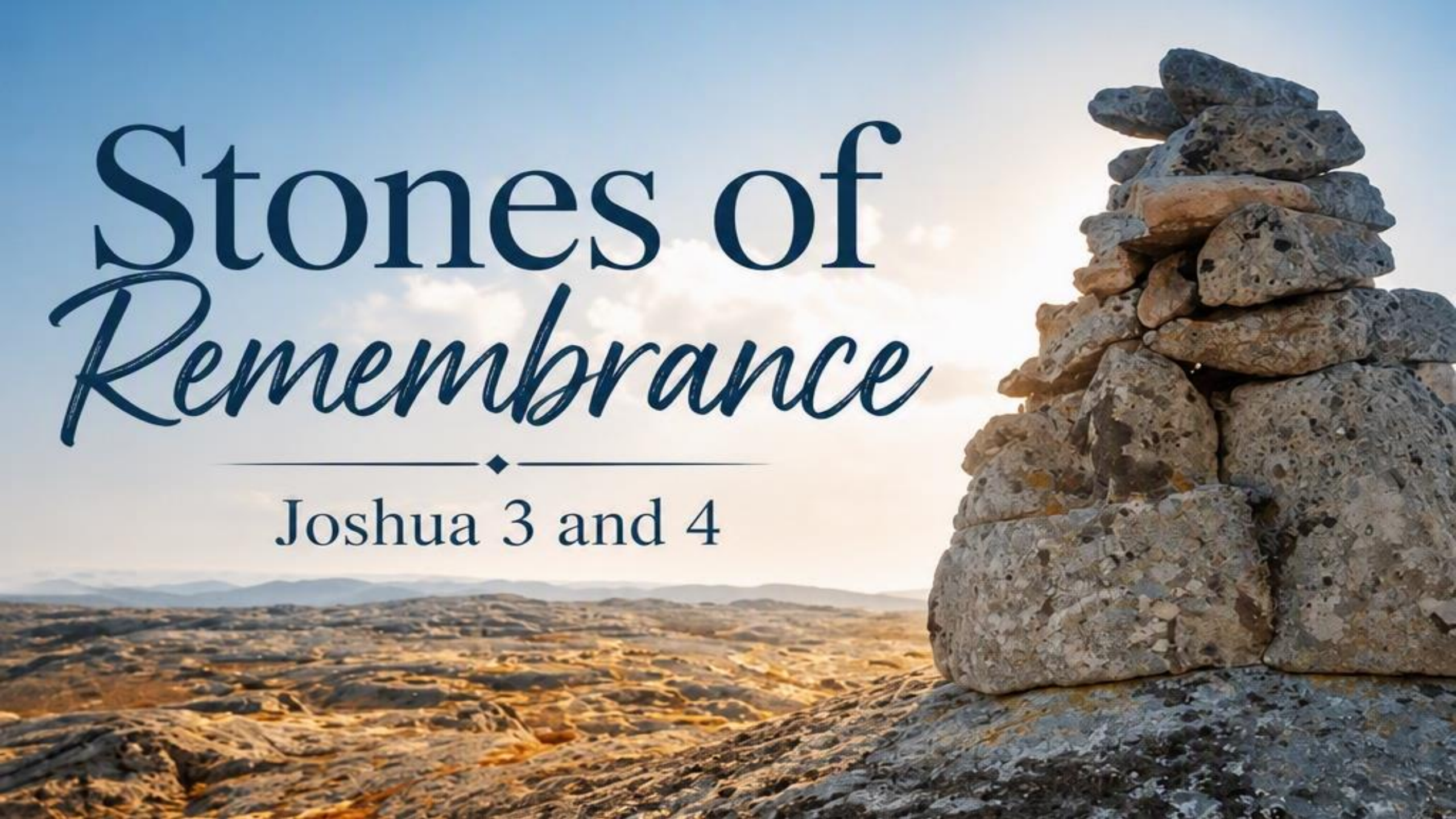
