

CROSSING JORDAN AND STACKING STONES

I. Joshua 3:1-17 Joshua 4:1-24 Joshua 5:1

A. After our Church met in our home for the first year and 9 months of our early existence, we were ready to meet in a public place. So we leased space in what was once the basement of the old Methodist Church. We were there for 11 years. Besides some wonderful times in the Lower Room, we often had floods. *'We've never walked on water here but we've sure walked through a lot of it!'*

B. In early 2000, we decided it was time to move. On our last Sunday in the land down under, I asked our folks at that time to do something. We had a wooden cross in our sanctuary and it was surrounded by large stones. I asked each family represented to pick up one of those stones, carry it home, and keep it until a day came when we had our own building. Many wondered if that day'd ever come...

C. Then we moved and met at Millersport Elementary for the next 13 years. During that long season, many building opportunities came and went. That is, until this lovely Chapel was offered to us for free in 2013. Like the Gospel, we didn't deserve it; could never have afforded it; and yet it was freely given. Grace! That was 10 years ago. So the first Sunday we met here, folks still around brought their stones from our old church basement days and that's why they lie here before this pulpit. Today we'll get an idea where such a notion came from...

D. Joshua 3:1-17 (ESV) tells us it's time to cross the Jordan...

1) V1-3: 1 *Then Joshua rose early in the morning and they set out from Shittim. And they came to the Jordan, he and all the people of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. 2* *At the end of three days the officers went through the camp 3* *and commanded the people, "As soon as you see the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it. (The Ark of the Covenant represented the power and presence, the very Throne, of Almighty God!)*

2) V4: 4 *Yet there shall be a distance between you and it, about 2,000 cubits in length. (1,000 yards; 10 football fields) Do not come near it, in order that you may know the way you shall go, for you have not passed this way before." (Follow it, but not too close. Fear leads to trust leads to eager obedience...)*

3) V5: 5 *Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you." (Consecration involved ceremonial washings and refraining from intimacy with your spouse.)*

4) V6-10: 6 *And Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the Ark of the Covenant and pass on before the people." So they took up the Ark of the Covenant and went before the people. (The crossover begins!) 7* *The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. 8* *And as for you, command the priests who bear the Ark of the Covenant, 'When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.'" 9* *And Joshua said to the people of Israel, "Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God." 10* *And Joshua*

said, "Here is how you shall know that the living God is among you and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites. **(Who are the "Ites" in your life who still need driven out?)**

5) V11-15: 11 Behold, the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD of all the earth is passing over before you into the Jordan. **12** Now therefore take twelve men from the tribes of Israel, from each tribe a man. **13** And when the soles of the feet of the priests bearing the Ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap." **14** So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant before the people, **15** and as soon as those bearing the Ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the Ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), **(Flood stage! Perhaps as wide as Buckeye Lake! Let's have a miracle!)**

6) V16-17: 16 the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. **(So the heap happens 20 miles up river.)** And the people passed over opposite Jericho. **17** Now the priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan. **(Dry ground! Do any of your versions say, muddy ground? Should we see what happens next?)**

E. Joshua 4:1-24 (ESV) tells the rest of the story...

1) V1-9: 1 When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, **2** "Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, **3** and command them, saying, 'Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests' feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.'" **4** Then Joshua called the twelve men from the people of Israel, whom he had appointed, a man from each tribe. **5** And Joshua said to them, "Pass on before the Ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, **6** that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' **7** then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever." **8** And the people of Israel did just as Joshua commanded and took up twelve stones out of the midst of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, just as the LORD told Joshua. And they carried them over with them to the place where they lodged and laid them down there. **9** And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant had stood; and they are there to this day. **(Perhaps Joshua made a second memorial to amplify God's mighty act.)**

2) V10: 10 For the priests bearing the Ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the LORD commanded Joshua to tell the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua. The people passed over in haste. **(Doubtful they passed over quickly because they feared the heap of water would give way. More likely they were**

stoked about what God was doing! Covenantal history was unfolding before their eyes! What a stark contrast to what took place here 40 years prior! I imagine Joshua & Caleb were fist-bumping all day!)

