

Week 22
144/221

Transforming Daily
“... a memorial to the children ...”
Joshua 4:7

The book of Joshua is one of the greatest books of victory and conquest in the Bible. Here in chapter four is the record of the children of Israel crossing the Jordan as they entered the Promise Land. The Jordan was high and swiftly moving, yet God told the children of Israel to cross over. It was no small feat. The families of nine-and-a-half tribes and the fighting men of the remaining two-and-a-half tribes of Israel crossed over. The children of Israel crossed over one-and-a-half miles upstream and one-and-a-half miles downstream because of the distance they were to maintain away from the Ark of the Covenant (I have heard it estimated that there were anywhere from 70,000 to 2,000,000 Israelites that crossed over the Jordan). According to Scripture, at the time of the crossing, it was no narrow, shallow brook or wadi, but a strong flowing river.

Faith and obedience, something that the Israelites were often short on, was what was required to cross the Jordan. They did cross under the leadership of Joshua as God had commanded Him. And as a reminder of the crossing a representative from the twelve tribes took a stone (apparently very large stones) from the river bed and placed it on the shore that they had crossed over to. These stones served as a memorial to the future generations of Israelite children of the provision of God and the obedience of those Israelites that crossed over after Joshua.

Memorials are just that, to either mark events of celebrate, honor or warning. There are memorials all over the world. As a United States citizen, obviously the memorials erected on our soil are more important to me. There isn't enough room on this page to list the memorials erected in remembrance of this great nation's short existence, and every one of them reminds me of God and country.

I am proud to be an American. I am extremely proud of my dad's 20 plus years of service to this country in the USAF. A service that took him away from my mother, my siblings and me for one year at a time for three years (Greenland, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam), not to mention the special assignments, TDYs, etc., that kept him away from us serving our country for weeks at a time.

There are many military personnel that have done and are doing the very same thing. Thank you for your service, and may God continue to keep you and your family safe as well as this great nation because of your faithfulness and obedient response to the need for “watchman” to preserve this country's justice and liberty as a memorial to the children.