

A tall, moss-covered standing stone stands prominently in a grassy field. The stone is dark and textured, with patches of green moss. The background features rolling hills and a sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Standing Stones (Revisited)

Genesis 28, 35
Joshua 4, 7, 24
1 Samuel 7:3-12

Standing Stones

A tall, moss-covered standing stone stands prominently on the left side of the image. The stone is dark and textured, with patches of green moss. The background features a vast, open landscape with rolling hills and a cloudy sky. The sun is visible through the clouds, creating a bright, hazy glow. The overall scene is serene and evocative.

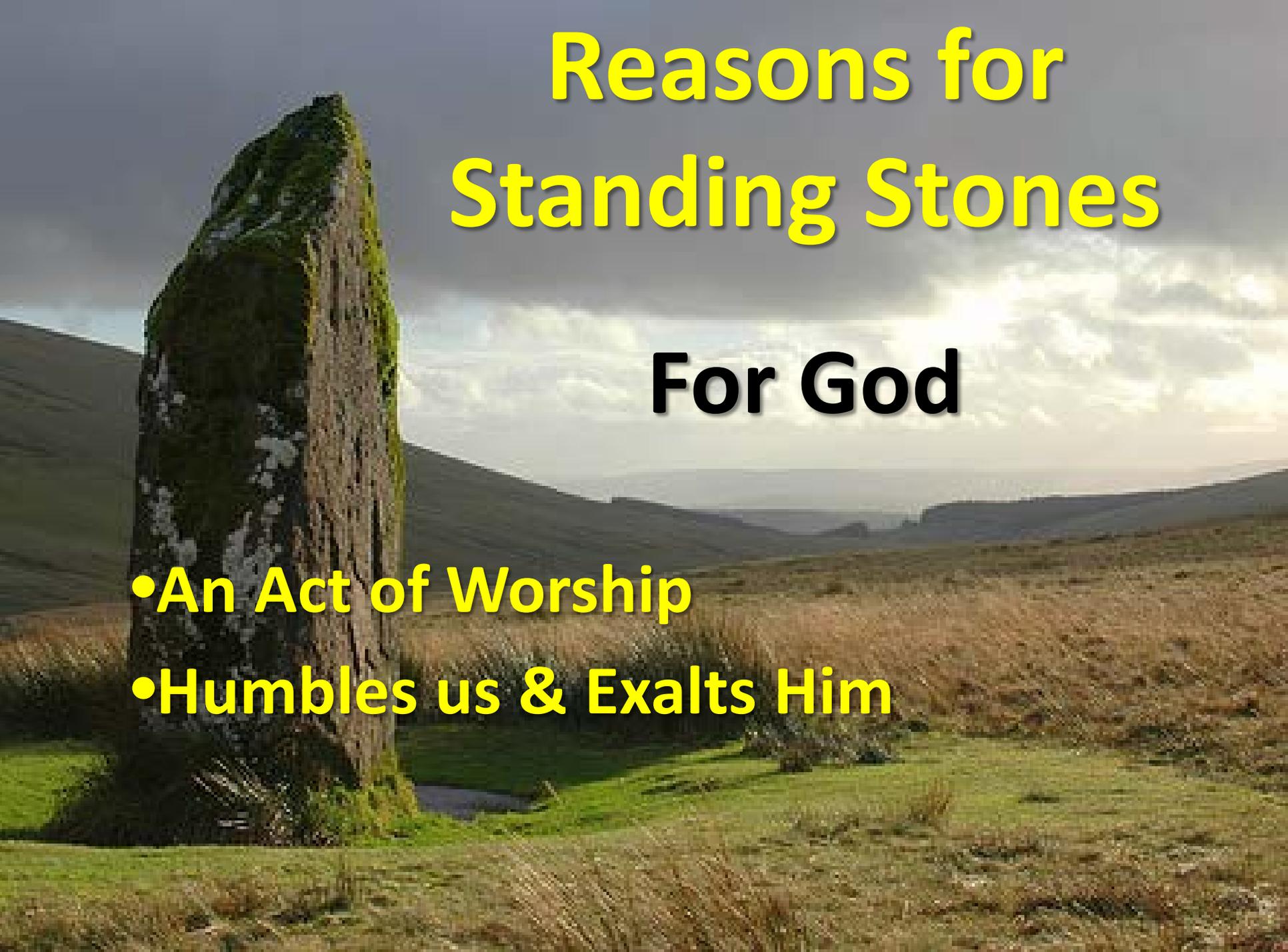
Key Idea

Setting physical, visible, stable reminders of God's work in our lives can help us move forward in faith.

