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THEN SAMUEL TOOK A STONE AND SET IT UP BETWEEN MIZPAH AND SHEN AND CALLED ITS NAME EBENEZER; FOR HE SAID, "TILL NOW THE LORD HAS HELPED US." —1 SAMUEL 7:12

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WHAT IS AN EBENEZER? "AN 'EBENEZER' IS A PLACE OR POINT OF REMEMBRANCE OF GOD'S INTERVENTION, HELP AND WORK TO FULFILL HIS PROMISE AND PURPOSE TO HIS PEOPLE."

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<sup>1</sup>WHEN ALL THE NATION HAD FINISHED PASSING OVER THE JORDAN, THE LORD SAID TO JOSHUA, <sup>2</sup>"TAKE TWELVE MEN FROM THE PEOPLE, FROM EACH TRIBE A MAN, <sup>3</sup>AND COMMAND THEM, SAYING, 'TAKE TWELVE STONES FROM HERE OUT OF THE MIDST OF THE JORDAN, FROM THE VERY PLACE WHERE THE PRIESTS' FEET STOOD FIRMLY, AND BRING THEM OVER WITH YOU AND LAY THEM DOWN IN THE PLACE WHERE YOU LODGE TONIGHT'" ...  
<sup>19</sup>THE PEOPLE CAME UP OUT OF THE JORDAN ON THE TENTH DAY OF THE FIRST MONTH, AND THEY ENCAMPED AT GILGAL ON THE EAST BORDER OF JERICHO. <sup>20</sup>AND THOSE TWELVE STONES, WHICH THEY TOOK OUT OF THE JORDAN, JOSHUA SET UP AT GILGAL.

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<sup>21</sup>AND HE SAID TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, "WHEN YOUR CHILDREN ASK THEIR FATHERS IN TIMES TO COME, 'WHAT DO THESE STONES MEAN?' <sup>22</sup>THEN YOU SHALL LET YOUR CHILDREN KNOW, 'ISRAEL PASSED OVER THIS JORDAN ON DRY GROUND.' <sup>23</sup>FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD DRIED UP THE WATERS OF THE JORDAN FOR YOU UNTIL YOU PASSED OVER, AS THE LORD YOUR GOD DID TO THE RED SEA, WHICH HE DRIED UP FOR US UNTIL WE PASSED OVER, <sup>24</sup>SO THAT ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE EARTH MAY KNOW THAT THE HAND OF THE LORD IS MIGHTY, THAT YOU MAY FEAR THE LORD YOUR GOD FOREVER."  
—JOSHUA 4:1-3, 19-24

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"THE STONES WERE TO TELL ALL THE NATIONS AROUND THAT  
THIS GOD IS DIFFERENT. HE REALLY EXISTS; HE IS A LIVING GOD,  
A GOD OF REAL POWER WHO IS IMMANENT IN THE WORLD...

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GOD IS NEITHER A PROJECTION OF MAN'S THINKING  
NOR A GOD WHO CANNOT MOVE IN HISTORY."  
—FRANCIS SCHAEFFER

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I. THESE STONES WERE INCLUSIVE OF GOD'S CARE  
FOR EACH AND ALL OF THEM

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HE DETERMINES THE NUMBER OF THE STARS;  
HE GIVES TO ALL OF THEM THEIR NAMES.  
—PSALM 147:4

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BUT EVEN THE HAIRS OF YOUR HEAD ARE ALL NUMBERED.  
—MATTHEW 10:30

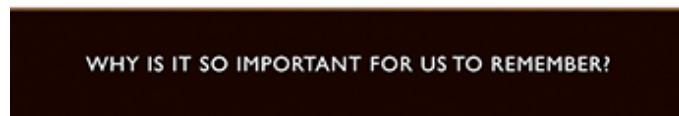
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2. THESE STONES WERE INSTRUCTIVE OF  
GOD'S PREVAILING WORK THROUGH LIFE'S PROBLEMS  
AND PERILS

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HE IS AWESOME IN HIS DEEDS TOWARD THE CHILDREN OF MAN.  
 'HE TURNED THE SEA INTO DRY LAND; THEY PASSED THROUGH THE  
 RIVER ON FOOT. THERE DID WE REJOICE IN HIM. —PSALM 66:5b-6

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## GOD IS OUR ROCK!

