

2018 03 18 Scripture Reading

When the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, “Pick twelve men from the people, one per tribe. Command them, ‘Pick up twelve stones from right here in the middle of the Jordan, where the feet of the priests had been firmly planted. Bring them across with you and put them down in the camp where you are staying tonight.’”

Joshua called for the twelve men he appointed from the Israelites, one per tribe. Joshua said to them, “Cross over into the middle of the Jordan, up to the Ark of the Lord your God. Each of you, lift up a stone on your shoulder to match the number of the tribes of the Israelites. This will be a symbol among you. In the future your children may ask, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’ Then you will tell them the water of the Jordan was cut off before the Ark of the Lord our God. When it crossed the Jordan, the water of the Jordan River was cut off. These stones will be an enduring memorial for the Israelites.”

The Israelites did exactly what Joshua ordered. They lifted twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, matching the number of tribes of the Israelites, exactly as the Lord said to Joshua. They brought them over to the camp and put them down there. In Gilgal, Joshua set up those twelve stones they had taken from the Jordan.

He said to the Israelites, “In the future your children will ask their parents, ‘What about these stones?’ Then you will let your children know: ‘Israel crossed the Jordan River here on dry ground.’ This was because the Lord your God dried up the water of the Jordan before you until you crossed over. This was exactly what the Lord your God did to the Reed Sea. He dried it up before us until we crossed over. This happened so all the earth’s peoples might know the Lord’s power is great and that you may always revere the Lord your God.” **Joshua 4:1-8, 20-24**