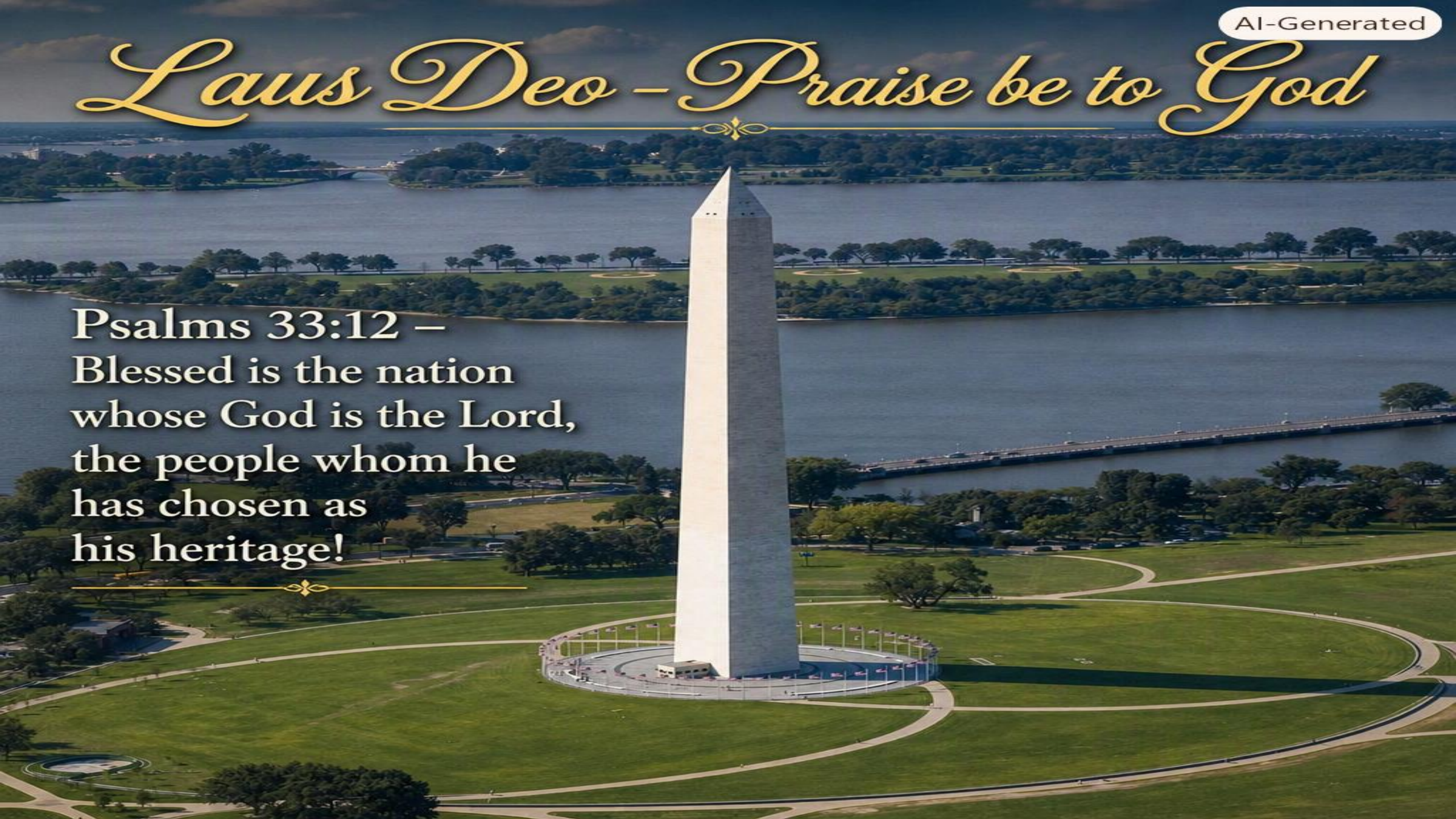
Stones of *Remembrance*

