

# Joshua 4:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.

## Analysis

The teaching content—"Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD"—connects miracle to covenant presence. The ark's mention emphasizes that God's covenant promise, not human power, accomplished the miracle. This illustrates proper theology transmission—attributing God's works to Him, not natural causes or human achievement. The detailed answer (verses 21-24) provides comprehensive historical narrative, showing catechesis requires substantial content, not minimal facts.

## Historical Context

The ark's central role in the crossing (chapter 3) demonstrated that God's presence with His people accomplishes what they cannot. Priests carrying the ark stood in Jordan's midst while Israel crossed, showing divine mediation. The ark contained the tablets (God's law), manna (God's provision), and Aaron's rod (God's appointed leadership)—comprehensively representing covenant relationship. Losing the ark later brought disaster (1 Samuel 4), while recovering it brought blessing (2 Samuel 6).

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How do you connect God's past faithfulness to present circumstances when teaching others?
2. What comprehensive historical narrative of God's works can you share with the next generation?

## Interlinear Text

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מִפְנִי	פְּרִזְקָה	וְ	מִ	נִכְרָת	וְ	אֲשֶׁר	לִקְרָב	מִ	אָמְרָתָ מְ	וְ	לִקְרָב	מִ	נִכְרָת	וְ	אֲשֶׁר	לִקְרָב	מִ	מִפְנִי	פְּרִזְקָה	וְ		
Then ye shall answer			H559	H0	H834				were cut off					the waters					Jordan			before
									H3772					H4325					H3383			H6440
the ark	of the covenant	of the LORD		יהִנֵּה	הַ	בְּרִית	אֶת	אֶת	בְּעֵבֶר	וְ	בְּעֵבֶר	וְ	נִכְרָת	וְ	פְּרִזְקָה	וְ	Jordan		were cut off			
H727	H1285	H3068							H5674					H3383		H3772						
the waters	Jordan		H4325	H1961		and these stones		H68						H428								
לִזְכָּר	וְ	פָּאֵל	לְ	מִ	מִ	בְּ	בְּ	וְ	פָּאֵל	וְ	לִזְכָּר	וְ										
unto the children	of Israel	for	ever	unto the children	of Israel	for	ever	unto the children	of Israel	for	ever	unto the children	of Israel	for	ever	unto the children	of Israel	for	ever	unto the children	of Israel	for
H1121	H3478	H5704	H5769	H1121	H3478	H5704	H5769	H1121	H3478	H5704	H5769	H1121	H3478	H5704	H5769	H1121	H3478	H5704	H5769	H1121	H3478	H5704

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 12:14** (References Lord): And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

**Psalms 111:4** (References Lord): He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

**Exodus 28:12** (References Lord): And thou shalt put the two stones upon the shoulders of the ephod for stones of memorial unto the children of Israel: and Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD upon his two shoulders for a memorial.

**Numbers 16:40** (References Lord): To be a memorial unto the children of Israel, that no stranger, which is not of the seed of Aaron, come near to offer incense before the LORD; that he be not as Korah, and as his company: as the LORD said to him by the hand of Moses.