3) V11-24: **11** *And when all the people had finished passing over, the Ark of the LORD and the priests passed over before the people.* **12** *The sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh passed over armed before the people of Israel, as Moses had told them.* **13** *About 40,000 ready for war passed over before the LORD for battle, to the plains of Jericho. (Marines!)* **14** *On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel, and they stood in awe of him just as they had stood in awe of Moses, all the days of his life.* **15** *And the LORD said to Joshua,* **16** *“Command the priests bearing the Ark of the Testimony to come up out of the Jordan.”* **17** *So Joshua commanded the priests, “Come up out of the Jordan.”* **18** *And when the priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD came up from the midst of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up on dry ground, the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks, as before.* **19** *The people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and they encamped at Gilgal on the east border of Jericho.* **20** *And those twelve stones, which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal.* **21** *And he said to the people of Israel, “When your children ask their fathers in times to come, ‘What do these stones mean?’* **22** *then you shall let your children know, ‘Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.’* **23** *For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up for us until we passed over,* **24** *so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever.”*

F. Joshua 5:1 (NIV) assess the regional impact: **1** *As soon as all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their hearts melted and there was no longer any spirit in them because of the people of Israel.*

G. There are some famous stones throughout the Bible. (The Flintstones aren't among them!) There's the stone on which Jacob laid his head when he dreamt of that celestial ladder with angels going up and down. He named it Bethel. (*Bethel means, "House of God." Think about it: The House of God built upon a single, certain Rock!*) The Ten Commandments of course were carved in stone. These were placed in the Ark of the Covenant. There were those large stones, rocks actually, at Massah & Meribah, where water flowed out to quench the thirst of God's people. Then there were those five smooth stones David selected and yet only one was needed to slay Goliath! Daniel saw a Stone cut from Rock that became a Mountain that filled the earth! It crushed the mighty super powers then and then to come! When Jesus rode into Jerusalem to waving palm branches, the Pharisees were apoplectic! So they scolded Jesus! He replied, *"If these keep silent, the stones will cry out!"* Then a week after that there was that rolled-away-stone they'd placed before Jesus' tomb three days earlier. It was meant to keep Him in. But still He strolled right on out!

H. But Peter tells us of the Greatest of all Stones. 1 Peter 2:4-10 (NIV) declares: **4** *As you come to Him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him--* **5** *you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.* **6** *For in Scripture it says:*

“See, I lay a Stone in Zion, a chosen and precious Cornerstone, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.” (Isaiah 28:16) 7 Now to you who believe, this Stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The Stone the builders rejected has become the Cornerstone,” (Psalm 118:22) 8 and, “A Stone that causes people to stumble and a Rock that makes them fall.” (Isaiah 8:14) They stumble because they disobey the message--which is also what they were destined for. 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

I. During the week leading up to the crucifixion, the disciples were walking with Jesus as they departed the temple. They were stunned by the opulence of this grand edifice. It was 15 stories high and covered 36 acres. Jewish historian Josephus wrote of its beauty: "The outward face of the temple in its front lacked nothing that was likely to surprise either men's minds or their eyes, for it was covered all over with plates of gold of great weight, and, at the first rising of the sun, reflected back a very fiery splendour, and made those who forced themselves to look upon it to turn their eyes away, just as they would have done at the sun's own rays." **Massive and beautiful, Mark 13:1-2 (NIV) records Jesus' prophetic perspective as follows:** **1** *As He was leaving the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!"* **2** *"Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."* **Jesus foretells the temple's destruction. It came to pass in 70 AD at the hands of Roman leader Titus, son of emperor, Vespasian. The siege of Jerusalem resulted in starvation, cannibalism, murder & suicide as well as 97,000 captives and 1.1 million deaths. It was razed to nothing!**

* When Jesus walked out of the temple that day for the last time, God walked out. The massive stones might as well have been peddles when the *Rock of Ages* left the building. He'd be the Temple torn down on the cross and rebuilt in three days!

