

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE AND MOVE ON LESSON 3 PART A

Series Subject: Accept the Challenge and Move On

Lesson 3: Campaign Canaan/Beachhead Established Josh. 3:1-4:24

Lesson 3 Part A: Picture of Faith Josh. 3:1-17

Lesson 3 Part B: Product of Faith Josh. 4:1-24

Today's Study: Picture of Faith Josh. 3:1-17

1. Waken to the Task v. 1
2. Way of Faith Vv. 2-13
3. Walk of Faith Vv. 14-17

Time is available only for a brief discussion of review questions from previous lesson.

INTRODUCTION

1. Highlights from Lesson 2

- (a) Joshua sent two spies on a surveillance mission to Jericho in preparation for an invasion.
 - (1) The two men lodged at Rahab's, the harlot, house.
 - (2) Rahab not only provided security for the spies but supplied them with very important information.
 - (3) Rahab was not only aware of the wonder-working God, doing and accomplishing great exploits for His people but was fully convinced that He was the true and living God.
 - (4) Rahab not only desired and secured salvation for herself but for her family (Josh. 2:12-13; Heb. 11:31) and eventually became a part of the lineage of King David, from whom the Messiah descended (Rahab married Salmon of the tribe of Judah and was the mother of Boaz ... Ruth 4:18-20; Matt. 1:4-5; Luke 3:32).
- (b) Joshua by sending the spies to Jericho was not displaying a lack of faith in God; his action teaches that he did not believe that the immediate presence of God and the miraculous help promised, licensed him to neglect the measures a wise and prudent leader should take.
- (c) Joshua saw that Jericho was the key stronghold of the Jordan valley and that conquering it was fundamentally important to the entire campaign to conquer Canaan.
- (d) Rahab's courageous action was a clear indication of her willingness and determination for forsaking her former lifestyle.
- (e) Several things noted in our lesson about Rahab's lies; for example:

- (1) At the time Rahab was not a member of the covenant community and was not bound to the moral laws of the covenant.
- (2) God does not need to rely on deception to fulfill His covenant promises or to protect His spies (Josh. 1:5-6)
- (f) The scarlet rope used by Rahab to lower the spies to safety was used to identify her house as a **“house of safety.”**
 - (1) The scarlet rope reminds us of the coverage given by God to the Israelites in Egypt when the death angel struck all the first born, except where the homes were identified with the blood of the Passover lamb (Ex. 12, NB Vv. 13, 29-30).
 - (2) It is also a clear picture of the blood of Jesus Christ, the Passover Lamb (The Paschal Lamb) (John 1:29; 1 Peter 1. NB Vv. 13-21; Rev. 5:6; 8:12-13).
- (g) The mission of the spies was not one of direct military benefits but the report they brought back was even more than any military strategy.
 - (1) In strong faith and excitement, the spies declared that the Lord had surely given the land of Canaan into the hands of Israel.
 - (2) They saw the Canaanites as being panic stricken and their hearts were fainting and melting with fear.
 - (3) Joshua was reassured that he was understanding God rightly. There was now only one direction in which to move, and that was toward Jericho.

2. Summary of Joshua 3:1-4:24

The following is a quote from the NIV Study Bible. I will discuss Joshua 4 in Lesson 3 Part B

“Details of the river crossing and the memorial of the 12 stones set up in the camp at Gilgal. The great significance of this account can hardly be overemphasized, since it marks the crossing of the boundary into the Promised Land and parallels the miracle of the “Red Sea” crossing (Ex. 14-15).

The Israelites faith in the God of their ancestors was renewed and strengthened when it was about to be most severely challenged, while at the same time the Canaanites fear was greatly increased (5:1). In this account the author uses an overlay technique in which, having narrated the crossing to its conclusion (ch.3), he returns to various points in the event to enlarge on several details: the stones for a memorial (4:1-9); the successful crossing by all Israel (4:10-14); the renewed flow of the river after the crossing was completed (4:15-18). The final paragraph of chap. 4 (Vv. 19-24) picks up the story again from Israel’s encampment at Gilgal and the erecting of the stone memorial.”