Reasons for Standing Stones

For God

- An Act of Worship
- Humbles us & Exalts Him



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Reasons for Standing Stones

For Us

- Act of Commitment
- Remember God's faithfulness
- Remember our delivery from sin
- Move us forward in faith

A tall, moss-covered standing stone stands prominently in the foreground on the left. The stone is dark and textured, with patches of green moss. The background features rolling hills under a cloudy sky with a bright light source, possibly the sun, breaking through the clouds. The overall scene is a natural, outdoor setting.

Reasons for Standing Stones

For Others

- As a witness
- That they may have specific examples of God's faithfulness

Bethel

Genesis 28:13-22



¹³ And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. ¹⁴ Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. ¹⁵ Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Bethel

Genesis 28:13-22

**Fulfillment of Abraham's covenant will
come through (unworthy) Jacob.**



Bethel

Genesis 28:13-22

**Promise of God's plan for extending
grace to the world (v. 14)**



Bethel

Genesis 28:13-22

Promise to care for Jacob and return
him to the land



¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." ¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." ¹⁸ So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹ He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, ²¹ so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, ²² and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."

Bethel

Genesis 28:13-22

Act of Worship (v. 16-17)

Act of Commitment (20-22)



Bethel

Genesis 35:9-14

God brings Jacob back to
Bethel



⁹ God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan-aram, and blessed him. ¹⁰ And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he called his name Israel. ¹¹ And God said to him, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. ¹² The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you."

¹³Then God went up from him in the place where he had spoken with him. ¹⁴ And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone. He poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it. ¹⁵ So Jacob called the name of the place where God had spoken with him Bethel.

Bethel

Genesis 35:9-14

Jacob is reminded of God's promise
Jacob worships God



Gilgal (Jordan River)

Joshua 4: 4-7; 20-24



⁴ 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, ⁶ 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."

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."

Gilgal (Jordan River)

Joshua 4: 4-7; 20-24

- God reminds the people of Israel of his miraculous power
- A witness
 - to future generations
 - to all people

Ai (over Achan)

Joshua 7



²⁴ And Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver and the cloak and the bar of gold, and his sons and daughters and his oxen and donkeys and sheep and his tent and all that he had. And they brought them up to the Valley of Achor.

²⁵ And Joshua said, "Why did you bring trouble on us? The LORD brings trouble on you today." And all Israel stoned him with stones. They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones. ²⁶ And they raised over him a great heap of stones that remains to this day.

Then the LORD turned from his burning anger. Therefore, to this day the name of that place is called the Valley of Achor.

Ai (over Achan)

Joshua 7

- God takes sin very seriously
- Heap of stones reminds Israel not to repeat the same mistakes
- Commemorates deliverance—not sin

Shechem

Joshua 24: 14-15; 24-27



¹⁴ "Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

²⁴ And the people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey." ²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and put in place statutes and rules for them at Shechem. ²⁶ And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone and set it up there under the terebinth that was by the sanctuary of the LORD. ²⁷ And Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of the LORD that he spoke to us. Therefore it shall be a witness against you, lest you deal falsely with your God."

Shechem

Joshua 24:14-15; 24-27

- Act of Worship and Commitment
- Witness for themselves and future generations



Ebenezer

1 Samuel 7

Context

- Chapter 4 – Defeat and Humiliation
 - Ark lost to Philistines
 - Eli's death

Ebenezer

1 Samuel 7

Context

- Chap. 5 – God sends bubonic plague
- Chap. 6 – Philistines send Ark back
- Chap. 7 – Israel remains faithless for 20 more years, then finally turns to God

¹⁰ As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel. But the LORD thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were routed before Israel. ¹¹ And the men of Israel went out from Mizpah and pursued the Philistines and struck them, as far as below Beth-car. ¹² 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."

