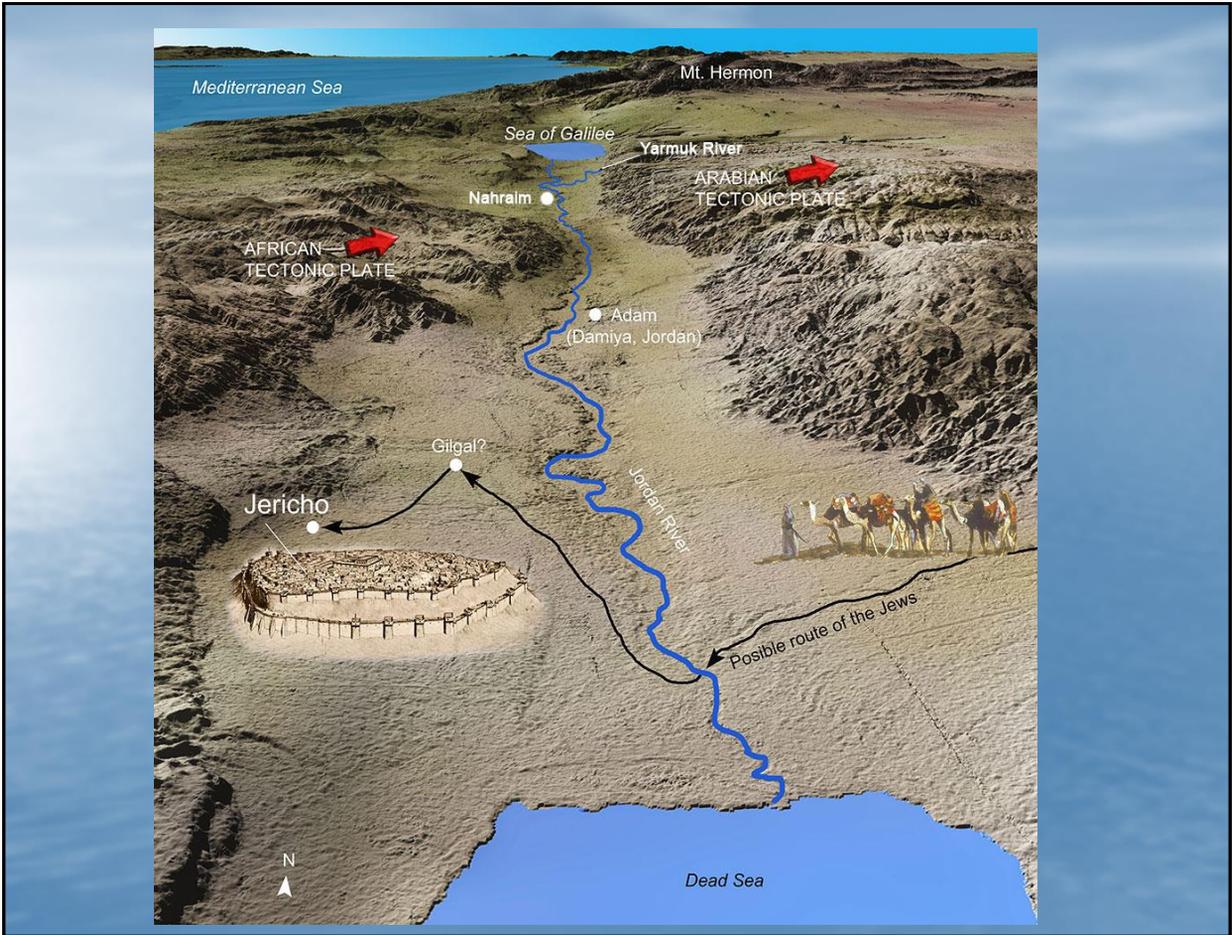


CONQUER IN CHRIST

Standing Stones

CONQUERORS IN CHRIST

- ^{NAS} **2 Corinthians 2:14** But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.



