

# Let the Journey Begin

## a study in the book of Exodus

### Entering the Land - JOSHUA 3,4

#### Lesson 22

The children of Israel had arrived at the point of crossing over to the Land God promised to give them. They found themselves in a similar predicament to their forefathers - there was a body of water between them and their destination. Would the LORD prove to be as faithful to them as He had been to those who had crossed the Red Sea? They had a new leader, but he didn't have a rod like Moses did. In this study, we will once again see the faithfulness of God to *finish* all that He promised. He is faithful still. May your faith be inspired as you study.

#### Read Joshua 3

1. Read through Joshua 3 using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed and marked key words, along with the pronouns that refer to them. It may be helpful to highlight the markings, so they are more visible.

Key Words: LORD, JOSHUA, priests, children of Israel, and ark of the covenant

#### Read Joshua 3:1-8

1. The children of Israel had arrived at their last place of *lodging* before Canaan. What do you think that night was like for them?
  - a. Review what God has taught you during this year's Bible study. If you were sitting around the campfire that night, what are some thoughts you would share about your journey?

2. What instructions were given:
  - to the *people* by the *officers* (verses 3,4)
  
  - to the *people* by *Joshua* (verse 5)
  
  - to the *priests* by *Joshua* (verses 6,8)
  
3. Summarize God's plans for the people the day they would cross into the Promised Land.
  
4. Notice, God did not part the waters of the Jordan as He did the waters of the Red Sea. What would be different this time? (verse 8)
  - a. In what way does this speak to you about God's ways?
  
5. Joshua 3:7 contains God's words to Joshua about his leadership. What have you discovered about the importance of believing God called you to a task?
  - a. What were Moses' words to Joshua regarding his new responsibilities? Deuteronomy 31:23
    - 1.) Share one thing from Moses' words that would have been most encouraging to you.

## Read Joshua 3:9-13

1. So Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Come here, and hear the words of the LORD your God." When are you most excited to hear His words for you?

2. Joshua called the children of Israel to come before him. What did he tell them they would know?

a. What did Joshua tell the people God *would not fail* to do?

1.) Define the word *fail*.

3. What titles did Joshua use to refer to God in verses 10, 11, and 13?

a. What are some other characteristics of the LORD that separate Him from all other gods?

b. What is the sweet reminder to the *children of Israel* in Deuteronomy 5:26?

1.) What have you personally discovered about the value of reminding yourself of what God has done for you?

c. Bask in the wonders of the LORD of *all the earth* as you record the words of:

Exodus 19:5

Psalm 97:5

We will look at verse 12 when we study Joshua 4

4. According to Joshua 3:13, what would happen?

a. Imagine yourself as being one of the *priests*. What concerns might you have had?

## Read Joshua 3:14-17

1. The last verses of Joshua 3 move from instructions to the actual occurrence of crossing the Jordan River. Write the first three words of Joshua 3:14.
  - a. Comment on those words as you reflect upon the wonder of those words in your life.
2. What was the condition of the waters of the Jordan River during their time of crossing?
3. This generation of Israelites had not personally experienced the parting of the waters at the Red Sea. What do you think they thought of the LORD as He dried up the rivers of the Jordan?
  - a. What impact might this have had on them as far as the importance of teaching their children about what God had done for them?
4. Record the words of Psalm 114:3.
5. According to Joshua 3:16, the waters *rose in a heap* (stopped) at the city of Adam. Adam was about 20 miles north of their point of crossing. As far as they could see to the north, the riverbed was dry. The waters *failed and were cut off*. What did the people do?
  - a. Reflect upon the words *crossed over*. Share an example in your life when the LORD enabled you to *cross over* something.
6. Matthew 8:23-27 records the time when *a great tempest arose on the sea*. Using these verses, answer the following questions:

What did the *disciples* say to *Jesus*?

What did *Jesus* say to *the disciples*?

What did *Jesus* do?

What was the result?

The disciples *marveled*; what did they say?

  - a. In what ways does Jesus' ability to *calm a tempestuous sea* speak to you about His abilities on behalf of your interests?

## Read Joshua 4:1-10

1. Read through Joshua 4 using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed and marked key words, along with the pronouns that refer to them. It may be helpful to highlight the markings so they are more visible.

Key Words: LORD, JOSHUA, priests, children of Israel, ark of the covenant, and ~~STONE(S)~~

## Read Joshua 4:1-10

1. Joshua 4 picks up, *when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan*. The LORD instructed Joshua to take *twelve men, one from every tribe*. Using verses 2-5, what was Joshua to instruct these men to do?

2. What would the children ask? verse 6

- a. *These stones* are often referred to as memorial stones; objects intended to remind the owner and others of something God is or has done. What are some memorial stones that you might set up?