* But the bigger question is: Has the Stone the builders rejected been accepted or rejected by you? Is He for you a *stumbling block* or is He for you *the Chief Cornerstone*? Has the *Rock of Ages* captured your heart of hearts? One way or another, it will matter for all eternity...

* Close with Prayer...

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[Joshua 3:1-17 \(ESV\)](#)

1 Then Joshua rose early in the morning and they set out from Shittim. And they came to the Jordan, he and all the people of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. **2** At the end of three days the officers went through the camp **3** and commanded the people, "As soon as you see the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it. **4** Yet there shall be a distance between you and it, about 2,000 cubits in length. Do not come near it, in order that you may know the way you shall go, for you have not passed this

way before.” **5** Then Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.” **6** And Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the Ark of the Covenant and pass on before the people.” So they took up the Ark of the Covenant and went before the people. **7** The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. **8** And as for you, command the priests who bear the Ark of the Covenant, ‘When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.’” **9** And Joshua said to the people of Israel, “Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God.” **10** And Joshua said, “Here is how you shall know that the living God is among you and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites. **11** Behold, the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD of all the earth is passing over before you into the Jordan. **12** Now therefore take twelve men from the tribes of Israel, from each tribe a man. **13** And when the soles of the feet of the priests bearing the Ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap.” **14** So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant before the people, **15** and as soon as those bearing the Ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the Ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), **16** the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho. **17** Now the priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.

Joshua 4:1-24 (ESV)

1 When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, **2** “Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, **3** and command them, saying, ‘Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests’ feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.’” **4** Then Joshua called the twelve men from the people of Israel, whom he had appointed, a man from each tribe. **5** And Joshua said to them, “Pass on before the Ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, **6** that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, ‘What do those stones mean to you?’ **7** then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever.” **8** And the people of Israel did just as Joshua commanded and took up twelve stones out of the midst of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, just as the LORD told Joshua. And they carried them over with them to the place where they lodged and laid them down there. **9** And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the

feet of the priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant had stood; and they are there to this day. **10** For the priests bearing the Ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the LORD commanded Joshua to tell the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua. The people passed over in haste. **11** And when all the people had finished passing over, the Ark of the LORD and the priests passed over before the people. **12** The sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh passed over armed before the people of Israel, as Moses had told them. **13** About 40,000 ready for war passed over before the LORD for battle, to the plains of Jericho. **14** On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel, and they stood in awe of him just as they had stood in awe of Moses, all the days of his life. **15** And the LORD said to Joshua, **16** "Command the priests bearing the Ark of the Testimony to come up out of the Jordan." **17** So Joshua commanded the priests, "Come up out of the Jordan." **18** And when the priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD came up from the midst of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up on dry ground, the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks, as before. **19** The people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and they encamped at Gilgal on the east border of Jericho. **20** And those twelve stones, which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal. **21** And he said to the people of Israel, "When your children ask their fathers in times to come, 'What do these stones mean?' **22** then you shall let your children know, 'Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.' **23** For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up for us until we passed over, **24** so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever."

Joshua 5:1 (ESV)

1 As soon as all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their hearts melted and there was no longer any spirit in them because of the people of Israel.

1 Peter 2:4-10 (NIV)

4 As you come to Him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him-- **5** you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a Stone in Zion, a chosen and precious Cornerstone, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame." **7** Now to you who believe, this Stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The Stone the builders rejected has become the Cornerstone," **8** and, "A Stone that causes people to stumble and a Rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message--which is also what they were destined for. **9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Mark 13:1-2 (NIV)

1 As He was leaving the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" **2** "Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

Bonus Goodies

What was the Significance of Crossing the Jordan? - GotQuestions.org
<https://www.gotquestions.org/Jordan-crossing.html>

What Old Testament Promises Are for Me? - John Piper (Desiring God)
<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-old-testament-promises-are-for-me>

