

**Remembering the
Stones In Your Life!**
Joshua 4:1-7

When Significant Events Happen In Our Lives We Have a Name For Them

Milestones

- **The first day of school**
- **Graduation from High School, College, Professional School**
- **Getting married**
- **The birth of a child**
- **A promotion at work**
- **The day you retired**



Theme for the Lesson

We Need to Erect Spiritual Milestones or Markers to Prevent Spiritual Amnesia

- Erect stones of spiritual remembrances that point to significant Godly events in our past
- Sometimes when God's plans seem confusing in the midst of a trial, we can look back when it's over, and see His fingerprints and presence in our lives everywhere
- No one else could have brought us through but GOD
- When we look at our past, we can be reminded of His work in our present, and therefore trust Him for our future



The Crossing of the Jordan River Was a Milestone Moment For the Israelites

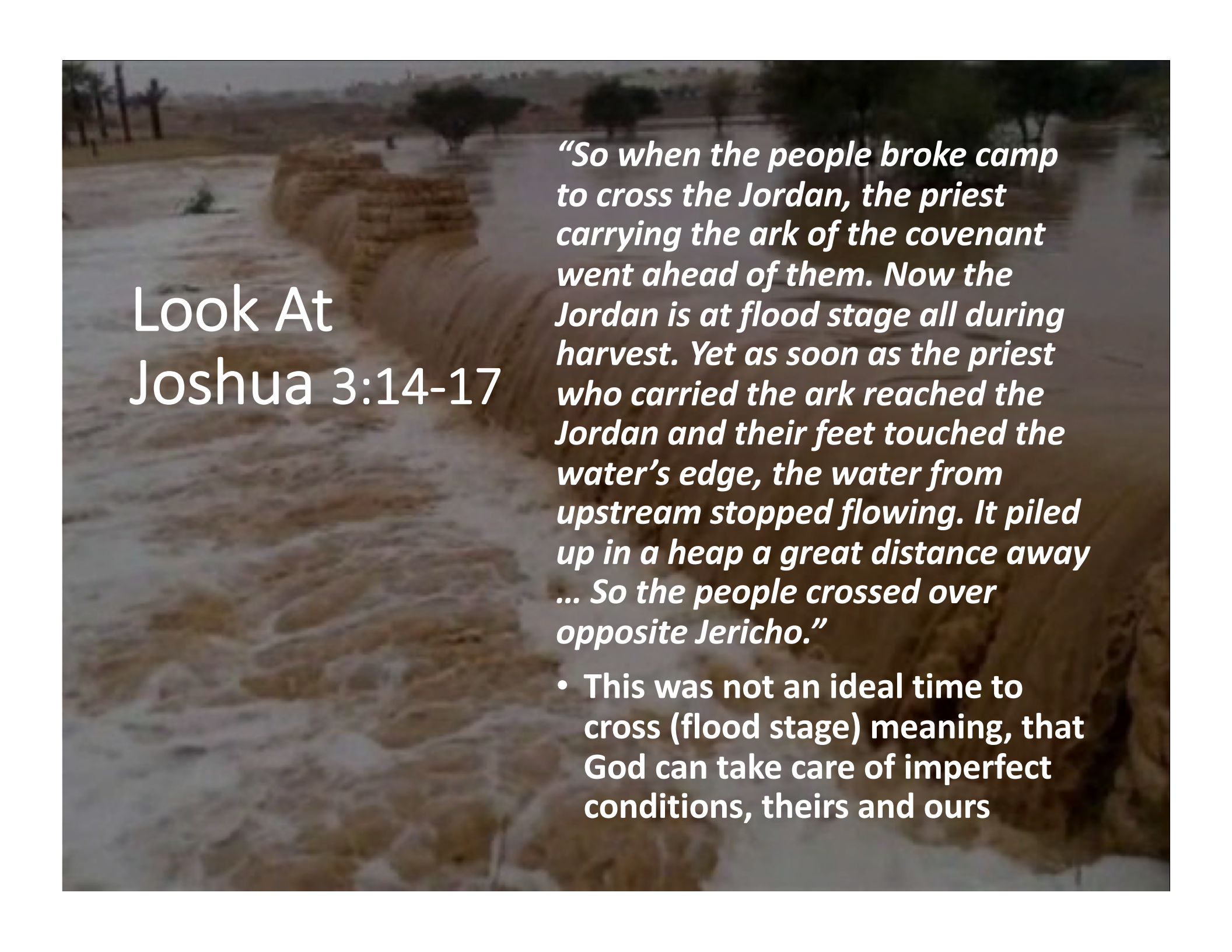
- **The Jordan River represented a border between the wilderness and the Promised Land; between where they had been and where they were going**
- **Remember, they had spent forty years in the wilderness, refusing to go into the promised land because they chose fear over faith**
- **In Numbers 13, twelve Israelites spies were chosen to go and explore the promised land for capture, which was already inhabited**
- **Ten out of the twelve came back with a fearful report to Moses and as a result Israel rebelled against Moses (Giants and nations were already there) Numbers 13 and 14**
- **God was enraged at their unbelief and decided that their whole generation would remain in the wilderness, Numbers 14:33-34 (1 year for each day of exploration)**