THE RIVER





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CROSSING OVER

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 4:10** For the priests who carried the ark were standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything was completed that the LORD had commanded Joshua to speak to the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua. And the people hurried and crossed; ¹¹ and it came about when all the people had finished crossing, that the ark of the LORD and the priests crossed before the people... ¹⁸ And it came about when the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD had come up from the middle of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up to the dry ground, that the waters of the Jordan returned to their place, and went over all its banks as before. ¹⁹ Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth of the first month and camped at Gilgal on the eastern edge of Jericho.

PROMISE KEPT

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 4:12** And the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over in battle array before the sons of Israel, just as Moses had spoken to them; ¹³ about 40,000, equipped for war, crossed for battle before the LORD to the desert plains of Jericho.

STANDING STONES



STANDING STONES

- Pagans in the Middle East erected sacred stones to honor their gods, to declare covenants and treaties between cities, or to honor an important event that could only be explained by the supernatural.
 - *That the World May Know, Ray Vander Laan*
- Israelites followed ancient customs by setting up standing stones as a reminder of God's covenant and supernatural acts on their behalf.
 - Jacob at Bethel to remember dream
 - Moses at Sinai to commemorate receiving 10 commandments
 - Joshua after crossing Jordan



STANDING STONES: THE COMMAND

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 4:1** Now it came about when all the nation had finished crossing the Jordan, that the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying, ² "Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from each tribe, ³ and command them, saying, 'Take up for yourselves twelve stones from here out of the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet are standing firm, and carry them over with you, and lay them down in the lodging place where you will lodge tonight.'"

STANDING STONES: OBEDIENCE

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 4:8** And thus the sons of Israel did, as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, just as the LORD spoke to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Israel; and they carried them over with them to the lodging place, and put them down there. ⁹ Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan at the place where the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant were standing, and they are there to this day.... ¹⁹ Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth of the first month and camped at Gilgal on the eastern edge of Jericho. ²⁰ And those twelve stones which they had taken from the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal.

STANDING STONES: THE PURPOSE

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 4:6** "Let this be a sign among you, so that when your children ask later, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' ⁷ then you shall say to them, 'Because the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off.' So these stones shall become a memorial to the sons of Israel forever."

STANDING STONES: THE PURPOSE

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 4:21** And he said to the sons of Israel, "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, 'What are these stones?' ²² then you shall inform your children, saying, 'Israel crossed this Jordan on dry ground.' ²³ "For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed, just as the LORD your God had done to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed; ²⁴ that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, so that you may fear the LORD your God forever."

WHY STANDING STONES?