Ebenezer

1 Samuel 7

- Act of Worship
- Reminder of God's Help



Standing Stones

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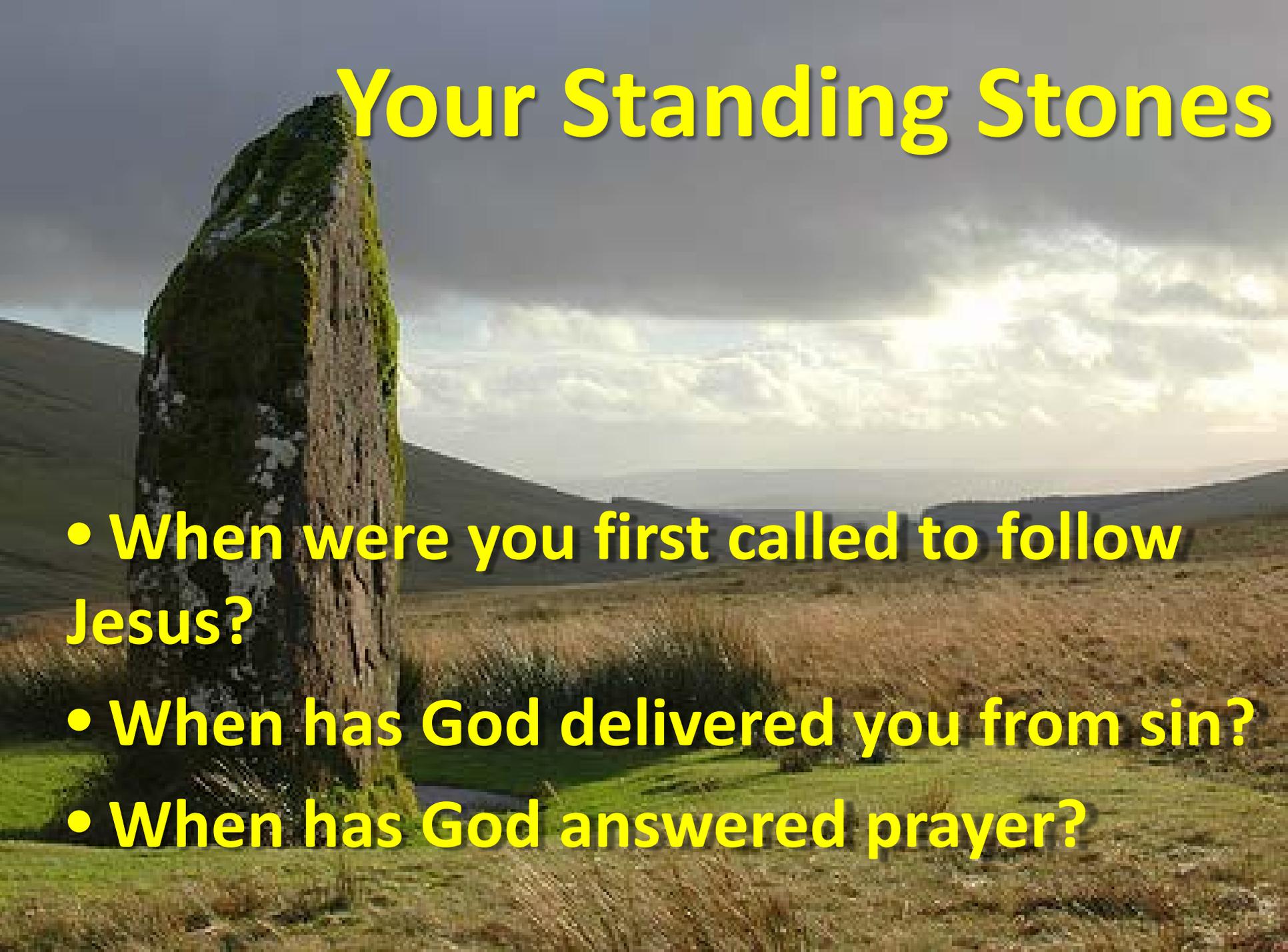
Setting physical, visible, stable reminders of God's work in our lives can help us move forward in faith.

My Standing Stones

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- Tape of 8/29/1982 sermon
- South Mt. State Park, NC 1996, 2000
- Mt. Chrysolite, CO 2003
- Canterbury Cathedral, 2008

Your Standing Stones

A tall, moss-covered standing stone stands prominently on the left side of the image. The stone is dark and textured, with patches of green moss. The background features a vast, open landscape with rolling hills and a field of dry, golden-brown grass. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the sun is visible, creating a bright, hazy glow. The overall scene is serene and evocative.

- When were you first called to follow Jesus?
- When has God delivered you from sin?
- When has God answered prayer?