Look At the Practical Instructions Given Forty Years Later, Headed Toward the Jordan

“After three days the officers went through the camp, giving orders to the people: When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it. Joshua told the people, Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you” Joshua 3:2-5

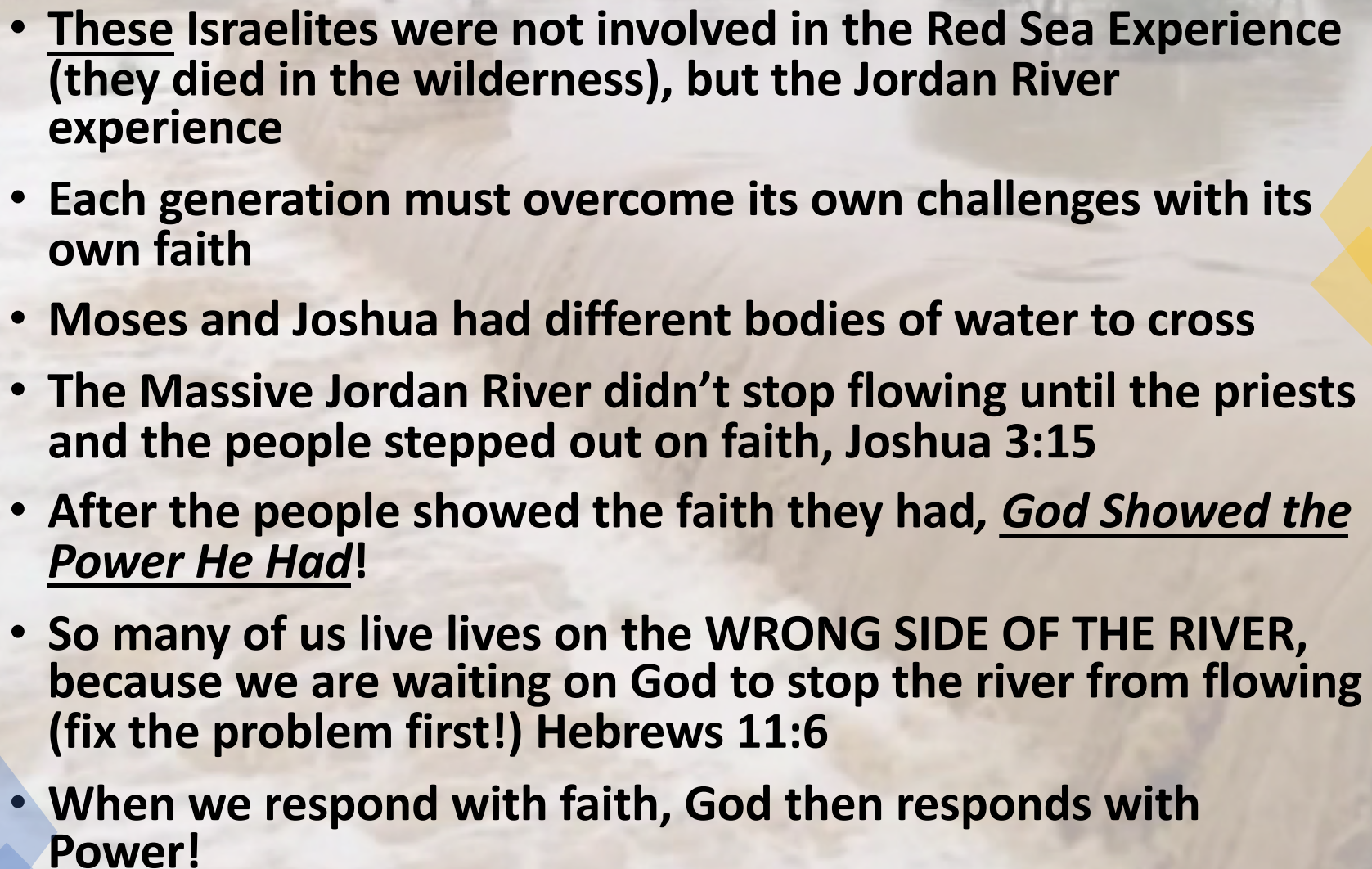
- Church, when we find ourselves in unfamiliar places in our lives, we should look for God’s familiar presence
- During uncertain times, we trust a “certain God!” God sifts it before we lift it. 1 Corinthians 10:13
- We win tomorrow by what we do today (preparation)



Look At Joshua 3:14-17

“So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priest carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priest who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away ... So the people crossed over opposite Jericho.”

