

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CROSSING OF RED SEA AND JORDAN RIVER

- 1. Red Sea terminated Israel's bondage.**
Jordan began Israel's entrance into Promised Land.
- 2. At R S Israel was escaping from her enemies.**
At J She was about to face and conquer the Canaanites.
- 3. At R S The Lord caused the Sea to go back by means of strong wind: Ex 14:21**
At J He used **NO MEANS** of nature. As soon as God stood there, the waters flowed back. Ps 114:3
- 4. The crossing of RS was done at night.**
The crossing of J was done in full daylight in the sight of all, both friend and foe.
- 5. Many were killed at RS – for the waters killed the Egyptians: Ex 14:28**
No one was killed at Jordan.
- 6. The miracle at RS was for God's People in unbelief and murmuring: Ex 14:11**
The miracle at J was for a people who were both Believing and Obedient.
- 7. Apart from Joshua & Caleb all the generations who were part of the miracle at the RS died in the wilderness – never experiencing God's gift to them of a homeland.**
The whole people crossed the Jordan to take possession of God's Gift to them.
- 8. At RS the waters were "divided" – just as God's People were: Ex 14:21**
At J the waters "stood up in a heap" – stood to attention before their Creator: Josh 3:13
- 9. At RS Israel was "Baptised unto Moses" 1 Cor 10:2, so their sins were wiped out.**
At J They enter into a new life with God – resurrection.
- 10. Therefore, they were NOT asked to sanctify themselves at RS.**
The call to sanctify was necessary at the Jordan.
- 11. The enemy's response to God's miracle at RS was Ex 25:9 "I will pursue... overtake... "**
Their response at the Jordan was terror! Joshua 5:1
- 12. After the RS miracle, Israel saw her enemies dead on the shore.**
After the J miracle, she left precious memorial stones to remember the event forever.

POINTS OF RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN THE TWO MIRACLES

1. In each case the miracle was connected with WATER – so essential to life.
2. Both were public – done in the sight of all.
3. Both required the trusting obedience of God's chosen servant, Moses & Joshua.
4. Each miracle removed a formidable barrier in Israel's path forward.
5. Each authenticated Israel's leader: Moses Ex 14:31 / Joshua Josh 4:14
6. Each presented a severe test of Faith, trust and obedience to God's chosen ones.
7. In each case they passed through the waters DRY SHOD.
8. Both miracles happened IN SILENCE. Neither was accompanied by shouts of triumph!
Nor by sounding the Shofar (ram's horn)
9. After the miracles the waters returned to normal again.
10. Both miracles inaugurated a new period in Israel's history.
11. Both showed God's Presence and Power in a mighty way to the consternation of Israel's enemies.
12. Both miracles were celebrated with Songs of Praise: Ex 15 Ps 114:3-4

JOSHUA CHAPTER 4

THE TWO MEMORIAL STONES

- We must remember God's miracles in our lives: We **MUST NOT FORGET** – otherwise we will forget **who God is** in Himself – and who He is **FOR US**.
- If God has done something great for you the Enemy **WANTS** you **TO FORGET** it and become **UNGRATEFUL** children, who do not **give** love **for LOVE**.

4:1 Only when **all** the People successfully crossed the Jordan did God give the next command to Joshua. God gives us **TIME** to obey Him before moving on...

4:2-3 **Choose 12 men representing the 12 Tribes. They are to take 12 STONES from the centre of the Jordan and carry them to the Promised Land.** They will stay in Gilgal that night. (v 19)

4:4 Joshua obeyed.

4:5 Joshua commanded the 12 to cross over **ahead** of the Ark... carry the stones on **your shoulders**.

4:6 These are a sign for future generations who will ask **“What is the MEANING of these stones?”**

4:7 Then you shall testify to future generations **KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE** [“Do this in memory of Me!]

4:8 The **men** obeyed... and carried them across to the other side.

4:9 (NB) **Then Joshua set up 12 stones IN THE MIDDLE of the Jordan IN THE PLACE where the feet of the Priests bore the Ark of the Covenant**

AND THEY ARE THERE TO THIS DAY!



So they have 2 Memorials – one in the River and one in Canaan.

