

Joshua 4

Verses 1-7

Now when the entire nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying, ²“Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from each tribe, ³and 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 firmly, and carry them over with you and lay them down in the encampment where you will spend the night.’” 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 This shall be a sign among you; when your children ask later, saying, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’ ⁷ then you shall say to them, ‘That 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.”

Now when the entire nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying, ²“Take for yourselves one man from each tribe, ³and command them, saying, ‘Take up for yourselves twelve stones and carry them over with you and lay them down in the encampment where you will spend the night.”

When all 2.5 million Israelites had crossed the river, 12 representatives went back to gather 12 stones to make a memorial where they spent the night.

⁶ **This shall be a sign among you; when your children ask later, saying, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’**

This event would mark the beginning of them taking over their official home land.

Future generations could visit this memorial and learn what God had done for Israel

The whole bible is a historical record of the things that God has done for his people.

See video 405 3.1 - The bible is a book of History

<https://www.levickfamily.com/3.1.html>

Verses 8-14

So the sons of Israel did exactly 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 encampment and put them down there. 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 when all the people had finished crossing, *then* the ark of the Lord and the priests crossed in front of the people. ¹² The sons of Reuben, the sons of Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over in battle formation before the sons of Israel, just as Moses had spoken to them; ¹³ about forty thousand 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.

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.

There were TWO memorials.

The first memorial was at the place of the first night's encampment.

The second one was in the midst of the river where the priests had stood.

The sons of Reuben, the sons of Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over in battle formation before the sons of Israel, ¹³ about forty thousand equipped for war

The 2 ½ tribes had 110,000 men of war and they sent 40,000.

During the 7 year war the troops served on a rotational basis with 40,000 serving on the front lines in battle against the 7 nations while the other 70,000 were in the reserves and served as a force to protect the women and children of Israel from surprise attacks and to maintain a workforce for the community.

See chart 410

1st and 2nd Census

	Numbers 1 2-1-02	Numbers 26 year 39
Tribe	1ST Census	2ND Census
Reuben	46,500	43,730
Simeon	59,300	22,200
Gad	45,650	40,500
Judah	74,600	76,500
Issachar	54,400	64,300
Zebulun	57,400	60,500
Ephraim	40,500	32,500
Manasseh	32,200	52,700
Benjamin	35,400	45,600
Dan	62,700	64,400
Asher	41,500	53,400
Naphtali	53,400	45,400
Total	603,550	601,730

2 1/2 tribes

43,730

40,500

26,350

110,580

The 2 1/2 tribes had 110,000

And sent about 40,000

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.

There is no doubt that there was a lot of complaining concerning their circumstances (water & food) but they went to Moses about these issues because they knew God had chosen him as their leader. There were a few times when Moses faced some serious opposition, but for the most part the people had a healthy respect for his authority.

Verses 15-18

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 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.

It came about when the priests had come up from the middle of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan returned to their place, and went over all its banks as before.

In Joshua 3:13 it says,

the waters of the Jordan will be cut off, *that is*, the waters which are flowing down from above; and they will stand in one heap.

If the water stood up in a heap, how could the water return to the same flow rate as before? This had to be another miracle.

The amount of water that backed up while 2.5 million people crossed would have created a huge canyon from Adam to the Dead Sea when it was released.

God must have released the backed up water in such a way that the river returned to its previous flow rather than creating an overwhelming flood.

Verses 19-24

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 As for those twelve stones which they had taken from the Jordan, Joshua set *them* 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 so 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.”

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.

God had given Israel a new calendar in 1446 BC, two weeks before they left Egypt.

See Exodus 12:1-2

See also the time line for Exodus.

See pic 415

Exodus time line

Exodus	Event	Year 1 - 1446	Place
12:2	New Calendar	1-1-01	Egypt
12:3	Select a lamb	1-10-01	Egypt
12:37	The Exodus from Egypt	1-15-01	Rameses
14:21-22	Crossing of the Red Sea		Read Sea
15:23	Bitter water		Marah
15:27	12 springs and 70 palm trees		Elim
16:1	Manna and quail	3-15-01	The Desert of Sin
17:1	no water, Amalekites defeated		Rephidim
18	Judges appointed		Near the Mountain of God
19:1	Camped in front of the mountain	4th month	The Desert of Sinai

They camped at Gilgal (on the eastern edge of Jericho) that night.

So why do all the maps show Gilgal to the NE or NNE?

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

At both places the ground was made dry so the people could pass.

See Ex. 14:22

The sons of Israel went through the midst of the sea on the dry land, and the waters *were like* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

See Joshua 3:17

And the priests who carried the ark stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan while all Israel crossed on dry ground

Why is this important?

The Red Sea was 10 miles wide and reached a depth of ½ mile. Try moving 2.5 million people with their supplies and cattle across this kind of terrain if it was wet and muddy.

The same would be true at the Jordan River (to a lesser degree of course).

**So 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.**

God wanted all the surrounding nations to hear about this so they would know that it came from Him. There were many gods at that time but only ONE could do the miracles that He was doing.