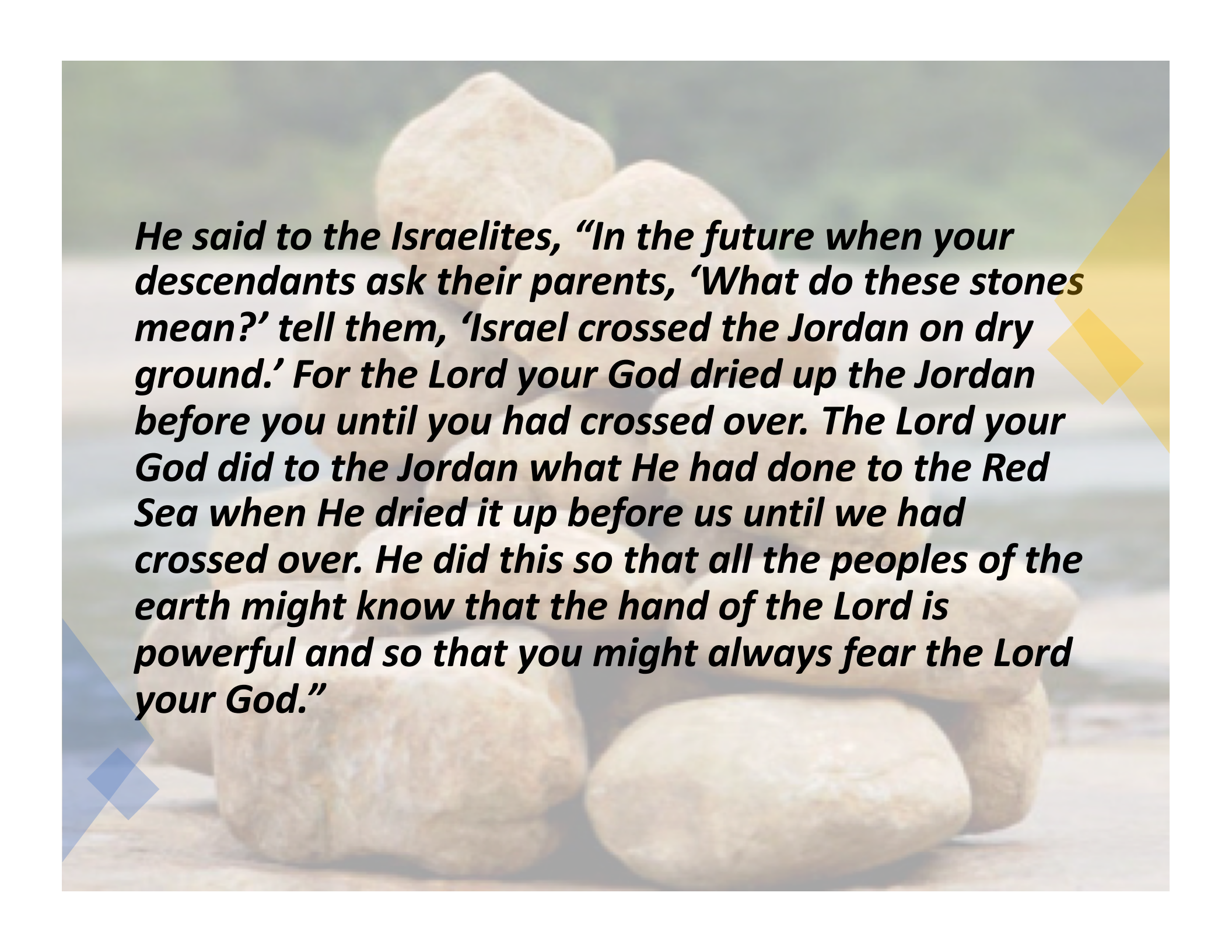
- This was not an ideal time to cross (flood stage) meaning, that God can take care of imperfect conditions, theirs and ours

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- These Israelites were not involved in the Red Sea Experience (they died in the wilderness), but the Jordan River experience
 - Each generation must overcome its own challenges with its own faith
 - Moses and Joshua had different bodies of water to cross
 - The Massive Jordan River didn't stop flowing until the priests and the people stepped out on faith, Joshua 3:15
 - After the people showed the faith they had, God Showed the Power He Had!
 - So many of us live lives on the WRONG SIDE OF THE RIVER, because we are waiting on God to stop the river from flowing (fix the problem first!) Hebrews 11:6
 - When we respond with faith, God then responds with Power!

Joshua Instructs the Men on The Crossing of the Jordan

“...Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulders, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.” Joshua 4:5-7

Verse 20-24....And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had they had taken out of the Jordan River.



He said to the Israelites, “In the future when your descendants ask their parents, ‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The Lord your God did to the Jordan what He had done to the Red Sea when He dried it up before us until we had crossed over. He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God.”

What Milestones Has God Orchestrated in Your Life?

- Has he raised you or your family members from the bed of affliction? (Everybody doesn't leave the hospital alive!)
- Has He come through for you in times of financial need? Have you received income from an "unforeseen source?"
- Has He healed your marriage?
- Has He healed your relationship with your grown children?

Remember that the prodigal son was grown when he left when disagreeing with his parent's instructions? Luke 15; Romans 1:26-28 speaks of genders changing their "natural use"

***Point: Remembering His Blessings In Our Past
Can Help To Shape Our Faith For The Future!***

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38