THE LORD IS MY <b>ROCK</b> AND MY FORTRESS AND MY DELIVERER, MY GOD, MY <b>ROCK</b> , IN WHOM I TAKE REFUGE, MY SHIELD, AND THE HORN OF MY SALVATION, MY STRONGHOLD. PSALM 18:2	FOR WHO IS GOD, BUT THE LORD! AND WHO IS A <b>ROCK</b> , EXCEPT OUR GOD! PSALM 18:31  THE LORD LIVES, AND BLESSED BE MY <b>ROCK</b> , AND EXALTED BE THE GOD OF MY SALVATION PSALM 18:46	'TO YOU, O LORD, I CALL; MY <b>ROCK</b> , BE NOT DEAF TO ME, LEST, IF YOU BE SILENT TO ME, I BECOME LIKE THOSE WHO GO DOWN TO THE PIT... 'INCLINE YOUR EAR TO ME; RESCUE ME SPEEDILY! BE A <b>ROCK</b> OF REFUGE FOR ME, A STRONG FORTRESS TO SAVE ME! 'FOR YOU ARE MY <b>ROCK</b> AND MY FORTRESS; AND FOR YOUR NAME'S SAKE YOU LEAD ME AND GUIDE ME. PSALM 28:1; 31:2-3
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## GOD IS OUR ROCK!

HE DREW ME UP FROM THE PIT OF DESTRUCTION, OUT OF THE MIRY BOG, AND SET MY FEET UPON A <b>ROCK</b> , MAKING MY STEPS SECURE. PSALM 40:2	FROM THE END OF THE EARTH I CALL TO YOU WHEN MY HEART IS FAINT, LEAD ME TO THE <b>ROCK</b> , THAT IS HIGHER THAN I. PSALM 61:2	BE TO ME A <b>ROCK</b> OF REFUGE, TO WHICH I MAY CONTINUALLY COME; YOU HAVE GIVEN THE COMMAND TO SAVE ME, FOR YOU ARE MY <b>ROCK</b> AND MY FORTRESS. PSALM 71:3
HE ALONE IS MY <b>ROCK</b> AND MY SALVATION, MY FORTRESS; I SHALL NOT BE GREATLY SHAKEN. PSALM 62:2		
THEY REMEMBERED THAT GOD WAS THEIR <b>ROCK</b> , THE MOST HIGH GOD THEIR REDEEMER. PS. 78:35		

OH COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD; LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE  
 TO THE **ROCK** OF OUR SALVATION! PSALM 95:1

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3. THESE STONES WERE INDICATIVE OF GOD'S  
 ONGOING ACTIVITY FOR THEM AND WITH US TODAY

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"THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH MEMORIALS,  
 PROVIDED THEY DON'T BECOME RELIGIOUS IDOLS THAT  
 TURN OUR HEARTS FROM GOD AND PROVIDED THEY DON'T  
 SO LINK US TO THE PAST WE FAIL TO SERVE GOD IN THE  
 PRESENT. GLORIFYING THE PAST IS A GOOD WAY TO PETRIFY  
 THE PRESENT AND ROB THE CHURCH OF POWER. THE NEXT  
 GENERATIONS NEED REMINDERS OF WHAT GOD HAS DONE  
 IN HISTORY, BUT THESE REMINDERS MUST ALSO STRENGTHEN  
 THEIR FAITH AND DRAW THEM CLOSER TO THE LORD."  
 —WARREN W. WIERSBE

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"WHEN I LOOK BACK OVER MY SEVEN DECADES, I REALIZE I COULD  
 NEVER HAVE CHARTED MY OWN PATH OR UNDERSTOOD THE END  
 FROM THE BEGINNING. ONLY GOD KNEW THE WAY THROUGH THE  
 WILDERNESS. HE PARTED WATERS, SUSTAINED ME IN MANY RIVERS,  
 AND SOMETIMES PULLED ME OUT OF THE DEPTHS. MY STORY IS UNLIKE  
 ANYONE ELSE'S IN HISTORY—AND SO IS YOURS. IT'S AMAZING.  
 OUR GOD HAS A UNIQUE PATHWAY FOR EACH ONE OF HIS BILLIONS  
 OF FOLLOWERS; AND THE FURTHER WE PROGRESS WITH HIM,  
 THE MORE WE PRAISE HIM FOR LEADING US IN RIGHTEOUS PATHS...  
 SOMEONE ELSE SHOULD KNOW WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE IN YOUR LIFE.  
 WHY NOT TAKE SOME OF THE STONES OF YOUR EXPERIENCE AND  
 BUILD A MONUMENT? YOUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, NIECES,  
 NEPHEWS, OR FRIENDS SHOULD KNOW YOUR STORY AND HOW GOD  
 LED YOU, BLESSED YOU, AND USED YOU. YOU SHOULD LEAVE A  
 TESTIMONY BEHIND—AN EBENEZER." —ROBERT J. MORGAN

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‘AS YOU COME TO HIM, A LIVING STONE REJECTED BY MEN BUT IN THE SIGHT OF GOD CHOSEN AND PRECIOUS, ‘YOU YOURSELVES LIKE LIVING STONES ARE BEING BUILT UP AS A SPIRITUAL HOUSE, TO BE A HOLY PRIESTHOOD,

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TO OFFER SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES ACCEPTABLE TO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. ‘FOR IT STANDS IN SCRIPTURE: “BEHOLD, I AM LAYING IN ZION A STONE, A CORNERSTONE CHOSEN AND PRECIOUS, AND WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.” — 1 PETER 2:4-6

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