

Joshua Series “Crossing Over”
Joshua 3:1-17
April 11, 2021

Joshua 3:1-6

Then Joshua rose early in the morning and they set out from Shittim. And they came to the Jordan, he and all the people of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. 2 At the end of three days the officers went through the camp 3 and commanded the people, “As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it. 4 Yet there shall be a distance between you and it, about 2,000 cubits[a] in length. Do not come near it, in order that you may know the way 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 wonders among you.” 6 And Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on before the people.” So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.

Consecration- the act of setting aside something for a special or sacred purpose.

Consecration is not a qualification to the blessings but the means to receive the blessing.

The ark is a central part of the crossing.

This moment of crossing over would be a moment when an entire new generation of God’s people depended totally upon God.

Joshua 3:7-13

The Lord said to Joshua, “Today 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. 8 And as for you, command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, ‘When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.’” 9 And Joshua said to the people of Israel, “Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God.” 10 And Joshua said, “Here is how you shall know that the living God is among you and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites. 11 Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth[b] is passing over before you into the Jordan. 12 Now therefore take twelve men from the tribes of Israel, from each tribe a man. 13 And when the soles of the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap.”

1 Corinthians 10:2

They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

The Red Sea was the place in which Israel was immersed in the reality of God's power to deliver and His grace to do all that was necessary.

Joshua 3:14-17

So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, 15 and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), 16 the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho. 17 Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.

God uses a "through water" moment to help mark a before and after experience.

God chose the most improbable time and location because his deeper purpose was to develop his people's trust in him.

We must never give up what we do know because of what we don't.

Grow Group Discussion

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- How do our lives grow and progress in consecration? Meaning, in what ways did you set apart your life to God when you first believed and in what areas has your life become even further devoted?
- God takes Israel through the Jordan at flood stage. Why do you think God picked this time of year? How does this give us insight into the timing of God in our lives?
- The waters of the Jordan didn't part until the priests stepped into them. How did that express faith and trust for them? How could that apply to something that you are facing and hope to be faithfully in?
- Are you waiting for something to calm and quiet down? What is it? How might faith be expressed in that situation today?
- How can your Grow Group help you apply this passage to your life this week?