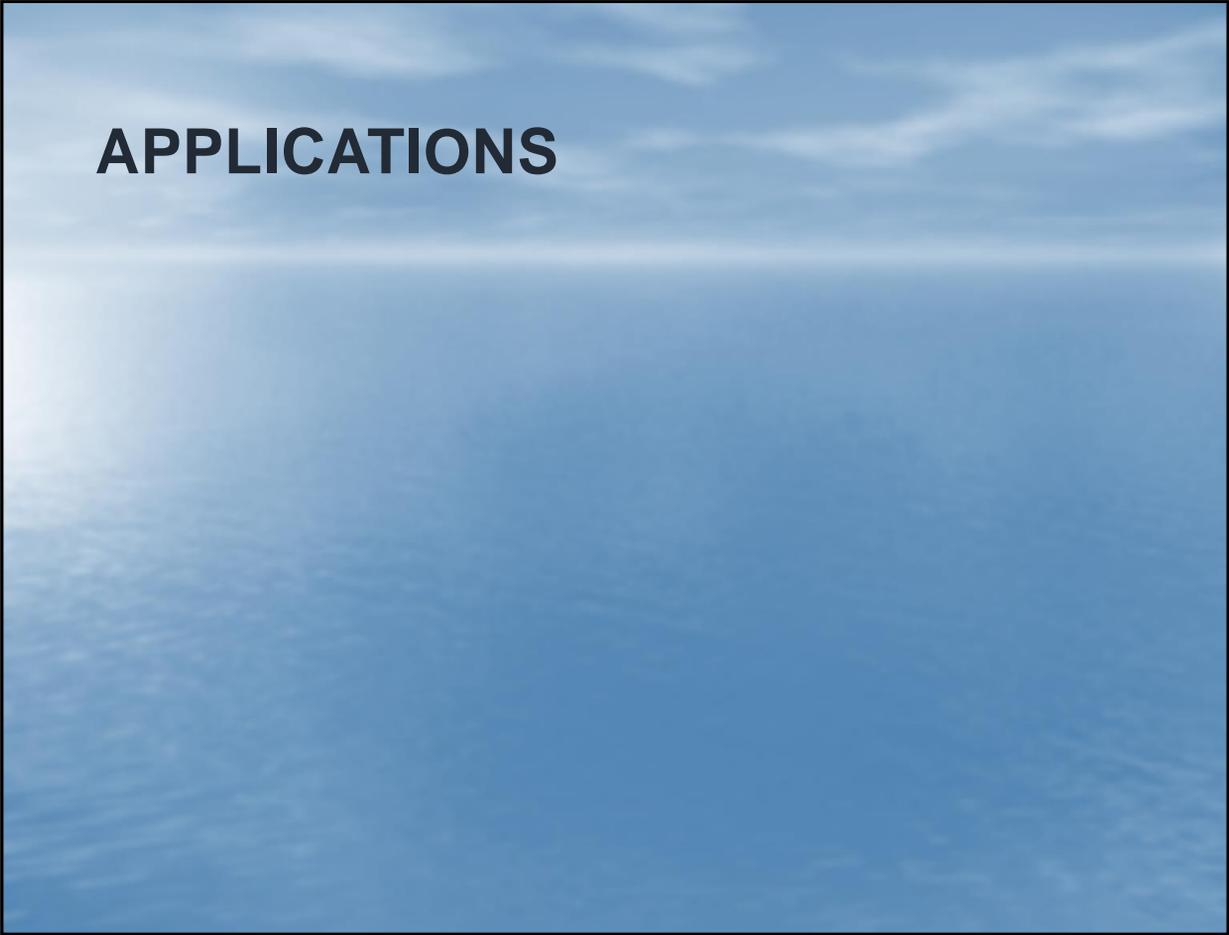
1. A memorial to the sons of Israel forever that you may fear the LORD your God forever.
2. That all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty.

1. MEMORIALS OF GOD'S GRACE

- a) Promote faithfulness
- b) Provide strength
- c) Provoke thanksgiving

2. TESTIFY TO GOD'S GRACE

- a) Encourage one another
- b) Educate one another
- c) Exalt God



APPLICATIONS

GOD GAVE US A STANDING STONE

- ^{NAS} **1 Corinthians 11:23** For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

GOD MADE US STANDING STONES

- ^{NAS} **1 Peter 2:2** like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, ³ if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. ⁴ And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ... ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

STANDING STONES: OUR CALLING

- ^{NIV} **Matthew 5:13** "You are the salt of the earth... ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.
- ^{NIV} **Hebrews 3:13** But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.
- ^{NAS} **1 Corinthians 10:31** Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.



CONCLUSIONS

STANDING STONES: THE PURPOSE

- ^{NAS} **Joshua 4:21** And he said to the sons of Israel, "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, 'What are these stones?' ²² then you shall inform your children, saying, 'Israel crossed this Jordan on dry ground.' ²³ "For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed, just as the LORD your God had done to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed; ²⁴ that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, so that you may fear the LORD your God forever."

WHY STANDING STONES?

1. A memorial to the sons of Israel forever that you may fear the LORD your God forever.
 - ^{NAS} **Matthew 22:37** And He said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'
2. That all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty.
 - ^{NAS} **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;