

The Invisible Monument Joshua Chapter 4 Verse 9

1 And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying, **2** Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man, **3** And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night. **4** Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man:

Did you notice that Joshua prepared these men for the task set before them? What is the significance of the twelve men, one from each tribe?

- These twelve are representative of the twelve tribes of Israel.
- Every tribe of Israel came from the sons of one man, whose name was changed by God from Jacob to Israel.
- These twelve tribes were the fulfilling of a covenant promise from God.
- God promised to deliver these people, which he had chosen, from Egypt and to bring them to a land of promise.
- They are representative of the chosen people of God upon the earth, under the ceremonial/sacrificial law service.
- They are representative of the church of God on earth, as seen in: **Ac 7:37-38; 37 "This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear. 38 This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:"**

Notice; these people are under the leadership of Joshua. Did you know that the names Jesus and Joshua have the same meaning? They both are from the combined words, which form the Hebrew word "Yhowshua" pronounced {yeh-ho-shoo'-ah}.

5 And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel: **6** That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones? **7** Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel forever. **8** And the children of Israel did so as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones out of the midst of Jordan, as the LORD spake unto Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them unto the place where they lodged, and laid them down there.

Notice:

- The stones were born upon the shoulders of these men.
- The stones were set up, by Joshua, for a visible memorial in the land of promise.
- They were to be used to teach their children about the greatness, and power, of God.
- They carried them to the place where they lodged, which was Gilgal.

9 And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood: and they are there unto this day.

These twelve stones are the prophetic picture I want you to see. I call this the invisible monument, because when the river Jordan begins to flow again it will be covered by the waters.

- They were set up as a monument, in the midst of the river Jordan, which stood between Israel and the land of promise.
- They were set up in the place where the priest stood bearing the ark of the covenant. In other words, they took the place of the priest who bore the ark of the covenant.
- This memorial was built by the hands of Joshua.
- **"They are there unto this day"**

The visible memorial, set up in Gilgal, was a picture of the church under the law service. The priests bore the ark and made the blood sacrifices that gave Israel forgiveness of their sins under the law.

The invisible memorial, built of twelve stones, is the prophetic picture of the church of salvation by grace. Do you understand; the church of grace has a visible presence on earth, but it is still invisible to the world? Scripture demonstrates this in: **Lu 10:21-24; 21 "In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. 22 All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him. 23 And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see: 24 For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them."** How can this be? Who set up the invisible memorial? Joshua did it alone. Who set up the church of salvation by grace? Jesus did it alone.

Let's look at some similarities, between the law church, the grace church, and their establishment on earth.

- God chose Joshua to bring Israel into the land of promise. He was the leader and head over all Israel, under the law service, which was the visible church on earth. God chose Jesus Christ, to be the head over the church of salvation by grace, which is comprised of all of Israel, the visible church on earth.
- Joshua chose, and prepared, twelve men to bring up stones from the river Jordan, which he would use to build the visible memorial. Jesus chose, and prepared, twelve apostles, which he would use to build the church, and they bore upon their shoulders the burden, seen in: **Mr 16:15-16; 15 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."** Thus, we see the revealing of Christ to the visible church, which the visible world does not see.
- Each tribe of Israel came from the lineage one man, whose name was changed by God from Jacob to Israel. Every heir of grace, the membership of the visible church, has their name changed, and these new creatures are from the lineage of one man, Jesus, the Christ. They are children of God and of Israel, either by natural lineage or adopted lineage.

- These twelve tribes, the whole of Israel, were the visible fulfilling of a covenant promise from God, to bring them into the land of promise. Every child of grace is representative of the visible fulfilling of the promise of God, seen in: ***Joh 6:37-39; 37 "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. 38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day."***
- The promise of Christ, to bring the children of grace into a land of promise, the church of salvation by grace, is seen in: ***Mt 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."***
- We see this also in the eternal perspective in: ***1Th 4:16-18; 16 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words."*** This is the eternal land of promise, the new heaven, the new earth, and the new Jerusalem, the place Jesus has gone to prepare for us.