"Jordan" - Darin & Brooke Aldridge, Ricky Skaggs, Mo Pitney & Mark Fain
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wpJ6vj7X01w>

"Far Side Banks of Jordan" - Johnny Cash & June Carter
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpM9nZwNJlo>

Competing Voices - Crystal Kershaw (Fieldstone Counseling)
<https://fieldstonecounseling.org/competing-voices>

What Smaller Churches Get Wrong When They Look at Bigger Churches - Tim Wilson
<https://www.affinity.org.uk/church/what-smaller-churches-get-wrong-when-they-look-at-bigger-churches/>

More Verses, Quotes, Excerpts, & Extras

Genesis 28:10-32 (ESV)

10 Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. **11** And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. **12** And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! **13** And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. **14** Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. **15** Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." **16** Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." **17** And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." **18** So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his

head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. **19** He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. **20** Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, **21** so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, **22** and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."

Exodus 31:18 (NIV)

18 When the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, He gave him the two tablets of the Covenant Law, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.

Exodus 32:15-20 (NIV)

15 Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the Covenant Law in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. **16** The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets. **17** When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, "There is the sound of war in the camp." **18** Moses replied: "It is not the sound of victory, it is not the sound of defeat; it is the sound of singing that I hear." **19** When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. **20** And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

Exodus 34:1-7 (NIV)

1 The LORD said to Moses, "Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. **2** Be ready in the morning, and then come up on Mount Sinai. Present yourself to me there on top of the mountain. **3** No one is to come with you or be seen anywhere on the mountain; not even the flocks and herds may graze in front of the mountain." **4** So Moses chiseled out two stone tablets like the first ones and went up Mount Sinai early in the morning, as the LORD had commanded him; and he carried the two stone tablets in his hands. **5** Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed His name, the LORD. **6** And He passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, **7** maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished; He punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

Exodus 17:1-7 (ESV)

1 All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. **2** Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" **3** But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" **4** So Moses cried to the LORD, "What

shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” **5** And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. **6** Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. **7** And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Numbers 20:1-13 (ESV)

1 And the people of Israel, the whole congregation, came into the wilderness of Zin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh. And Miriam died there and was buried there. **2** Now there was no water for the congregation. And they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. **3** And the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Would that we had perished when our brothers perished before the LORD! **4** Why have you brought the assembly of the LORD into this wilderness, that we should die here, both we and our cattle? **5** And why have you made us come up out of Egypt to bring us to this evil place? It is no place for grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, and there is no water to drink.” **6** Then Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces. And the glory of the LORD appeared to them, **7** and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **8** “Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle.” **9** And Moses took the staff from before the LORD, as He commanded him. **10** Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, “Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?” **11** And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock. **12** And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe in Me, to uphold Me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them.” **13** These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarreled with the LORD, and through them He showed Himself holy.

1 Samuel 17:38-51 (NLT)

38 Then Saul gave David his own armor--a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. **39** David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before. “I can’t go in these,” he protested to Saul. “I’m not used to them.” So David took them off again. **40** He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd’s bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd’s staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine. **41** Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, **42** sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. **43** “Am I a dog,” he roared at David, “that you come at me with a stick?” And he cursed David by the names of his gods. **44** “Come over here, and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!” Goliath yelled. **45** David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the

name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies--the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. **46** Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! **47** And everyone assembled here will know that the LORD rescues His people, but not with sword and spear. This is the LORD's battle, and He will give you to us!" **48** As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. **49** Reaching into his shepherd's bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground. **50** So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword. **51** Then David ran over and pulled Goliath's sword from its sheath. David used it to kill him and cut off his head. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they turned and ran.

Luke 19:36-40 (NKJV)

36 And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road. **37** Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, **38** saying: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" **39** And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." **40** But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."