Josh. 3:2-10 ESV

“At the end of three days the officers went through camp 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. Yet there shall be a distance

between you and it, about 2,000 cubits 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. Then Joshua said to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.' And Joshua said to the priest, '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.

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. And as for you, command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, 'When you come to the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.' And Joshua said to the people of Israel 'Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God.' 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 Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites.'

A. Wakened to the Task Josh. 3:1

1. They (Israel) came to the river Jordan and lodged there.
 - (a) Though they were not told just exactly when they would pass over the river, and they were unprovided for the passing over of it, yet they were ready to move forward in obedience and faith.
 - (1) As believers in Jesus Christ, we must go on in the way of duty, irrespective of any challenges and difficulties we may foresee.
 - (2) We must trust God to see us through **all challenges**, as we move forward in obedience to His will.
 - (3) Let there be no doubt but go forward with assurance, knowing for certain that we can depend on God's sufficiency for that in which we find ourselves insufficient, (2 Cor. 12:7-10, NB. v. 9)
 - (b) They were confronted with a great problem: the Jordan River had overflowed all its banks (See Josh. 3:15).
 - (1) Crossing for example by the spies, was done by going across using the "fords" (Example see Josh. 2:17), but such was not possible with over 2 million people with their belongings and livestock and especially at a time when Jordan had overflowed its banks.
 - (2) Despite the all-out preparation, the overwhelming cooperation and anxiety of the people, crossing the Jordan at this time was impossible, at least in the eyes of man.
2. Joshua led by example in all areas and it is noteworthy to observe that he was an early riser!!
 - (a) Rising early was a strategy Joshua frequently took advantage of (See Josh. 3:1; 6:12, 15; 7:16 and 8:10).
 - (1) These accounts clearly showed that Joshua was not given to ease.
 - He was wholeheartedly committed to his service and willingly exercised care and pain in performing his task.
 - Those who are desirous of accomplishing great things must rise early.
 - **Prov. 20:13 Amplified Bible Classic Edition**

“Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes and you will be satisfied with bread.”

- Oversleeping (habitually sleeping above the norm) is the mark of indolence (laziness, idleness, etc.) (Prov. 6:9; 10:5; 23:21).
- (2) Joshua hereby set a good example to his officers, particularly teaching them to rise early and be about the Master’s business.
- It is also an outstanding example to everyone, especially in regards to giving diligent attention continually in the performance of our duties.
 - See Gen. 19:27; 26:31 (read Vv. 26-34 for context); Ex. 8:20; 1 Sam. 15:12; 17:20; Prov. 31:15; Mark 16:2; etc.
- (b) Joshua, in his outstanding leadership and continued disciplined lifestyle was aware of certain facts.
- (1) First, he discovered that he could rely on the cooperation from all levels of leadership.
- (2) Second, the people were properly prepared and ready to commence the march forward even at short notice.
- (3) Third, the overall attitude of the people was that they would rather endure the hardships of a disciplined life rather than remain on the east side of Jordan.
- (4) As the challenge becomes more and more a reality, Joshua was greatly encouraged by the positive signs from the people.
- He was convinced that those he was leading believed in the promises of God and were determined to pay any price in order obtain the promises of God.
 - **God’s work always move forward when His people believe Him, and are willing to do what is required of them.**
 - We (the Church Universal) move forward under the banner of Jesus Christ and although great challenges arise, He will make a way!!

Onward, Christian Soldiers

Verse 1

Onward Christian soldiers!
 Marching as to war,
 With the cross of Jesus
 Going on before.
 Christ the royal Master,
 Leads against the foe;
 Forward into battle,
 See, His banner go!

3. The following is a quote from The Preacher’s Outline and Sermon Bible.
 “The Jordan River represented and stood as an obstacle to the Promised Land. The Promised Land represented a new life for the people of God, a victorious life . . .

- (a) ... of conquest and triumph
- (b) ... of peace and rest
- (c) ... of fellowship and communion
- (d) ... of joy and rejoicing
- (e) ... of security and protection
- (f) ... of care and provision
- (g) ... of abundance and fruitfulness
- (h) ... of fulfillment and satisfaction
- (i) ... of purpose, meaning, and significance.

