

“My desire and hope is that Spiritual Gold will reach our world with the positive message that God is alive and has the answers for the problems facing us today. In his messages at SpiritualGold.org, my husband, Richard, takes the Scriptures and breaks them down so that we can understand and receive practical advice as we live one day at a time.” —Mary Strauss



## Remembering God’s Blessings

Adapted from the *Memorial Stones* by Dr. Richard L. Strauss, delivered on May 27, 1984 (Joshua 4:1-7, 19-24—MS-164)

On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. <sup>20</sup>And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. <sup>21</sup>He said to the Israelites, “In the future when your descendants ask their parents, ‘What do these stones mean?’ <sup>22</sup>tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’

- Joshua 4:19-22, NIV

God had dried up the Red Sea so that the Israelites could walk on dry ground to escape the Egyptian army. Now they were about to go into the Promised Land under Joshua’s leadership, but the Jordan River stood in their way. It was harvest season, the time when the Jordan was at flood stage, overflowing its banks.

Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God. <sup>10</sup>This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that He will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. <sup>11</sup>See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. <sup>12</sup>Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. <sup>13</sup>And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the Lord—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap” (Joshua 3:9-13, NIV).

*continued on next page*

## Dear Spiritual Gold,

I am writing to say how much I APPRECIATE the teaching of Dr. Richard Strauss. My husband and I are currently studying Revelation with him. Thank you very much for making these studies available.

- Brenda S.

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## Remembering God's Blessings (*continued*)

And that's what happened. The Jordan stood up in a heap upstream, and the whole nation of Israelites crossed on dry land. After they all had crossed, Joshua told the 12 men who represented the tribes to go back into the Jordan. (God was still holding back the water.) There, the men each gathered a boulder to take with them to Gilgal. Why?

**Stones of Remembrance.** These boulders became stones of remembrance. In the future, when their children asked, "What do these stones mean?" they could tell them what God had done for them. Are you telling your children or grandchildren what God has done for you and your family? In this message, Dr. Strauss shares several such family remembrances. (Listen to the message if you want to know why he didn't want Mary to go into labor when Steve was about to be born, and how God provided!)

**The Lord is Powerful.** Joshua 4:24 tells us the reasons why it's good to remember events where God has provided refuge or resources or remedy: You will remember and other people around you will know that God is powerful. All-powerful.

**Fear of the Lord.** The second reason for remembering God's provision is that it also helps you fear the Lord, which means to hold Him in reverence.



"I got a rock" is the memorable and humorous line from *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*. But if your children or grandchildren are old enough to understand stones of remembrance, perhaps a rock is something you should consider adding to the mix of goodies in their stockings. Remembering what God did for them during the last year could be a new tradition!

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