

## **Word Notes Sunday 05/10/14**

### **Tony Hodge – Miracles & Monuments**

**Summary** (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

#### **Key Text: Joshua 3 & 4**

With the Ark leading the people, Israel sets out across the Jordan. The great miracle of the parting of the water would remind them of how God was with Moses so now He is with Joshua – the same God doing just as great acts. God's presence led them and they had to exercise faith to follow – first the priests in stepping out onto the waters, then the people in walking through while the waters were piled up some distance away. Since the river was in flood this was great faith in what seemed insurmountable odds and God asks them to sanctify themselves as they move forward with His presence in their midst..

They did not know the way and so needed to stay close to the Ark so they would know where God was leading them. We too need to stay close to Him and look for His guidance, through scripture, through prophetic words and the Holy Spirit.

As a result the people would have been encouraged – God IS with us! The purpose of this miracle was to convince the people of God's presence and power: that he was with them as before and specifically that He was with Joshua.

In order for them to remain encouraged and convinced, even in times of trial that were to come, God instructed Moses to erect memorials of stone. The one from stones taken from the river bed and set up at Gilgal, the other set up in the middle of the river (careful reading of the more literal translations such as KJV, ESV & NCV will reveal there were two memorials as opposed to eg NIV and The Message which are more interpretive). These memorials were physical reminders of what God had done.

The purpose of miracles today remains to demonstrate God's presence and power (Mk 16:20). The equivalent of memorials in the Church Age is testimony, for just as God wrote the Law on stone under the Old Covenant, now He writes it on our hearts in the New, then stones spoke of His covenant relationship, now our testimony of our lives does the same.

**Application** (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

Israel moved out across the Jordan in faith in order to possess the Promised Land – to receive their inheritance in God. Read the accounts of the Great Commission in Matthew 28:16-20 and Mark 16:14-20 and discuss the following questions:

If Israel's inheritance was to be the Promised Land what is our inheritance?

Who is to carry out the Great Commission and what in these passages tells us so?

Where in these accounts of the Great Commission do you find the following?

- Direction and guidance
- Faith
- The presence of God
- Miracles
- Encouragement
- Testimony

How is the Great Commission to be carried out and what is your part in it?

**Witness** (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Be alert to the Holy Spirit this week and actively seek a way to share a testimony of God working in your life with a non-Christian.