

Inheriting the Land of Promise  
**JOSHUA**

**Joshua 3:1-17**

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

<sup>2</sup>At the end of three days the officers went through the midst of the camp;

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>However, there shall be between you and it a distance of about 2,000 cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you shall go, for you have not passed this way before."

<sup>5</sup>Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you."

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>Now the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you.

<sup>8</sup>You shall, moreover, 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.'"

<sup>9</sup>Then Joshua said to the sons of Israel, "Come here, and hear the words of the LORD your God."

<sup>10</sup>Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will assuredly dispossess from before you the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Hivite, the Perizzite, the Girgashite, the Amorite, and the Jebusite.."

<sup>11</sup>Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over ahead of you into the Jordan.

<sup>12</sup>Now then, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man for each tribe.

<sup>13</sup>It shall 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, *and* the waters which are flowing down from above will stand in one heap."

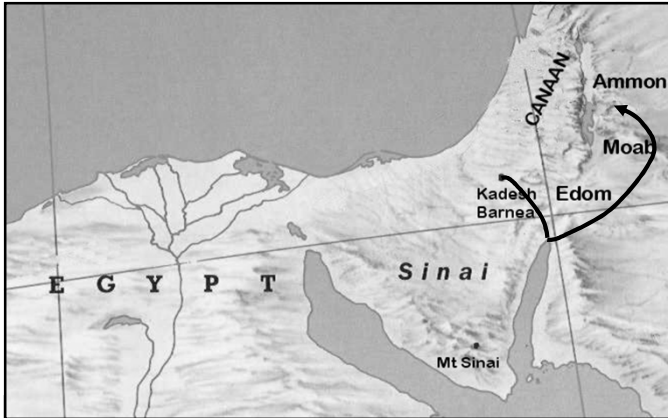
<sup>14</sup>So when the people set out from their tents to cross the Jordan with the priests carrying the ark of the covenant before the people,

<sup>15</sup>and when those who carried the ark came into the Jordan, and the feet of the priests carrying the ark were dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks all the days of harvest),

<sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>17</sup>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.

**Why cross the Jordan River?**



### Why cross the Jordan River?

1. That this generation might experience the power of God's salvation like those who crossed the Red Sea
2. That Israel would know that possession of the land is the Lord's gift according to His power

### Miracle at the Jordan

#### 1. Prominence of the Ark



### Miracle at the Jordan

#### 1. Prominence of the Ark

- it symbolized God's presence with His people
- its movement pictured God's leading of His people in triumph (c.f. Num. 10:35-36)
- it demonstrated that the miracle at the Jordan was the Lord's work alone



### Miracle at the Jordan

#### 2. Nature of the Miracle



Jordan River Valley



Jordan River Valley

## Miracle at the Jordan

### 2. Nature of the Miracle

- it was at a time when crossing the Jordan was humanly impossible
- it was in a manner that was unmistakably the Lord's work

## Miracle at the Jordan

### 3. Meaning of the Miracle

- it was a display that Yahweh is the "living God" who is among them
- it was to reassure them that the Lord would dispossess the nations of Canaan and give Israel the land

## Miracle at the Jordan

### Application

- 1) God's kingdom promise is fulfilled through His grace and power not our ability or effort
- 2) God delights to orchestrate and act in the "impossible" to show that "nothing is too difficult for Him"