Joshua 3 and 4

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Laus Deo – Praise be to God
Psalms 33:12 –
Blessed is the nation
whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he
has chosen as
his heritage!

Monuments – What Are They?

- **Definition: - Merriam Webster Dictionary**
- a lasting evidence, reminder, or example of someone or something notable or great
- a memorial stone or a building erected in remembrance of a person or event
- **Definition – Bible Encyclopedia**
- In biblical times, monuments served as physical reminders of significant events, divine encounters, or covenants between God and His people. These structures or markers were often erected to commemorate God's intervention, guidance, or promises, and they played a crucial role in the spiritual and communal life of the Israelites.

Purpose of Monuments in the Bible

Remembrance

- **They acted as tangible reminders of God's faithfulness and mighty acts.**

- **Joshua 4:21-22** - And he said to the people of Israel, “When your children ask their fathers in times to come, ‘What do these stones mean?’ 22 then you shall let your children know, ‘Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.’


1945·IWO·JIMA·OKINAWA·KOREA·1950·
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UNCOMMON
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Meaning/Value

- **Value is not simply in the stone – but more importantly in the hearts of the people.**

- **Matthew 22:36-40** - “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”
- **Hebrews 8:10** - For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Identity and Heritage

- **Deuteronomy 6:20-25** - “When your son asks you in time to come, ‘What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the Lord our God has commanded you?’ 21 then you shall say to your son, ‘We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. 22 And the Lord showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes. 23 And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land that he swore to give to our fathers. 24 And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. 25 And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us.’


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WHAT WERE WE?
LONG AGO FORGOTTEN

Consequences of Not Taking Your Faith Seriously – Passing on to Next Generation

Matthew 15:7-9 - You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:

8 “‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me;
9 in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”



ἐκκλησία

assembly, church -

used only of people, not a location or structure.

Joshua 3



Necessity of Cleanliness

- **Joshua 3:5** - Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you."
- **Acts 22:16** – And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'
- **Revelation 22:14** - Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

Strong Leadership

- **Joshua 3:7-10** - The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. 8 And as for you, command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, ‘When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.’” 9 And Joshua said to the people of Israel, “Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God.” 10 And Joshua said, “Here is how you shall know that the living God is among you and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites.

Monuments Give Us Focus

- **Joshua 3:11** - Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is passing over before you into the Jordan.

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Where You Focus Matters

Proverbs 4:25-27 - Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you.

26 Ponder the path of your feet;

then all your ways will be sure.

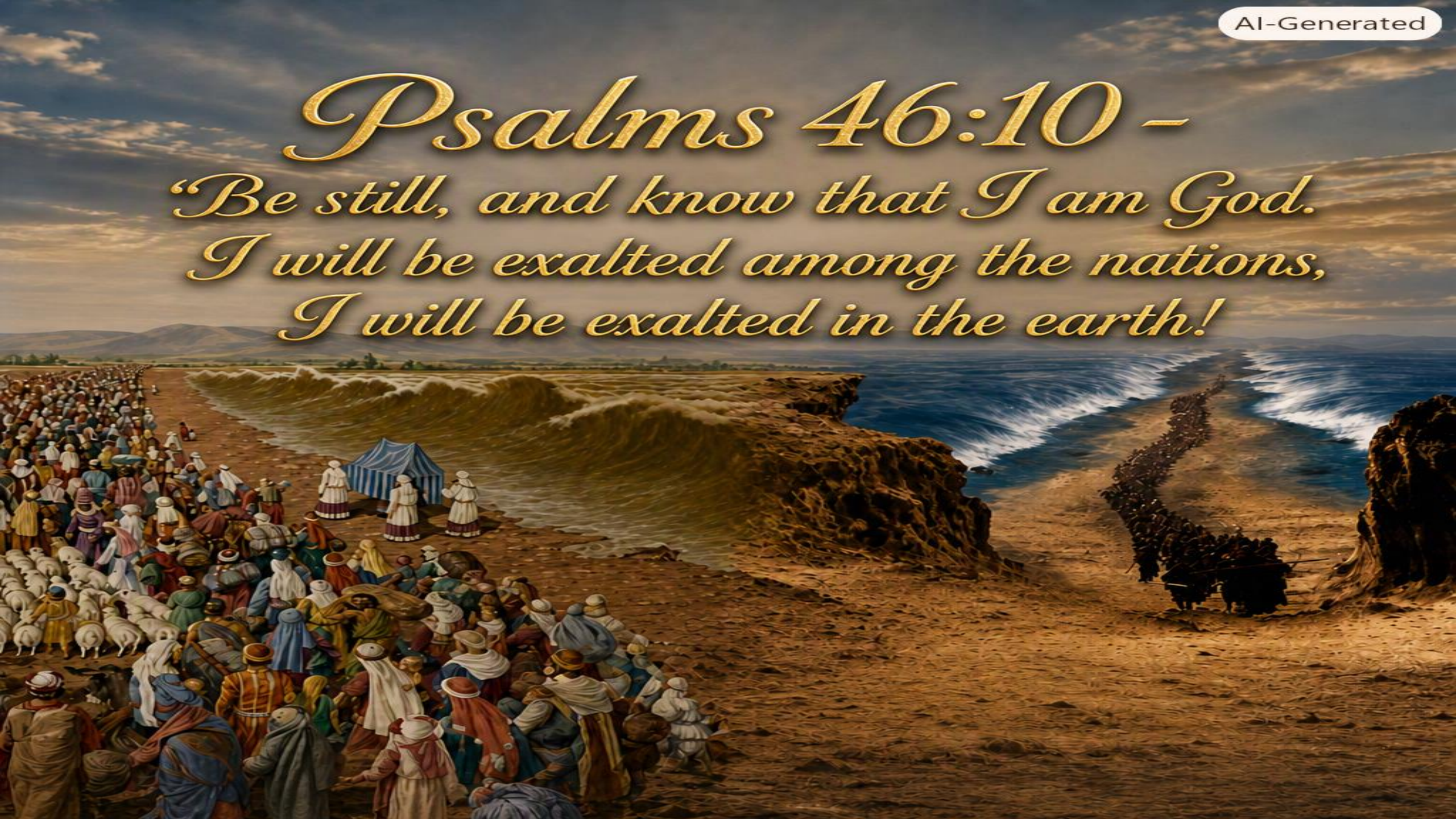
27 Do not swerve to the right or to the left;

