

ECHO CHURCH

YEAR 1 • MONTH 5 • WEEK 3

CROSSOVER

S E R I E S

"Evidence on the Other Side"

Joshua 4:1-9, 20-24 (NKJV)

Rich Saunders Jr. | May 17, 2026

6 That this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' 7 Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.

Joshua 4:6-7 (NKJV)

In Joshua 3, Israel crosses the Jordan. The priests step in. The water stops. The people pass over on dry ground. It is the miracle they needed. But Joshua 4 shows us what happens after the miracle, and what happens next is not what most people expect.

God does not tell them to celebrate. He does not tell them to strategize. He does not tell them to begin the conquest. Before any of that, He gives them an assignment: go back into the riverbed and pick up stones.

Twelve stones. One for each tribe. From the middle of the Jordan. From the place where the priests stood firm. From the very spot where the miracle happened.

The first act after the crossover was not celebration. It was not conquest. It was not strategy. It was remembrance. God wanted them to carry evidence from the place that should have stopped them. Because many people want the blessing of crossing over, but they do not always understand the responsibility of remembering.

When God brings you through something, the danger is not always that you will forget the pain. Sometimes the danger is that you will forget the grace that carried you through the pain.

Do not get so excited about where God brought you that you forget what God brought you through.

M1 God Makes You Remember What You Survived

"Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood firm." (Joshua 4:3)

God tells them to take stones from the middle of the Jordan. Not from the shore. Not from the land. Not from a safe or convenient place. From the middle. And that detail matters, because the middle was the place of tension. The middle was the place of risk. The middle was where faith had to stand when there was no way back and no full arrival yet. The middle was where God sustained them when they had no other option but to trust Him.

The stones had to come from the place where God held them. Because God does not want His people to cross over and forget what it cost to get there. The enemy loves when people receive the blessing and start acting as if they were always stable, always strong, always together. He loves spiritual amnesia. But God interrupts that impulse before it starts.

He says go back. Pick up a stone. Carry something from the place that should have overwhelmed you. Because you need reminders that say you did not get here by yourself. You did not survive because you were strong enough. You did not cross because conditions were perfect. You are standing on the other side because God held back what should have taken you out.

Some of your greatest evidence will come from the places that tried to erase you.

APPLICATION

Before you ask God for the next wall to fall, pause and remember the river He already brought you through. Some people are frustrated because Jericho is still standing, but they have not taken time to honor God for the Jordan that already opened. The fact that you are on the other side is evidence. The fact that you still believe is evidence. The fact that you did not lose your mind is evidence. The fact that you are still saying yes to God is evidence.

DECLARATION I have evidence that the river did not win.

CROSS REFERENCES

- **Psalm 124:1-2** | If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, let Israel now say.
- **Lamentations 3:22-23** | Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

M2 God Gives You Evidence Before He Gives You Explanation

"That this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come..." (Joshua 4:6)

The stones were gathered before the children ever asked the question. Joshua 4:6 says that this may be a sign when your children ask in time to come. The memorial was built before the conversation happened. God told them to create the evidence before anyone needed the explanation. That sequence is intentional. God did not say wait until people ask questions and then figure out what to show them. He said build it now because the questions are coming later.

This matters deeply because some things God does in your life will not make sense to everyone immediately. Some people will only understand later. Some seasons will not be fully explainable until time has passed and perspective has formed. And God is not waiting for you to have a complete theological framework before He asks you to carry the evidence. He is asking you to hold what He did even before you have language for all of it.

There are some things God is doing in you right now that may not be fully explainable yet, but it is still evidence. You may not have the full language for it. You may not know all the reasons. You may not understand every detail. But you know that God brought you through. And that knowing is enough to build a memorial on. They did not explain timing. They simply testified that the Lord brought us through.

You do not need to understand everything God did to remember that God did it.

APPLICATION

Do not let your inability to explain every season cause you to minimize the evidence of God's hand on your life. You may not know why it took that long. You may not know why it had to happen that way. You may not know why some people left or why God used that particular path. But you know this: God kept you. God carried you. God sustained you. God brought you over. That is your stone. Carry it.

"I may not have every explanation, but I still have evidence."

DECLARATION I may not have every explanation, but I still have evidence.

CROSS REFERENCES

– **John 9:25** | One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.

M3 God Turns Your Memory Into Ministry

"When your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' Then you shall answer them..." (Joshua 4:6-7)

The stones were not built for private reflection. They were built for public instruction. God designed the memorial to provoke a conversation. He wanted Israel's children to see the stones, ask the question, and receive the answer. The monument was a teaching tool intended to carry the testimony of God's faithfulness from one generation to the next. It was not a personal keepsake. It was a community declaration.

Your testimony is not just about what you survived. It is about who needs to hear what God did. There are people assigned to your story. Somebody needs to know that God still opens rivers. Somebody needs to know that obedience still matters. Somebody needs to know that faith still works. Somebody needs to know that God can bring a whole family, a whole church, a whole generation through what looked impossible. And the only way they will know is if someone who crossed over is willing to say so.

