

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

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

מִפְּנֵי	הַיַּרְדֵּי	יָם	וְנִכְרְתוּ	אֶשֶׁר	לֵהָם	וְאָמַרְתֶּם
before	Jordan	the waters	were cut off			Then ye shall answer
H6440	H3383	H4325	H3772	H834	H0	H559
וְנִכְרְתוּ	הַיַּרְדֵּי	בְּעֶבְרוֹ	יְהוָה	בְּרִית	אֶרֶץ	וְ
were cut off	Jordan	when it passed over	of the LORD	of the covenant	the ark	
H3772	H3383	H5674	H3068	H1285	H727	
לְזֵכָר וְ	הָאֵלֶּה	וְהָאֵבָנִים	וְהַיַּרְדֵּי	יָם	וְ	
shall be for a memorial		and these stones		the waters	Jordan	
H2146	H428	H68		H4325	H3383	
עוֹלָם:	עַד	יִשְׂרָאֵל	לְבָנֵי			
ever	for	of Israel	unto the children			
H5769	H5704	H3478	H1121			

Additional Cross-References

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.

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