

Title: History Maker - Joshua 4 1-11

Read:

¹⁻³ When the whole nation was finally across, GOD spoke to Joshua: "Select twelve men from the people, a man from each tribe, and tell them, 'From right here, the middle of the Jordan where the feet of the priests are standing firm, take twelve stones. Carry them across with you and set them down in the place where you camp tonight.'" ⁴⁻⁷ Joshua called out the twelve men whom he selected from the People of Israel, one man from each tribe. Joshua directed them, "Cross to the middle of the Jordan and take your place in front of the Chest of GOD, your God. Each of you heft a stone to your shoulder, a stone for each of the tribes of the People of Israel, so you'll have something later to mark the occasion. When your children ask you, 'What are these stones to you?' you'll say, 'The flow of the Jordan was stopped in front of the Chest of the Covenant of GOD as it crossed the Jordan—stopped in its tracks. These stones are a permanent memorial for the People of Israel.'" ⁸⁻⁹ The People of Israel did exactly as Joshua commanded: They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan—a stone for each of the twelve tribes, just as GOD had instructed Joshua—carried them across with them to the camp, and set them down there. Joshua set up the twelve stones taken from the middle of the Jordan that had marked the place where the priests who carried the Chest of the Covenant had stood. They are still there today. ¹⁰⁻¹¹ The priests carrying the Chest continued standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything God had instructed Joshua to tell the people to do was done (confirming what Moses had instructed Joshua). The people crossed; no one dawdled. When the crossing of all the people was complete, they watched as the Chest of the Covenant and the priests crossed over.

Think:

I hated history when I went to school. My teacher Mr Dennis seemed to realise that I hated it too. In the end we came to an understanding that I would pay no interest in his lessons and he would pay no interest in me. It's a shame really because, what I didn't understand and what Mr Dennis failed to communicate to me; is that History isn't all about what happened years ago, it's about what we can learn for the future. God says in this passage make a memorial so future generations will remember what has happened today. Years after it happened, children and adults would look at that pile of stones and remember the faith in God the people had to have to cross the river. We can look at our History and learn what God has done for us and what he wants us to do. How about that old guy at church who always goes on about how he went to war, could God be teaching us through what he has to say? That old girl who mumbles on about how Church used to be different when she was a young girl. Are there things we need to learn from her about God? Even your history is important. You may think you are so young that you have no history, but that just isn't true. If you don't learn from what God has done in your past then you are doomed to make the same mistakes in the future. God doesn't hold a record of the wrongs that you have done in the past, but that doesn't mean he wants you to carry on making the same mistakes and not learning from your history. Hey, you could even learn from my history. I hated history I was younger and I was wrong, history is a great teacher for our future.

Pray:

Father thank you that you forgive me when I make mistakes. Lord please help me learn from my history and other peoples history and not make the same mistakes in the future. Amen.

Action:

What can others learn from your history? Why not go to aftershock.org.uk and leave a comment on this dev, so we can all learn from each others history. Bye.