We noticed; Joshua alone built the invisible memorial in the midst of Jordan. We noticed he built in the place where the feet of the priest stood. Jesus built the church, of salvation by grace, which took the place of the earthly priesthood. Christ is our High Priest today but he is not seen on earth for he dwells in the heavens on the throne of God. We remember; the high priest had to wear some special garments, in the execution of the duty of the office, seen in: ***Ex 28:9-10; 9 "And thou shalt take two onyx stones, and grave on them the names of the children of Israel: 10 Six of their names on one stone, and the other six names of the rest on the other stone, according to their birth. 11 With the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a signet, shalt thou engrave the two stones with the names of the children of Israel: thou shalt make them to be set in ouches of gold. 12 And thou shalt put the two stones upon the shoulders of the ephod for stones of memorial unto the children of Israel: and Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD upon his two shoulders for a memorial."*** Did you notice that the stones, on the shoulders of the ephod the high priest wore, had the names of the twelve tribes of Israel? This was representative of the high priest carrying all of Israel into the holiest of holy places, to attain their forgiveness of sins and the blessing of God upon their future.

Now let's look at the breastplate of the high priest, seen in: ***Ex 28:15-21; 15 "And thou shalt make the breastplate of judgment with cunning work; after the work of the ephod thou shalt make it; of gold, of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine twined linen, shalt thou make it. 16 Foursquare it shall be being doubled; a span shall be the length thereof, and a span shall be the breadth thereof. 17 And thou shalt set in it settings of stones, even four rows of stones: the first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this shall be the first row. 18 And the second row shall be an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond. 19 And the third row a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst. 20 And the fourth row a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper: they shall be set in gold in their inclosing's. 21 And the stones shall be with the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names, like the engravings of a signet; every one with his name shall they be according to the twelve tribes."***

Now we have upon the high priest; on his shoulders and upon his breast, the names of the twelve tribes of Israel engraved twice in stone. Thus we see; Jesus Christ, in the office of High Priest, has upon

his shoulders and upon his breast, both the church under the law and the church under grace. Jesus Christ's blood was the only pure, holy, sinless, and acceptable sacrifice for sin. By his sacrifice of his body upon the cross, all of God's chosen people have remission of sins.

Under the law service; God's people had to have physical circumcision; as a token of the covenant between them and God, seen in: **Ge 17:11 "And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you."** However, what made them children of God was the circumcision of the heart, seen in: **De 30:6 "And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live."** The inward circumcision of the heart is what makes us children of God. The outward sign, token, of the covenant promise of God, gives us the prophetic picture for the born again sinner today. It shows that we are to make a public confession of our faith and trust in Christ and be baptized, which is our outward sign of the covenant promise of God.

The inward circumcision of the heart is what makes us children of God, in the New Testament, seen in: **Ro 2:28-29; 28 "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."** there was the same requirement for both Jew and Gentile, in both the law church and in the grace church, that there be a token (the circumcision of the heart) of the covenant between God and his people.

Now preacher, you say; we are saved by grace, not circumcision, according to scripture. That is true, however, I ask you this question in return; is not circumcision of the heart the application of the grace of God in your life? Surely it is. Salvation by Grace is a gift from God to man. Circumcision of the heart is a gift from God unto man. In both instances, man is not the one who does the applying, the application to man is from God.

God has always saved by the means of grace. You mean in the Old Testament times too? Yes, consider these texts:

Genesis 6:8 "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD." By grace Noah and his family were saved. This is the first mention of grace in the bible. You can follow through with a study and see that this is true. Look at the lives of: Lot and his family, Jacob, Joseph, Israel, Moses, Ruth, David and etc. until you get to the New Testament, and then see grace alive in Jesus, seen in:

Luke 2:40 "And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him."

John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

John 1:16 "And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace."

John 1:17 "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

Aren't you glad that there were two memorials set up by Joshua? Aren't you glad that Jesus Christ has made them both visible, by the revelation of himself in both the Old and New Testament scriptures? Praise the Lord for the church of Salvation by Grace, on earth in time. Praise to Christ, the Saviour, for the salvation of all of God's people; in both Old and New Testament times. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!