

Joshua 3

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

At this point Joshua has no knowledge of how he will move this massive group of 2M+ people across a swollen river into the promised land. Believing God will make a way, he moves forward.

3:3 The ark of the covenant was no mere symbol; it represented the person and the promises of God.

3:4 The great distance (more than half of a mile away) allowed a large population to see the ark. It also reminded them of the holiness of God.

3:5 The people of Israel were to expect God to work. They were to be eager, gripped by a sense of wonder.

3:5 The things we do in consecration are not works that qualify us for God's favor. Rather, the acts of consecration, like confession, remove the barriers to God's power and to fellowship with Him.

3:8 Until this point, Joshua did not know how God was going to fulfill His commitment. He had been moving forward by faith.

3:10 The purpose in God's activity (showing Himself powerful) is that He gets the glory; that people would know He is active, that He is among us.

3:15 During most of the year the Jordan River can be waded. But God waited until early spring (in full flood stage) to lead Israel across.

3:17 It is true that God can use natural causes to allow certain events to take place. But considering all the factors, it is best to view this as an act of God in a way unknown to man.

By this great miracle—the crossing of the Jordan River at flood stage by a nation of about two million people—Joshua is exalted, Israel is encouraged, God is glorified, and His purposes are accomplished.

For believers today, crossing the Jordan of your life represents passing from one level of the Christian life to another. It's a picture of entering into spiritual warfare to claim what God has promised. This means the end of living in our own strength and the first steps of a life of faith and obedience.

Note God had already given Israel the land; all they had to do was step out by faith and claim it. God has already given us “every blessing of the Spirit” in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). All we need to do is step out by faith and possess our possessions.

HEBREW WORDS

Qādash (kaw-dash')—primitive root; to be (pronounce or observe as) clean :- appoint, dedicate, hallow, (be, keep) holy. To prepare, purify, sanctify (-ied one, self)