This is why the enemy fights testimony with such consistency. Because testimony turns memory into ministry. Revelation 12:11 says they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. The blood is what Jesus did. The testimony is what you say about what Jesus did. When you speak what God brought you through, you are not just processing your past. You are providing language for someone else's hope.

God did not give you evidence so you could hoard it. He gave you evidence so somebody else could have language for hope.

APPLICATION

There are people who will not just be helped by your success. They will be helped by your honesty. Not performative honesty. Not trauma for attention. But Spirit-led testimony that says let me tell you what the Lord has done. Your children need to know. Your family needs to know. Your church needs to know. Not so they can idolize you, but so they can trust God.

DECLARATION *My memory is becoming ministry.*

CROSS REFERENCES

- **Psalm 78:4** | We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord.
- **Revelation 12:11** | And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.

M4 God Uses Evidence to Protect You From Pride

"For the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over... that you may fear the Lord your God forever." (Joshua 4:23-24)

The stones reminded Israel of something specific and necessary. They reminded them that it was the hand of the Lord that was mighty. Not their planning. Not their strength. Not their organization. The Lord dried up the waters. And that reminder was not incidental. It was

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protective. Because success can create spiritual amnesia, and spiritual amnesia produces pride, and pride rewrites the story in ways that remove God from the center of it.

When people get to the other side, the temptation begins to build a narrative that credits the crossing to human capacity. I crossed because I was smart. I crossed because I was gifted. I crossed because I had a plan. I crossed because I was disciplined. And none of those things are dishonest on their own, but they become dangerous when they replace the honest accounting that God supplied what human effort could not. The stones interrupted that rewrite before it could take hold. Evidence keeps your memory honest.

Israel walked, but God dried the river. The priests stood, but God held the water. Joshua led, but God performed the miracle. Obedience was their participation. Power was God's contribution. And you cannot carry both of those realities into the promised land without humility becoming the posture of your life. Because what you are standing in now was made possible by what God held back then.

Obedience was their participation, but power was God's contribution.

APPLICATION

The blessing of crossing over must not produce pride. It must produce reverence. When you remember correctly, you worship differently. You do not worship like somebody who earned it. You worship like somebody who was carried. You do not serve like somebody who deserves it. You serve like somebody who received mercy. You do not lead like somebody who owns it. You lead like somebody who has been entrusted with it.

DECLARATION *I will not let the blessing make me forget the Hand that brought me here.*

CROSS REFERENCES

- **Deuteronomy 8:17-18** | Then you say in your heart, My power and might have gained me this. And you shall remember the Lord your God.
- **1 Corinthians 15:10** | But by the grace of God I am what I am.

M5 God Gives You Evidence for the Battles Ahead

“For the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea...” (Joshua 4:23)

Joshua 4 happens before Jericho. The stones were not only a reflection on what God did behind them. They were preparation for what God was about to ask of them ahead. Before Israel ever faced the walls of Jericho, before the first march around the city, before any battle strategy was given, God gave them a reminder of the Jordan. And He did it intentionally, because the next challenge would require the same kind of faith that the crossing had required.

If God opened the river, He can bring down the wall. If God handled the water, He can handle the city. If God was faithful in the transition, He will be faithful in the conquest. The evidence

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behind them was designed to generate courage for what was in front of them. This is the forward dimension of testimony that most people miss. We think of remembering as a backward-facing activity. But God uses the memory of His past faithfulness to fuel present obedience.

David understood this. When he stood before Goliath, he did not lead with confidence in his own ability. He led with evidence. The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. The lion and the bear were David's stones from the river. They were proof that God had moved before. And that proof was the foundation of his courage in a new and larger moment. Evidence from yesterday gives courage for tomorrow.

The evidence behind you is supposed to strengthen the obedience in front of you.

APPLICATION

When you face the next wall, do not forget the last river. When you face the next diagnosis, do not forget the last deliverance. When you face the next decision, do not forget the last instruction. When you face the next battle, do not forget the last breakthrough. God has already given you evidence. The crossing was not the end of faith. The crossing was proof that faith still works. And that proof is what you carry into every new challenge.

DECLARATION I have enough evidence to trust God again.

CROSS REFERENCES

- **1 Samuel 17:37** | The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.
- **Romans 5:3-4** | Tribulation produces perseverance; perseverance, character; character, hope.

CONCLUSION

The question in Joshua 4 is simple: What do these stones mean?

And that is still the question. What does your survival mean? What does your testimony mean? What does your healing mean? What does your restoration mean? What does your crossover mean?

It means God was faithful. It means the water did not win. It means the obstacle was real, but it was not final. It means the river was full, but God was stronger. It means the place that should have buried you became the place God gave you evidence.

So do not cross over and forget. Do not get blessed and forget. Do not get healed and forget. Do not get stable and forget. Do not get free and forget.

Carry the evidence. Build the memorial. Tell the story. Because somebody is going to ask what these stones mean. And you are going to say: this is where God brought me through. This is

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where He held back what tried to overwhelm me. This is where obedience met power. This is where the Lord made a way. This is my evidence on the other side.

The other side is not just proof that you crossed. It is proof that God kept His word.

Carry the evidence. Build the memorial. Tell the story.