

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What was the ark of the covenant symbolic of? What was in the ark?
2. How is a believer sanctified?
What is the role of works in sanctification?
3. Why did the Lord instruct Joshua to command the priests to stand still in Jordan before he worked this miracle? What lesson can we learn from this and how can we apply it to our lives today?
4. Why would God help the Israelites drive out these nations from their native land?
5. What is significant about the fact that God chose this particular time in the spring, when the Jordan River was overflowing its banks, to work this miracle?
6. What are the rivers or obstacles in your life?

SUMMARY:

These Israelites approaching the Jordan river were a new generation of people. Their forefathers had all died in the wilderness because of unbelief, and these people were prepared by God to take possession of the Promised Land. It was God's purpose to prove them again before entering into the promised Canaan. As they were confronted by an overflowing Jordan, it became evident this company of people could not cross. Joshua called on the people to sanctify themselves and prepare to cross. God provided the instructions and promised results. Joshua's simple belief in God's word, followed by obedience inspired the people also, and God provided the way to a miraculous victory over a great obstacle. In our lives too, as we are confronted by "Jordans" let's remember God has provided instructions, examples to follow and promised the results for us if we will simply follow in obedience and faith.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #2

July 12, 2015

Third Quarter

JOSHUA CROSSES JORDAN

LESSON TEXT: *Joshua 3:1-17*

LESSON SETTING: Joshua is preparing the Israelites to cross the Jordan River into Canaan.

TIME: Approximately 1451 B.C.

I. THE INSTRUCTION. Joshua 3:1-4

- A. Guidance Given. Isaiah 48:17; John 10:3, 16:13
- B. Way Provided. Isaiah 30:21; John 14:5-6

II. THE CONSECRATION. Joshua 3:5-6

- A. Spiritual Preparation. 1 Samuel 7:3; James 4:8
- B. Sanctification (vs. 5) Exodus 33:16; 2 Timothy 2:21
- C. Wonders Promised (vs. 5) Exodus 3:20; Isaiah 29:14

III. THE PROMISE. Joshua 3:7-13

- A. Divine Witness (vs. 7) Numbers 16:28-32; Matthew 3:17
- B. Instruction (vs. 9) Psalm 71:17; John 6:45
- C. God's Presence (vs. 10) 1 Samuel 17:26; Acts 14:15
- D. God's Promise (vs. 13) John 5:24; Philippians 4:7, 19; Colossians 3:4

IV. THE CROSSING. Joshua 3:14-17

- A. Obedience (vs. 14-15) Joshua 11:15; Revelation 22:14
- B. God's Word is Sure. 1 Kings 8:56; Psalm 111:7; Luke 21:33

GOLDEN TEXT: IF YE BE WILLING AND OBEDIENT, YE SHALL EAT THE GOOD OF THE LAND. Isaiah 1:19

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Joshua 6:1-27

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: 1 Samuel 14:1-23; Psalm 37:1-40;
Isaiah 26:1-9; Hebrews 11:30

QUARTERLY THEME: Early Days in Canaan

TOPIC: CONQUERING BY FAITH AND OBEDIENCE

INTRODUCTION:

The city of Jericho was to be compassed about for seven days by seven priests using seven trumpets. On the seventh day, it was to be compassed about seven times. Seven is God's number of completion, of perfection. The conquest was completed with the falling in of the walls. All were destroyed but Rahab and her family.

God gave specific instructions and Joshua, the man of faith, carried out these instructions faithfully. Among them was one that nothing could be taken as spoils. God called the city accursed and everything in it. He demanded that the Israelites keep themselves from the accursed thing.

How explicit God's laws are, and how foolish we are not to listen to Him and obey. Our lives would be filled with joy and peace if we would always do so. Joshua obeyed and through his obedience was made a useful tool in God's hands. We should strive to do God's will in every detail of our lives, so that we also can be useful tools.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Successful conquest depends upon continual pursuit of God's known will.

GOLDEN TEXT: EVERY PLACE THAT THE SOLE OF YOUR FOOT SHALL TREAD UPON, THAT HAVE I GIVEN UNTO YOU.

Joshua 1:3

God gave Joshua a wonderful promise for Israel. They were now at the entering in of the Promised Land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and God's Word was pledged that they would surely possess it. But God's covenants with man are always reciprocal. Man can do nothing without God's help, but man must be ready to do something to receive God's help. Joshua and all Israel had to cross Jordan in the face of seeming danger before they could possess an acre of their new land. Their feet had to tread the promised possession. It required obedience to march around Jericho for seven days. Only when they completed God's plan was the city delivered to them.

God's Son, Himself, had to complete the plan of salvation before He could return to His place in heaven. As He said, "ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory?" (Luke 24:26) Likewise we, as Christ's redeemed must "fight a good fight, finish our course, and keep the faith" before our redemption is complete.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF July 13 – 19

- M. *Conquest of Jericho. Joshua 6:1-27
- T. Israel Eats Canaan's Food. Joshua 5:1-12
- W. Israel Follows an Unseen Captain. Joshua 5:13-15
- T. Rahab is Saved. Joshua 6:21-27
- F. Caleb is Rewarded. Joshua 14:6-13
- S. Joshua Receives His Inheritance. Joshua 19:49-51
- S. The Righteous Will Triumph. Psalm 37:1-11

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