Ⓝ Israel left **NO MEMORIAL** at the Red Sea – or in the Red Sea... so the scholars say!

But, in 20th century a huge memorial stone was found at the place **of the crossing** of the Red Sea. cf Ex 15:4,5: **“The depths of the sea covered them! (the Egyptian foes) they sank to the bottom LIKE A STONE!**

→ chariot wheels and other memorabilia were found on the seabed – to make the 20th and 21st centuries **remember.**

- { Ex 15 is a Song of Redemption of Israel through Moses
[Rev 15 is the Song of Redemption of everyone through Moses **and** Jesus!
- Those who sang the song of Redemption at the Red Sea had **previously** sought deliverance through the blood of the Passover Lamb in Ex 12.
Those who sing the Final Song of Redemption in Revelation 15 have all sought refuge and deliverance in the **precious Blood of the Lamb**: cf Jn 1:29 / Eph 5:27 1 Pet 1:19 / Heb 9:14

Notice that one of the very remarkable things about the crossing of **THE JORDAN** is the **ABSENCE** of enemies!! At the Red Sea the enemies were “on their heels” to destroy them.

- so here we are looking at a more advanced stage of **SPIRITUALLY**. God is with them in a very special way: their enemies are cowed and terrified!

- the Jordan River was **sanctified** by God’s Presence.

- God was able to ACT on their behalf **BECAUSE** of their **OBEDIENCE** to His Divine Will.

- The Jordan River not only represents **DEATH** but **JUDGEMENT**.
“**JOR**” (in Hebrew!) means “to spread” and “**DAN**” means Judgement. cf Gen 30:6
- Israel understood this well in later history – for John the Baptist exercised his ministry **AT** and **IN** the Jordan! The people had **to die** to sin and their old ways and avoid God’s judgement by entering a new life of grace (death and resurrection to grace: this is what happens in the Sacrament of Confession).

John the Baptist was **preparing** the people to receive their Saviour / Messiah.

He told them to REPENT (ie) Judge **yourself** and don’t leave it to God to Judge you!

Jn 1:6-9, 19-28 / Lk 3:1-22 etc

“Confess your sins” Mt 3:3 “Baptism of repentance unto remission of sins” Mk1:4

Ⓝ **“The wages of sin is death”** Rom 6:23... **so** John **IMMERSED** them in the Jordan to die to sin spiritually and when they rose up and left the River they **rose to new life!**

- this is Paul’s teaching on Baptism in Rom 6!

- up to “Covid-time” people have continued to be immersed in the Jordan to be Baptised unto Christ.

Ⓝ Even **Jesus** was Baptised in the Jordan River: Matt 3:13-17

At that moment He identified with all sinners – since He was going to take our sins upon Himself on the Cross to **Pay** for our Redemption. cf **Ps 42:6**

He announced this in Mt 26:28 **“This is my Blood of the New Covenant which is shed for many for the remission of sins”.**

- Before His Passion Jesus set up **A MEMORIAL** of His Redeeming death in the Institution of the Eucharist.
→ it was **THIS** that was typified by **The Priests** carrying **the Ark** into the place of death in the Jordan so that the people of God could pass from death to life... this stopped the torrents of water, which represented **“the waves and billows of God’s wrath” for sinners in Ps 42:6**

4:10 **Notice** that we were told in Josh 4:10 that the priests **STOOD IN** the Jordan until the entire People of God had passed over into their new life in the Promised Land.

Remember John saying, Jn 19:28,30 **Jesus, knowing that EVERYTHING was now accomplished... He cried "I THIRST... took the vinegar and declared: "IT IS FINISHED" (accomplished).**

Notice: • that Joshua chose 12 men to carry the special memorial stones **on their shoulders** to where they were to stay that night (e) Gilgal – See 4:19

- Jesus also chose 12 men to carry His memorial (Church, Eucharist & Sacraments) on **their shoulders** - (e) "take authority" and do this into the future: cf Mark 6:7
These stones were "pitched" in Gilgal (vs 20) – they were **NOT** laid on the ground but erected into a monument or **cairn**.

- To "pitch" in Hebrew means to **RAISE** or **make stand...**

4:21-23

We would say 'he set up a monument of these events'.