- 1.) What will you say when you are asked of their significance?

- b. Stones were also to be used as a reminder to the people. Record the words of:

Joshua 24:7

1 Samuel 7:12

- c. In what ways are the words of 1 Samuel 7:12 a sweet reminder to you?

3. Joshua 4:9 refers to a second set of stones. Joshua set up twelve stones in *the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood*. Notice, in verse 10, the priests *stood* and the people *hurried and crossed over*. Each had different responsibilities. Consider the words, *until everything was finished*. What does this say about the importance of our following God's purposes?

### **Review Exodus 3-4:10**

1. In what ways has this story of crossing over the Jordan River:

encouraged you

challenged you

2. Share one thing that impacted you about the LORD from this study and why.
3. Share one thing that impacted you about the LORD from the study this year and why.

*Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land;  
and the children of Israel no longer had manna,  
but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.*

*- Joshua 5:12*

## Observation Worksheet

**JOSHUA 3:1-17** Then **JOSHUA** rose early in the morning; and *they* set out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan, **HE** and all the *children of Israel*, and lodged there before *they* crossed over. <sup>2</sup> So it was, after three days, that the *officers* went through the camp; <sup>3</sup> and *they* commanded the *people*, saying, "When *you* see the ark of the covenant of the **LORD** your **God**, and the *priests*, the Levites, bearing it, then *you* shall set out from *your* place and go after it. <sup>4</sup> Yet there shall be a space between *you* and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that *you* may know the way by which *you* must go, for *you* have not passed this way before." <sup>5</sup> And **JOSHUA** said to the *people*, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the **LORD** will do wonders among *you*." <sup>6</sup> Then **JOSHUA** spoke to the *priests*, saying, "Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the *people*." So *they* took up the ark of the covenant and went before the *people*. <sup>7</sup> And the **LORD** said to **JOSHUA**, "This day **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**. <sup>8</sup> **YOU** shall command the *priests who* bear the ark of the covenant, saying, 'When *you* have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan, *you* shall stand in the Jordan.' " <sup>9</sup> So **JOSHUA** said to the *children of Israel*, "Come here, and hear the words of the **LORD** your **God**." <sup>10</sup> And **JOSHUA** said, "By this *you* shall know that the living **God** is among *you*, and that **He** will without fail drive out from before *you* the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites: <sup>11</sup> Behold, the ark of the covenant of the **LORD** of all the earth is crossing over before *you* into the Jordan. <sup>12</sup> Now therefore, take for yourselves twelve men from the *tribes of Israel*, one man from every tribe. <sup>13</sup> And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the *priests who* bear the ark of the LORD, the **LORD** of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap." <sup>14</sup> So it was, when the *people* set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the *priests* bearing the ark of the covenant before the *people*, <sup>15</sup> and as *those who* bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the *priests who* bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), <sup>16</sup> that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the *people* crossed over opposite Jericho. <sup>17</sup> Then the *priests who* bore the ark of the covenant of the **LORD** stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all *Israel* crossed over on dry ground, until all the *people* had crossed completely over the Jordan.

**JOSHUA 4:1-10** And it came to pass, when all the *people* had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the **LORD** spoke to **JOSHUA**, saying: <sup>2</sup> "Take for *yourselves* twelve men from the *people*, one man from every tribe, <sup>3</sup> and command *them*, saying, 'Take for *yourselves* twelve ~~STONES~~ from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the **priests**' feet stood firm. *You* shall carry ~~THEM~~ over with *you* and leave ~~THEM~~ in the lodging place where *you* lodge tonight.' " <sup>4</sup> Then **JOSHUA** called the twelve men whom **HE** had appointed from the *children of Israel*, one man from every tribe; <sup>5</sup> and **JOSHUA** said to *them*: "Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of *you* take up a ~~STONE~~ on *his* shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the *children of Israel*, <sup>6</sup> that this may be a sign among *you* when *your* children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these ~~STONES~~ mean to *you*?' <sup>7</sup> Then *you* shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the **LORD**; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these ~~STONES~~ shall be for a memorial to the *children of Israel* forever. <sup>8</sup> And the *children of Israel* did so, just as **JOSHUA** commanded, and took up twelve ~~STONES~~ from the midst of the Jordan, as the **LORD** had spoken to **JOSHUA**, according to the number of the tribes of the *children of Israel*, and carried ~~THEM~~ over with *them* to the place where *they* lodged, and laid them down there. <sup>9</sup> Then **JOSHUA** set up twelve ~~STONES~~ in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the **priests** who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and ~~THEY~~ are there to this day. <sup>10</sup> So the **priests** who bore the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the **LORD** had commanded **JOSHUA** to speak to the *people*, according to all that Moses had commanded **JOSHUA**; and the *people* hurried and crossed over.