

Jefferson Davis Monument Fairview, KY



*“What Mean Ye By These
Stones?”
Joshua 4:6, 20*

Definition

Memorial: “serving to help people remember some person or event.” Webster

Easy to forget. Jeremiah 2:32; 3:21; cf. 2 Peter 1:12ff

The Children’s Question

*“What Mean Ye By These Stones?”
Joshua 4:3; 4:5; 5:20*

“That this may be a sign among you. The erection of... huge piles of stones, as monuments of remarkable incidents, has been common among all people, especially in the early and rude periods of their history; and it is practiced by the Arabs still (‘Researches and Missionary Labours,’ by Joseph Wolff p. 492). They are the established means of perpetuating the memory of important transactions...”

(from Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown)

The Children’s Question

Pillar of stones would raise attention to a child!

1 Samuel 11:15 Place where Saul was made king.

2 Samuel 19:15 Place where David was brought back.

The Children

Children are special. Matthew 18:1-4

Future leaders.

- Of the home. Ephesians 5:23ff; 6:4 Husbands and fathers
- Of the church. 1 Timothy 3:1ff; Titus 1:5ff; 1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 4:2 Elders, deacons, preachers, teachers, song & worship leaders
- Potential, Possibilities Galatians 2:9

Those To Answer The Question

- Fathers are to satisfy the questions of their children. Joshua 4:6, 20; 1 Timothy 5:8; Deuteronomy 6:6ff; Ephesians 6:4
- Mother's place. cf. 2 Timothy 3:15

Memorials

- Rainbow. Genesis 9:12-17
- The Passover. Exodus 12:12-14, 24-28
- These twelve stones. Joshua 4:22
- The Lord's Supper. Matthew 26: 27-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

Lessons

- The wondrous works of God are for all time. Joshua 4:24; cf. John 20:30-31
- The importance of history. Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11; Ezekiel 26:1-18
 - Providence. Ecclesiastes 9:1; Daniel 2:21; 5:21; Joseph, Genesis 37-50; Esther
- God expects men to propagate His fame. Exodus 10:2; Romans 9:17

Conclusion

- The existence of the memorial is insufficient of itself to preserve the memory. Joshua 4:6-7, 22; cf. Judges 2:10
- We must teach the lessons.
- *“What mean ye by these stones...?”*