Daniel 2:24-49 (ESV)

24 Therefore Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation." **25** Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste and said thus to him: "I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who will make known to the king the interpretation." **26** The king declared to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?" **27** Daniel answered the king and said, "No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, **28** but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these: **29** To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and He who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be. **30** But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind. **31** "You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. **32** The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, **33** its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. **34** As you looked, a Stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. **35** Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a

trace of them could be found. But the Stone that struck the image became a Great Mountain and filled the whole earth. **36** "This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation. **37** You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, **38** and into whose hand He has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all--you are the head of gold. **39** Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. **40** And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these. **41** And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. **42** And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. **43** As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. **44** And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a Kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, **45** just as you saw that a Stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure." **46** Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him. **47** The king answered and said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery." **48** Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. **49** Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king's court.

Matthew 28:1-7 (NLT)

1 Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. **2** Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. **3** His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. **4** The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint. **5** Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. **6** He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as He said would happen. Come, see where His body was lying. **7** And now, go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead, and He is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Him there. Remember what I have told you."

Mark 13:1-2 (NIV)

1 As He was leaving the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" **2** "Do you see all these great buildings?"

replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

Isaiah 28:16 (AMP)

16 Therefore the LORD God says this, "Listen carefully, I am laying in Zion a Stone, a tested Stone, a precious Cornerstone for the [secure] foundation, firmly placed. He who believes [who trusts in, relies on, and adheres to that Stone] will not be disturbed or give way [in sudden panic].

Psalm 118:22 (AMP)

22 The Stone which the builders rejected has become the Chief Corner Stone.

Isaiah 8:14 (NKJV)

14 He will be as a [a]sanctuary, but a Stone of stumbling and a Rock of offense to both the houses of Israel, as a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Flavius Josephus Describes Herod's Temple

"The outward face of the temple in its front lacked nothing that was likely to surprise either men's minds or their eyes, for it was covered all over with plates of gold of great weight, and, at the first rising of the sun, reflected back a very fiery splendour, and made those who forced themselves to look upon it to turn their eyes away, just as they would have done at the sun's own rays. This temple appeared to strangers when they were at a distance, like a mountain covered with snow, for, as to those parts of it that were not gilt, they were exceedingly white." - *Josephus, 5th book, The Jewish Wars.*

Theological Note on Joshua 1:2

The NIV Study Bible

"Moses My servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them--to the Israelites." - *Joshua 1:2 (NIV)*

1:2: **Jordan River.** The flow of the Jordan near Jericho was not large during most of the year (less than 100 feet wide), but at flood stage in the spring it filled its wider bed, which at places was a mile wide and far more treacherous to cross. **Land I am about to give them.** A central theme of the Pentateuch (see Ge. 12:1; 50:24; Ex. 3:8; 22:31; Dt. 1:8). The book of Joshua relates the fulfillment of this promise of God.

- Theological note on Joshua 1:2, *The NIV Study Bible*, Zondervan, p. 292.

We Are Being Built Into a Temple

By Ian Traynar

We are being built into a temple,
Fit for God's own dwelling place,
Into the house of God which is the church,

The pillar and the ground of truth.
As precious stones that Jesus owns,
Fashioned by His wondrous grace,
And as we love and trust each other, (*Hallelujah*)
So the building grows and grows.
- © 1977 Kingsways Thankyou Music

Why A Pastor Quit Sports

Author Unknown

Football in the fall. Basketball in the winter. Baseball in the spring and summer. This pastor has been an avid sports fan all his life. But I've had it! I quit this sports business once and for all. You can't get me near one of those places again. Want to know why...

- * Every time I went, they asked me for money.
- * The people with whom I had to sit didn't seem very friendly.
- * The seats were too hard and not at all comfortable.
- * I went to many games, but the coach never came to call on me.
- * The referee made a decision with which I could not agree.
- * I suspected that I was sitting with some hypocrites -- they came to see their friends and what others were wearing rather than to see the game.
- * Some games went into overtime, and I was late getting home.
- * The band played some numbers that I had never heard before.
- * It seems that the games are scheduled when I want to do other things.
- * I was taken to too many games by my parents when I was growing up.
- * I don't want to take my children to any games, because I want them to choose for themselves what sport they like best.