

# **A Time to Stop and Remember**

## **Joshua 4**

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1. The reason we need to observe Memorial Day is because we tend to forget.
  2. One of the most intriguing memorials was erected when Joshua led the people of Israel across the River Jordan.
  3. God's people today sometimes suffer from spiritual amnesia. That's why throughout the Bible God's people are exhorted to remember Him.
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- I. God Tells Us How We Are to Remember. Joshua 4:2, "Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe."
    - A. We are to remember God for His mighty acts.
    - B. Our worship is a memorial of all that God has done in our lives. Revelation 5:9, "And they sang a new song: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.'"
  
  - II. God Tells Us Why We Are to Remember. Joshua 4:6, "to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD."
    - A. God desires His people to remember for the purpose of instruction.
      1. "He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God." (4:24)
      2. "kings along the coast heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until we had crossed over, their hearts melted and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites." (5:1)
    - B. God wants His people to remember for the purpose of commitment.
      1. "...took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this...in remembrance of me.'" (1 Corinthians 11:24-25)
      2. "Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf." (1 Corinthians 10:15-16)
  
  - III. God Wants Us to Remember for the Benefit of the Future. Joshua 4:19-20, "On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan."
    - A. This was a time to leave all old defeats and failures in the past.
    - B. The monument that was built with those twelve stones was to serve as a visible reminder of the faithfulness of God.