

Joshua 3 – How to Cross the Jordan River

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07.15.18



HOW do we enter the place of rest?

Hebrews 3:16-19 (NIV)

16 Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt?

17 And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies perished in the wilderness?

18 And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed?

19 So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

1) BELIEF IN HIS WORD

Belief Leads to Obedience.

Unbelief Leads to Disobedience.

A RETURN to the Garden of Eden.

Deuteronomy 31:3 (NIV)

3 The Lord your God himself will cross over ahead of you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you will take possession of their land. Joshua also will cross over ahead of you, as the Lord said.

2) Following God the Father and God in the Resurrected Son Christ Jesus

Joshua 3 (NIV)

1 Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over.

2 After three days the officers went throughout the camp,

3 giving orders to the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it.

4 Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it."

5 Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you."

6 Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people." So they took it up and went ahead of them.

7 And the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses

8 Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: ‘When you reach the edge of the Jordan’s waters, go and stand in the river.’”

9 Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God.

10 This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites.

11 See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you.

12 Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe.

13 And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the Lord—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.”

14 So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them.

15 Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge,

16 the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

17 The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

3) Following God the Holy Spirit

“Why Jordan did you turn back?” (Psalm 114:3, 5, 7)

“ARK” referenced 14 x in 17 verses.

Psalm 114:3, 5, 7 (NIV)

3 The sea looked and fled, the Jordan turned back;

5 Why was it, sea, that you fled? Why, Jordan, did you turn back?

7 Tremble, earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,

4) Consecrate Yourself

Psalm 114:5 (NIV)

5 Why was it, sea, that you fled? Why, Jordan, did you turn back?

5) “Go”

BELIEF leads to >> Step by step obedience >> leads to step by step clarity in our revelation

Psalm 114:8 (NIV)

8 who turned the rock into a pool, the hard rock into springs of water.

“Camp @ the edge of the Jordan” (v1) - He obeys

“Give Orders to the People to follow the Ark” (v3) - He obeys

“Give orders to the People to consecrate themselves” (v5) He obeys

(to make or declare sacred; set apart or dedicate to the service of a deity)

God can't help Himself - He MUST honor humility - “Today I will begin to exalt you” (v7)

I Samuel 2:30 > “Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained.”

“Give orders to the people to GO and stand in the river” - SPECIFIC instruction

AFTER we obey, specific instruction will come

Obedience removes confusion

BEFORE Israel could take a Step of Faith - Joshua had to take multiple Steps of Faith

He used a miracle to get them OUT of slavery 40 years earlier

He used a miracle to get them INTO the land 40 years later

His way REQUIRES us to live and operate by FAITH.