

The Witness of Faith: Seen in the LORD's Orders  
to Build a Memorial as a Witness  
Joshua 04:01–09

1. *The LORD's orders  
to build a memorial as a witness*

- a. To have from each tribe —  
secure 12 stones  
from the middle of the Jordan  
where the priests stood
- b. To carry the stones  
to the place where they set up  
camp for the night

2. *The obedience of Joshua*

- a. Called the 12 men  
who had already been  
appointed (Jos 3:12)
- b. Sent them out to the middle  
of the Jordan where the Ark  
was being held:  
To secure 12 stones, one for  
each of the 12 tribes of Israel

- 1 When the whole nation had finished  
crossing the Jordan,  
the LORD said to Joshua,
- 2 “Choose twelve men from among the people,  
one from each tribe,
- 3 and tell them to take up twelve stones  
from the middle of the Jordan,  
from right where the priests are standing,  
and carry them over with you  
and put them down at the place  
where you stay tonight.”
- 4 So Joshua called together the twelve men  
he had appointed from the Israelites,  
one from each tribe,
- 5 and said to them,  
“Go over before the ark of the LORD your God  
into the middle of the Jordan.  
Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder,  
according to the number of the tribes  
of the Israelites,

3. *The purpose of the memorial*

- a. To arouse questions from all future generations
- b. To be a witness to the power of God:  
That the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the Ark of the Lord

4. *The obedience of the men:*

*They took 12 stones from the middle of the Jordan and carried them with them to their camp site*

5. *The personal witness of Joshua to God's presence and power:  
He erected a second memorial of stones in the middle of the Jordan as a witness to God's power*

6 to serve as a sign among you.  
In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?'

7 tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."

8 So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the LORD had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down.

9 Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.