

MSG: STAND AND STONES

SCRIPTURE: JOSHUA 4:1-9, 21-24 NLT

SZN 3: SOAR LIKE JESUS

JOSHUA 4:1-9, 21-24 NLT

“When all the people had crossed the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, “Now choose twelve men, one from each tribe. Tell them, ‘Take twelve stones from the very place where the priests are standing in the middle of the Jordan. Carry them out and pile them up at the place where you will camp tonight.’” So Joshua called together the twelve men he had chosen—one from each of the tribes of Israel. He told them, “Go into the middle of the Jordan, in front of the Ark of the Lord your God. Each of you must pick up one stone and carry it out on your shoulder—twelve stones in all, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. We will use these stones to build a memorial. In the future your children will ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ Then you can tell them, ‘They remind us that the Jordan River stopped flowing when the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant went across.’ These stones will stand as a memorial among the people of Israel forever.” So the men did as Joshua had commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan River, one for each tribe, just as the Lord had told Joshua. They carried them to the place where they camped for the night and constructed the memorial there. Joshua also set up another pile of twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan, at the place where the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant were standing. And they are there to this day.

Then Joshua said to the Israelites, “In the future your children will ask, ‘What do these stones mean?’ Then you can tell them, ‘This is where the Israelites crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ For the Lord your God dried up the river right before your eyes, and he kept it dry until you were all across, just as he did at the Red Sea when he dried it up until we had all crossed over. He did this so all the nations of the earth might know that the Lord’s hand is powerful, and so you might fear the Lord your God forever.”

1. STAND IN THE MIDDLE

Joshua 4:3 NLT

“Tell them, ‘Take twelve stones from the very place where the priests are standing in the middle of the Jordan. Carry them out and pile them up at the place where you will camp tonight.’

STANDING IN MIDDLE OF THE PROMISE REQUIRES STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PREPOSTEROUS

STAND IN THE MIDDLE WHEN YOUR FAITH IS DEMANDED AND OBEDIENCE IS REQUIRED.

STAND IN THE MIDDLE FOR GODLY WISDOM IN AN UNGODLY WORLD

James 3:15-18 NLT

“For jealousy and selfishness are not God’s kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.”

**THE OBSTACLES OF THE WORLD FLOWS AROUND YOU,
BUT THE PRESENCE OF GOD GOES BEFORE YOU**

1. STAND WITH YOUR STONE

Joshua 4:8-9 NLT

“So the men did as Joshua had commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan River, one for each tribe, just as the Lord had told Joshua. They carried them to the place where they camped for the night and constructed the memorial there.

Joshua also set up another pile of twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan, at the place where the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant were standing. And they are there to this day.”

YOUR STONE SHOWS YOU ARE MADE OF MIRACLES

Psalms 18:1-3 NLT

“I love you, Lord; you are my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety. I called on the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and he saved me from my enemies.”

YOUR STONE SHOWS YOUR MIRACLE IS YOUR MEMORIAL

YOUR STONE SHOWS THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE

Psalms 118:22-23 NLT

“The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing, and it is wonderful to see.”

Ephesians 2:19-22 NIV

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."

1. STAND WITH YOUR STONE STORY

YOUR STONE STORY IS...HE IS REDEFINING YOUR PAST BY RENEWING YOUR PRESENT!

2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

**IN THE PAST YOUR "DRY GROUND" STORY WAS DESERT FILLED,
IN THE PRESENT YOUR "DRY GROUND" STORY IS DREAM FULL-FILLED**

Proverbs 13:12 NLT

"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life."

YOUR STONE STORY IS...YOU ARE NOT A DESERT PEOPLE, YOU ARE GOD'S PEOPLE!

Joshua 4:24 NLT

"He did this so all the nations of the earth might know that the Lord's hand is powerful,

THE WORLD DOESN'T BELIEVE BECAUSE THE CHURCH IS DECEIVED

WHEN YOU DON'T TELL YOUR STORY, GOD GETS NO GLORY.

YOUR STONE STORY IS... FEAR OF THE LORD FOREVER!

Joshua 4:24 NLT

“He did this so all the nations of the earth might know that the Lord’s hand is powerful, and so you might fear the Lord your God forever.

Proverbs 23:17-18 NLT

“Don’t envy sinners, but always continue to fear the Lord. You will be rewarded for this; your hope will not be disappointed.”

Jeremiah 33:8-9 NLT

“I will cleanse them of their sins against me and forgive all their sins of rebellion. Then this city will bring me joy, glory, and honor before all the nations of the earth! The people of the world will see all the good I do for my people, and they will tremble with awe at the peace and prosperity I provide for them.”