

~MONUMENT (252)

- **A pillar, a plaque, a building, or other marker set up as a reminder of some person or some special event. A few of such are mentioned in the Bible, though not all of these are referred to as monuments.**
- **Yehowah appeared to Jacob in a night vision, confirming the Abrahamic covenant toward him, 1781 B.C.E. In commemoration, Jacob took the stone he had used as a pillow, set it up to resemble a pillar, and anointed it with oil. He then called the place Bethel.**
- **And Jacob continued on his way out from Beersheba and kept going to Haran. ([Genesis 28:10](#))**
- **In time he came across a place and set about spending the night there because the sun had set. So he took one of the stones of the place and set it as his head supporter and lay down in that place. ([Genesis 28:11](#))**
- **And he began to dream, and, look! There was a ladder stationed upon the earth and its top reaching up to the heavens, and, look! There were God's angels ascending and descending on it. ([Genesis 28:12](#))**
- **And, look! There was Yehowah stationed above it, and he proceeded to say; I am Yehowah the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land upon which you are lying, to you I am going to give it and to your seed. ([Genesis 28:13](#))**
- **And your seed will certainly become like the dust particles of the earth, and you will certainly spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and by means of you and by means of your seed all the families of the ground will certainly bless themselves. ([Genesis 28:14](#))**
- **And here I am with you and I will keep you in all the way you are going and I will return you to this ground, because I am not going to leave you until I have actually done what I have spoken to you. ([Genesis 28:15](#))**
- **Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said; Truly Yehowah is in**

- this place and I myself did not know it. ([Genesis 28:16](#))
- And he grew fearful and added; How fear-inspiring this place is! This is nothing else but the house of God and this is the gate of the heavens. ([Genesis 28:17](#))
 - So Jacob got up early in the morning and took the stone that was there as his head supporter and he set it up as a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ([Genesis 28:18](#))
 - Further, he called the name of that place Bethel, but the fact is, Luz was the city's name formerly. ([Genesis 28:19](#))
 - Some 20 years later Jacob and Laban, upon concluding a covenant of peace between themselves, set up a pillar, also a heap of stones, in the mountainous region of Gilead, there to serve as a reminder of their agreement.
 - So Laban approached Jacob, as Jacob had pitched his tent in the mountain and Laban had encamped his brothers in the mountainous region of Gilead. ([Genesis 31:25](#))
 - And now, come, let us conclude a covenant, I and you, and it must serve as a witness between me and you. ([Genesis 31:44](#))
 - Accordingly Jacob took a stone and set it up as a **pillar**. ([Genesis 31:45](#))
 - Then Jacob said to his brothers; Pick up stones! And they went taking stones and making a heap. After that they ate there on the heap. ([Genesis 31:46](#))
 - And Laban began calling it Jegarsahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed. ([Genesis 31:47](#))
 - And Laban proceeded to say; This **heap** is a witness between me and you today. That is why he called its name Galeed. ([Genesis 31:48](#))
 - And The Watchtower, because he said; Let Yehowah keep watch between me and you when we are situated unseen the one from the other. ([Genesis 31:49](#))
 - If you go to afflicting my daughters and if you go to taking wives

- in addition to my daughters, there is no man with us. See! God is a witness between me and you. (**Genesis 31:50**)
- And Laban went on to say to Jacob; Here is this **heap** and here is the **pillar** that I have erected between me and you. (**Genesis 31:51**)
 - This heap is a witness, and the **pillar** is something that bears witness, that I will not pass this **heap** against you and that you will not pass this **heap** and this **pillar** against me for harm. (**Genesis 31:52**)
 - When Yehowah brought Israel into the Promised Land, **1473 B.C.E**, **two monuments** were set up at the place where they crossed the Jordan River, one in midstream and the other on the West bank of the river, at Gilgal.
 - These were to be memorial signs commemorating that miraculous crossing, and when their sons thereafter asked what these **monuments** represented, their fathers were to recount what Yehowah had done in behalf of his people.
 - So Joshua called twelve men whom he had appointed from the sons of Israel, one man from each tribe. (**Joshua 4:4**)
 - And Joshua went on to say to them; Pass ahead of the ark of Yehowah your God to the middle of the Jordan, and lift up for yourselves each one a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Israel. (**Joshua 4:5**)
 - In order, that this may serve as a sign in your midst. In case your sons should ask in time to come, saying; Why do you have these stones? (**Joshua 4:6**)
 - You must also say to them, Because the waters of the Jordan were cut off from before the ark of Yehowah's covenant. When it passed through the Jordan the waters of the Jordan were cut off, and these stones must serve as a memorial to the sons of Israel to time indefinite. (**Joshua 4:7**)
 - Accordingly the sons of Israel did so, just as Joshua had commanded, and they took up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, just as Yehowah had stated to Joshua, to correspond

with the number of the tribes of the sons of Israel, and they went taking them over with them to the lodging place and depositing them there. (**Joshua 4:8**)

