

APPLICATION

1. No matter we are in the story of redemption, the purpose of all biblical history is to confront you and me with the God of history – the God who does not change, the God who was very much involved with His people back then, but remains very much involved today. The message of Joshua confronts us: Do you actually believe what God did? And if so, how do you respond to that? Do you trust and love Him even more? Are you prepared to commit yourself whole-heartedly to this same God?
2. “Raising the monument to commemorate the crossing of the Jordan illustrates the responsibility one generation has to the next to teach about the Lord and His mighty acts” (*RHB*). Parents are responsible to teach their children to “set their hope in God and *not forget* the works of God” (Ps. 78:7). “The Israelites did best when they remembered. They failed and faltered when they forgot” (Stephen Nichols, *The Reformation*, pp.13-14).
3. “Since we are a part of the people of God, what He did for Israel He did also to bolster our faith. We cannot see Joshua’s memorial today, but we can remember what God has done for us as we see the signs He has given us and as we read His Word.” “When we celebrate baptism and the Lord’s Supper, we are to remember God’s great acts of salvation in Christ and to proclaim to our children and to others what He has done” (*Table Talk*, Jan. 2019).
4. The miracles themselves are signs, because they point to greater spiritual realities. The Red Sea and the Jordan River represent the waters of death and judgment. *But for the believer, death is not a punishment for sin, but an entering into eternal life.* The waters of trouble and trials are not a punishment but a refining of character, to make us more Christlike. **Isaiah 43:2**: “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.”