- the idea was to attract people's attention so that they would enquire about it...
- it was to be an enduring testimony in stone for people who had **no Books** or means of retrieving information.
- In other words, this monument was **A SIGN** of God's Merciful Loving Kindness to them.
Jesus left us the **SIGNS** of His miracles to keep faith alive in us... { Acts 2:22
Jn 20:30

4:24

(a) This memorial would speak to **anyone** who saw it that Israel **HAD NOT** crossed the Jordan by **their own** power, but by the Presence and Power of God Himself, **the Creator**, the Almighty One who travelled **with** them...

- it was also a promise of many more miracles to come...

(b) This memorial was a reminder to everyone that **only** those who crossed the Jordan (death to self) could possibly live their new life in God...

Since the Jordan **means** "Death" **and** "Judgement" we understand **WHY**.

St Paul in Rom 8:1 says **"there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus"** because Paul speaks about the struggle to cross his "Jordan" in ch 7, so ch 8 is the Promised Land of union with God and he teaches **much** on this in **Rom ch 8**

Notice that there are **TWO** Memorials – **not one!**

(1) That which was erected at Gilgal: the place of resurrection life

(2) The other was left **IN** the Jordan (4:9): the place of death to the ego.

- In Rom 6:4,5 Paul reminds us that those who **"were Baptised into Christ Jesus were Baptised into HIS DEATH" and like Him, we too were raised from the dead (after Baptism) by the Glory of the Father so that we could walk in NEWNESS of Life.**

- the image Paul uses is that of the **Jordan Crossing** in Joshua 4

- Also in the Holy Eucharist we are brought through death to resurrection... **1 Cor 11:26**

(NB) Baptism and Eucharist are **our TWO "MEMORIAL STONES"**

Finally, • the raising of the Memorial stones proclaimed the 12 Tribes of Israel as the One New People of God.

- the Holy Eucharist proclaims believers to be the **ONE BODY OF CHRIST**

4:12,13

The 2½ Tribes also obeyed what Moses told them... cross over **ahead** of the rest.

(NB) These 40,000 men were the **Fighting Force** of Israel: Num ch 32

4:14 Here God fulfilled His Word to Joshua in ch 3:7 cf 1 Jn 5:24

4:15-17 The obedience of the Priests is emphasised here. This was **VITAL** for the miracle.

4:18 As soon as the **Priests** set foot on the dry land of Canaan **“the waters of the Jordan returned to their place AND overflowed ALL of its banks as before”**

- Here the greatness of the miracle is shown.

cf 1 Sam 2:30 **“Those that know Me, I will honour”** says the Lord!

God honoured the obedience, patience and trust of those priests who stayed in the muddy watery places until the whole people had crossed safely.

Spiritual Message is VIP God has called ALL of His Priests to HOLD their positions – to ‘stand their ground’ beside the Tabernacle which houses the True Presence of Christ.

- they are to obey Him, His Word to His Chosen Leaders until the whole people of God are saved... have reached **Heaven**.

4:19 The people set foot in the Promised Land on 10th day of Nisan – 4 days before Passover!! They camped at Gilgal not far from Jericho.

- The 10th day was the day for choosing the paschal lamb.

- The importance of the 3-day preparation before crossing the River is highlighted here.

- they are in Grace, in obedience to God’s Will, so they can proceed to celebrate as God’s chosen, unified people.

Ⓝ **The Location** of the stone memorial **IN** THE River: In John 1:28 John the Baptist was baptising **“in Bethany on the FAR SIDE of the Jordan”**.

This “Bethany” of John the Baptist was **BETHABAKA** – House of Passage!

Ⓝ In Matt 3:9 when the Pharisees and Sadducees came to John the Baptist, John said:

Don’t say within yourselves we have Abraham for our father: for I say to you God is able to raise up children to Abraham FROM THESE STONES!

- This shows that John baptised in the **same** place where Israel crossed the Jordan... therefore **Jesus** was Baptised probably **STANDING** on these stones!

- Therefore, when the Holy Spirit manifested over Jesus’ Head, God was saying that everything that **began** in the Exodus... continued in the Wilderness... and completed in the arrival in the Promised Land was **NOW** going to be **REPEATED** and **FULFILLED** on the highest level through God’s Beloved Son: Jeshua.

