

Joshua 3 Israel Crosses the Jordan

Then Joshua got up early in the morning; and he and all the sons of Israel set out from Shittim and came to the Jordan, and they spent the night there before they crossed.

2 Then at the end of three days the officers went through the midst of the camp; 3 and they commanded the people, saying, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God with the Levitical priests carrying it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it.

4 However, there shall be a distance between you and it of about two thousand cubits by measurement. Do not come near it, so that you may know the way by which you shall go, for you have not passed this way before."

5 Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do miracles among you." 6 And Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, "Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over ahead of the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went ahead of the people.

7 Now the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they will know that just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you. 8 So you shall command the priests who are carrying the ark of the covenant, saying, 'When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.'"

9 Then Joshua said to the sons of Israel, "Come here, and hear the words of the LORD your God." 10 And Joshua said, "By this you will know that the living God is among you, and that He will assuredly drive out from you the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Hivite, the Perizzite, the Girgashite, the Amorite, and the Jebusite. 11 Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over ahead of you into the Jordan.

12 Now then, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man for each tribe. 13 And it will come about when the soles of the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan will be cut off, that is, the waters which are flowing down from above; and they will stand in one heap."

14 So when the people set out from their tents to cross the Jordan, with the priests carrying the ark of the covenant before the people, 15 and when those who were carrying the ark came up to the Jordan and the feet of the priests carrying the ark stepped down into the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks all the days of harvest),

16 then the waters which were flowing down from above stood and rose up in one heap, a great distance away at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan; and those which were flowing down toward the sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. So the people crossed opposite Jericho. 17 And the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan while all Israel crossed on dry ground, until all the nation had finished crossing the Jordan.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

- What questions were provoked within you?
- Did anything confuse you?
- Did anything move you emotionally?
- Did God instruct you to do something?
- Did you gain any insight into God's character

Paul's observations and insights

1. Joshua and his officers got up early - do you think life works better when you get up early?
2. Why did Jesus rise early in the morning?
3. Before they attempted to cross the Jordan they waited three days – why?
4. What was the sign to show the people when they needed to get moving?
5. Why did the officers use the covenant box as the sign to direct the people?
6. Why was it only the Priests that were able to carry the covenant box?
7. What is the measurement of two thousand cubits? It's half a mile.
8. The righteous gap between holiness must be half a mile, any nearer and it became unacceptable,
9. Gods' holiness would have consumed them.
10. 'To consecrate', is to be set apart through a process of ceremonial cleansing.
11. Joshua instructs Israel to get ready to go.
12. God is about to elevate Joshua in the sight of all the people of Israel - in the same way as 'He was with Moses'.
13. When God lifts you up you become a great target - look at the life of Job!
14. If God 'is to be with Joshua as He was with Moses', Joshua knew everything would be just fine.
15. The objective in this encounter, is to open a way through the Jordan for Israel to enter the promised land.
16. The priests make their way towards the enemy's camp.
17. It must have been an interesting sight to watch.
18. Joshua is not anxious in any way, to use signs and wonders, to demonstrate God's great name.
19. God is going to remove all of Israel's enemies living in the promised land.
20. God is releasing the promises given to Abraham and Moses, that the house of Israel

may receive.

21. What does 'to stand firm' mean to you?
22. What is it 'to have God living amongst us'?
23. The covenant box was to be first across the Jordan – why?
24. One of my most favourite statements is, 'you have not been this way before'.
25. When did the waters of the Jordan start piling up on one side but continue to flow on the other?
26. Can you imagine what this looked like?
27. A waterfall without a mountain!
28. The people set Joshua's plan into motion.
29. The spring water was highest at this time of the year.
30. This sign encouraged the 'wow' factor before Israel's enemy.
31. The water pile took place at Jericho.
32. The waters were cut to make a way to cross the Jordan. Is there anything too hard for God?
33. It was at Jericho that the people crossed over the Jordan.
34. The water flowed down into the salt sea.
35. The ground was all dried up enough for the people to stand firm on it.
36. What is it to be rejected?
37. The whole of the nation of Israel crossed over the Jordan!