

HIDDEN ALTARS

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Our Scripture reading today is found in Joshua 4:1-10. I don't have space here to print it out, but it would be good for you to read it for yourself.

Joshua commanded the children of Israel to take twelve stones out of the midst of the Jordan River and place them on the bank and to build an altar at the place of their lodging. The reason for this altar was so that they would never forget the miracle that God had performed for them at the Jordan River.

Most people who read their Bible are familiar with this story but what took place in verse 9 is usually overlooked.

Josh 4:9 And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the Ark of the Covenant stood: and they are there unto this day.

Not only was there an altar built on the shore of the river, that everybody would always be able to see, there was also an altar built in the middle of the river and once the priest stepped out of the river bed, the waters begin to flow again and this altar was soon covered by water and out of view.

What good does a hidden altar do? What purpose could it serve if it couldn't be seen?

The purpose is this. There would come a time when the river would begin to subside. A drought would hit the land and the river would begin to dry up and it was at this time in their lives, that God wanted them to be able to see and remember the hidden altar.

There are times of draught that comes to each of us. There will be low water marks in your life. There will be days, weeks, months and possibly even years, without any rain. There will be times of spiritual dryness when the heavens seem void of a spiritual outpouring. It is in times such as these, that you will need to make a trip back to the Jordan River, and see and remember and reflect on what God has done for you in the past. You will need a hidden altar to remind you of God's faithfulness, of God's deliverance, of God's power and provision.

If you are in a dry place in your life, get busy building you an altar! Build you a place of remembrance. A place of sacrifice. A place of worship.