- There were also twelve stones that Joshua set up in the middle of the Jordan on the standing place of the feet of the priests carrying the ark of the covenant, and they continue there until this day. (**Joshua 4:9**)
- As for the **twelve stones** that they had taken out of the Jordan, Joshua set these up at Gilgal. (**Joshua 4:20**)
- And he went on to say to the sons of Israel; When your sons ask their fathers in time to come, saying; What do these stones mean? (**Joshua 4:21**)
- You must then let your sons know, saying; On the dry land it was that Israel passed over this Jordan. (**Joshua 4:22**)
- When Yehowah your God dried up the waters of the Jordan from before them until they had passed over, just as Yehowah your God had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up from before us until we had passed over. (**Joshua 4:23**)
- In order, that all the peoples of the earth may know Yehowah's hand, that it is strong, in order, that you may indeed fear Yehowah your God always. (**Joshua 4:24**)
- Following his victory over the Amalekites, King Saul erected a **monument** **Hebrew, *yadh***, for himself.
- Then Samuel got up early to meet Saul in the morning. But report was made to Samuel, saying; Saul came to Carmel, and, look! he was erecting a **monument** for himself, and he then turned around and went across and descended to Gilgal. (**1 Samuel 15:12**)
- The **Hebrew** word ***yadh***, most often translated, **hand**, can also mean, **monument**, as an uplifted hand catches the eye and directs attention in a specific way, so also a **monument** calls peoples attention to certain things.
- **Absalom's Monument** **Hebrew, *yadh***, was in the form of a **pillar** like so many others. Absalom erected it on the Low Plain of the King

not far from Jerusalem, because, as he said; I have no son in order to keep my name in remembrance.

- Now Absalom himself, while he was alive, had taken and proceeded to raise up for himself a pillar, which is in the Low Plain of the King, for he said; I have no son in order to keep my name in remembrance. So he called the pillar by his own name, and it continues to be called **Absalom's Monument** down to this day. (2 Samuel 18:18)
- However, today nothing is known of that **monument** or its location beyond what the Bible tells us. It should not be confused with the so-called tomb in the Kidron Valley, which ecclesiastical tradition attributes to Absalom but which belongs to the Greco-Roman period of architecture.

See Also ABSALOM

- Like Absalom, eunuchs have no hope of a posterity to carry on their names. However, if they are faithful to Yehowah, and not like treasonous Absalom, Yehowah promises to give them something better than sons and daughters, namely, to give to them in my house and within my walls a **monument**, Hebrew, *yadh*, and a name. A name to time indefinite I shall give them, one that will not be cut off.
- For this is what Yehowah has said to the eunuchs that keep my Sabbaths and that have chosen what I have delighted in and that are laying hold of my covenant. (Isaiah 56:4)
- I will even give to them in my house and within my walls a **monument** and a name, something better than sons and daughters. A name to time indefinite I shall give them, one that will not be cut off. (Isaiah 56:5)
- A name is to be chosen rather than abundant riches, favor is better than even silver and gold. (Proverbs 22:1)
- **Gravestones** were also set up as memory aids, as for example, the one that marked the burial place of the man of the true God who foretold what Josiah would do against the altar at Bethel.
- When Josiah turned, he got to see the burial places that were there in the mountain. So he sent and took the bones from the burial places and burned them upon the altar, that he might

make it unfit for worship, according to Yehowah's word that the man of the true God had proclaimed, who proclaimed these things. (2 Kings 23:16)

- **Then he said; What is the gravestone over there that I am seeing? At this the men of the city said to him; It is the burial place of the man of the true God that came from Judah and proceeded to proclaim these things that you have done against the altar of Bethel. (2 Kings 23:17)**
- **So he said; Let him rest. Do not let anyone disturb his bones. Consequently they let his bones alone along with the bones of the prophet that had come from Samaria. (2 Kings 23:18)**
- **And here there was a man of God that had come out of Judah by the word of Yehowah to Bethel, while Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make sacrificial smoke. (1 Kings 13:1)**
- **Then he called out against the altar by the word of Yehowah and said; O altar, altar, this is what Yehowah has said; Look! A son born to the house of David, whose name is Josiah! And he will certainly sacrifice upon you the priests of the high places that are making sacrificial smoke upon you, and men's bones he will burn upon you. (1 Kings 13:2)**