turn your foot away from evil.

Monuments – God's Sovereignty Over All Creation

- **Joshua 3:13** - And when the soles of the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap."

- **Joshua 3:17** - Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.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Psalms 46:10 –
'Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!

Joshua 4

Monuments – The Necessity of Unity

- **Joshua 4:1-3** - When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, 2 “Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, 3 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.’”

Unity – Only Found in Jesus and the Lord's Church

- **John 17:21** - That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

- **1 Corinthians 12:12** - For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

- **Ephesians 4:4-6** - There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Monuments – Require Effort and Hard Work

- **Joshua 4:4-5** - Then Joshua called the twelve men from the people of Israel, whom he had appointed, a man from each tribe. 5 And Joshua said to them, “Pass on before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel,

Monuments – Symbol of Remembrance/Memorial For Future Generations

- **Joshua 4:6-7** - that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, ‘What do those stones mean to you?’ 7 then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever.”

Parent's Influence on Faith and Church Attendance

- **When both parents attend church regularly, about 72% of their children will continue to attend Sunday school as adults.**
- **If both parents attend church, nearly three-quarters of their children will also continue attending church in some capacity.**
- The data clearly shows that the involvement of both parents in church and Bible study significantly increases the likelihood of their children continuing in their faith and church attendance as adults.
- This highlights the importance of parental participation in religious activities for fostering a lasting faith in children.

Monuments – Build Trust

- **Joshua 4:10-14** - For the priests bearing the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the Lord commanded Joshua to tell the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua.

Monuments – God is in Control – Has Final Say in All Matters

- **Joshua 4:15-18** - And the Lord said to Joshua, 16 “Command the priests bearing the ark of the testimony to come up out of the Jordan.” 17 So Joshua commanded the priests, “Come up out of the Jordan.” 18 And when the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the Lord came up from the midst of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up on dry ground, the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks, as before.

Monuments – Tell the Story Again and Again Never Stop

- **Joshua 4:19-24** - 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. 20 And those twelve stones, which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal. 21 And he said to the people of Israel, "When your children ask their fathers in times to come, 'What do these stones mean?' 22 then you shall let your children know, 'Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.' 23 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, 24 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."