### Joshua

## Chapter 4

1Well, after everyone had crossed the JorDan, the Lord spoke to JoShua and said:  
  
 2‘Now, select one man from each tribe, 3then tell them to go out to the middle of the JorDan and pick up 12 appropriate rocks and carry them back to the place where you’ll be camping tonight.’  
  
4So JoShua selected 12 important men from among the children of IsraEl, one from each tribe, 5and he told them:  
  
 ‘Now, walk in front of me to the middle of the JorDan, and there in the presence of the Lord, each of you must pick up a rock and carry it on your shoulders – one [rock] for each of the 12 tribes of IsraEl.  
  
 6‘These will serve as signs to future [generations], so that when your sons ask you:  
  
 ‘What do these rocks mean to us?’  
  
 7...you can tell them:  
  
 ‘The JorDan River dried up in front of the Chest of the Sacred Agreement of the Lord of the whole earth as it started passing through.’  
  
 ‘So, these rocks are to serve as reminders of this event to the children of IsraEl throughout the ages.’  
  
8And that’s what the children of IsraEl did… They did just as the Lord had commanded JoShua. They picked up 12 rocks from the middle of the JorDan (after all the children of IsraEl had finished crossing), then they carried them into their camp and laid them there.  
  
9And JoShua also had 12 further rocks placed in the JorDan where the feet of the Priests who carried the Chest of the Sacred Agreement of Jehovah had entered… And they’re still there today!  
  
10Well, the Priests who were carrying the Chest of the Sacred Agreement just kept on standing there in the middle of the JorDan until JoShua had finished doing everything that the Lord had commanded, and until everyone had crossed.  
  
  
11Then, after all the people had crossed, they carried Jehovah’s Chest of the Sacred Agreement and the rocks [to the other side]. 12Also, the sons of ReuBen, Gad, and the half tribe of ManasSeh led the way for the children of IsraEl, just as Moses had commanded them… 1340,000 of their armed men crossed [the river] before Jehovah so as to join in the attack against the city of JeriCho.  
  
14As a result, on that day, Jehovah raised JoShua’s prestige [in the eyes of] all the people of IsraEl, and they started fearing him as they [had once feared] Moses!  
  
15Then the Lord spoke to JoShua and said:  
  
 16‘Now, tell the Priests who are carrying the Chest of the Sacred Agreement [that it’s time for them to] to come up out of the JorDan!’  
  
17So JoShua told the Priests to come from the JorDan... 18And as soon as the Priests carrying the Chest stepped out of the JorDan and put their feet on dry ground, the water quickly returned and overflowed its banks, like it’d been doing before.  
  
19It was on the 10th day of the 1st month that the children of IsraEl crossed the JorDan, and they set up camp at GilGal, east of JeriCho. 20It was there at GilGal that JoShua set up those 12 rocks that they’d taken from the JorDan.  
  
21And he said:  
  
 ‘When your sons ask you what these rocks are, 22tell them that IsraEl walked over them while they crossed the JorDan on dry ground, 23back when our God Jehovah dried up the JorDan’s waters in front of them until they’d all crossed... The same as He did at the Red Sea, when He dried up its waters until we’d all crossed.  
  
 24‘[They’re here] to remind every nation on earth of the mighty power of Jehovah, and that you should always be bowing low before Jehovah your God!’