, wide, dark or overflowing w/ sin (Jordan overflowing banks) God makes a way by & thru the cross of Christ. The people of Israel went down into the Jordan then up again into the Promise land. **Pic for us**

Romans 6:4 Therefore we have been buried w/ Him thru baptism into death in order that as Christ was raised from the dead thru the glory of the Father so we too might walk in newness of life'

So the Jordan is death to self-live & coming up to newness of life--alive in Christ '***Unless a grain of wheat fall into the ground and die it remains by itself alone but if it dies it bears much fruit Jn 12:24.*** So Gilgal is a place of new life, resurrected life, life renewed.

19 Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth of the first month and camped at Gilgal on the eastern edge of Jericho. 20 And those twelve stones which they had taken from the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal. 21 And he said to the sons of Israel, "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, 'What are these stones?' 22 then you shall inform your children, saying, 'Israel crossed this Jordan on dry ground.' 23 "For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed, just as the LORD your God had done to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed; 24 that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, so that you may fear the LORD your God forever."

It was 40 years to the day God inaugurated Passover & delivered from bondage of Egypt ***Ex 12:2,3 "This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you. 3 "Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, 'On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, according to their fathers' households, a lamb for each household....***

A celebration, as left Egypt, God victorious over Pharaoh. God got first generation out of Egypt but couldn't get Egypt out of them....Wandered in

Joshua Ch 4

Living a life of Victory

wilderness 40 years & died out of lack of faith & disobedience. A 40 year funeral march.

Exodus 13:8-9,14 You shall tell your son on that day, saying, 'It is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.' 9 "And it shall serve as a sign to you on your hand, and as a reminder on your forehead, that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth; for with a powerful hand the LORD brought you out of Egypt. :14 "And it shall be when your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is this?' then you shall say to him, 'With a powerful hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

But now at Gilgal (2nd Gen) (**reproach rolled away**) a place of renewal, fresh start, they vicariously learned the lessons of defeat from the last generation (**as we do from parents – close friends**). **"Don't go back to a place of unbelief, don't go back to Egypt"** Don't go back to false promises of world

In mid-1700's Robert Robinson at age 23 wrote the hymn, **Come, Thou Fount-** The third stanza of the hymn says, **Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love.** The words express the battle Robert & all of us struggle w/ in our Christian walk. Years later Robert backslid & got far away from the Lord. While crossing the country in a stagecoach, a worldly Robinson heard a woman humming his hymn. She told him it was a song she dearly loved & was he familiar w/ it. Robert was broken & overcome with emotion & said to her, **"Madam, I am the poor unhappy man who wrote that hymn many years ago & I would give a thousand worlds if I had them, to enjoy the feelings I had back then."**

Sin never gives, it only takes.

Stand on Gods promises on victory ground. **Eph 6:11;13-18** 11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to **stand firm** against the schemes of the devil...13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to **stand firm**. 14 **Stand firm** therefore, **HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,** 15 and having shod **YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;** 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. 17 And take **THE HELMET OF SALVATION,** and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

But I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly after I have preached to others I myself be disqualified 1cor 9:27

Romans 7:14-8:1 Our job—direction--fail forward. God's job is our perfection

Joshua Ch 4

Living a life of Victory

We are either a victim of the world, flesh, devil or victors over these things. Victors recognize memorials God has given—**reminders He is near & helps**

Stones from the bottom of the Jordan (**death**) now on the banks of Gilgal (**resurrection-new life-fresh start**) We are to tell others, testimony of God's miraculous power to save *Ps 78:4-8* **4 We will not conceal them from their children, But tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wondrous works that He has done. 5 For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should teach them to their children, 6 That the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, That they may arise and tell them to their children, 7 That they should put their confidence in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments, 8 And not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not prepare its heart, And whose spirit was not faithful to God.**

12 men-1 each tribe--symbol unity of nation & Gods oneness of His people

Twelve repeated 6x's ch 4 *men 2x's *stones 4x's – **Twelve is found in 187 places in the Bible. Revelation alone 22 times. 12 is considered a perfect number it symbolizes God's power & authority--perfect government, completeness--the nation Israel as a whole.** Gilgal 6mi to Jordan

Gilgal & Jordan 2 memorials life & death--water of baptism & life of promise. This Easter a memorial—for many a new beginning

Jesus Revolution movie stone of remembrance—Memorial to miracle of God

Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills of South Dakota is a memorial, by sculptor Gutzon Borglum in 1941, a reminder that America is 'one nation under God...the land of the free and the brave'. Sixty foot high granite heads of four US Presidents; George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt remind us of our nation's heritage and history