The Jordan River stood as an obstacle, a barrier to the believer's new life in the Promised Land. The Jordan River had to be crossed if the people were going to claim their inheritance promised by God. But how?

- (a) Would God's people go back where it is safe, or by faith would they seek a solution from God?
- (b) Would God's people trust Him to provide a way to conquer the difficulty or question if God had the power to handle the problem?
- (c) Would they become victims of circumstances, or by faith would they become victors?
- (d) Would they be conquered by this trial, or by faith would they conquer?"

4. **The Hymn: Faith is the Victory**

Verse 1 and the Refrain

Encamped along the hills of light,
 Ye Christian soldiers rise,
 And press the battle ere the night
 Shall veil the glowing skies.
 Against the foe in vales below
 Let all our strength be hurled.
 Faith is the victory we know,
 That overcomes the world.

Refrain

Faith is the victory!
 Faith is the victory!
 Oh, glorious victory,
 That overcomes the world!

B. **Way of Faith Josh. 3:2-13**

NOTE

The officers were appointed to go through the camp and share the drafted plan, with all relevant information, to the people (v. 2). Here again, as we observed in preceding

chapters, the importance placed on effective planning and its execution. Going through these twelve verses (Josh. 3:2-13) we observe the emphasis on sharing details not only to the leaders but to all the people.

1. Specifics Given to the People by the Officers (Josh. 3:2-4)

(a) Depend on the Ark to lead (v. 3)

(1) The people were instructed by the officers to follow the Ark.

(2) The Ark of the Covenant also referred to as the Ark of Testament

- This was Israel's most sacred treasure. It represented the abiding presence of God.
- Going through the history of Israel (as in the Bible and other sources) we observed the importance of the Ark of Covenant to them as a nation.

(3) When they camped the Ark was in the midst of camp, kept in the Tabernacle, but here we see the Ark will lead the way (Josh. 3:3-4).

- "Under Joshua's administration the people were still to be led by God, but in a different way that they were led under Moses' administration. Previously the pillar of cloud and fire had guided them (Num. 10:33-36). Now the Ark, in which were the ten commandments (Deut. 10:1-6), was to be the visible object to denote God's presence (Josh. 3:3-4)." (Beacon Bible Commentary)
- What greater encouragement could the people have in knowing their God, the living and true God was with them.
- If God was with them, they had no reason for fear, no matter what challenges lie ahead.
- **Rom. 8:31 Amplified Bible**
"What then shall we say to [all] this? If God is for us, who [can be] against us? [Who can be our foe, if God is on our side] Psa. 118:6."

(b) Duty of the priest and Levites (v. 3)

"... the priest and Levites bearing it ..." (KJV)

"... carried by the Levitical priest ..." (ESV, Amplified Bible, RSV)

"... and the priest, the Levites, bearing it ... " (NKJV)

(1) The priesthood of ancient Israel was descendants of Aaron.

- They were of the tribe of Levi (In comparison to the KJV observe other translation for the above quote Josh. 3:3b . . . "**Levitical priest**"). Aaron was the first high priest.
- Their duties were varied and specified by ranks; two of their duties were:
 - They act as mediator. The priest acts as a representative of the Divine being to His subjects and in return from them to God.
 - The priest also acts as an ambassador, a chosen vehicle whom God (Yahweh/Jehovah) has chosen to serve the people and represents God on His behalf.
 - *You may want to expand your research on this important subject of the Levitical Priesthood and related areas.*

(2) According to God's law, only the Levites could carry the Ark (Deut 10:8)

- I will highlight one example in regards to the transportation and reverence required as it relates to the Ark. The Philistines had captured the Ark after defeating Israel (1 Sam. 4, NB Vv. 10-18), and placing it as a captured treasure among their god, not realizing the grave consequences that would result from this (See 1 Sam. 5). Eventually they returned the Ark based on the recommendations by their false priests (1 Sam. 6).
- After a while when the Ark was returned David decided to have the Ark transported to Jerusalem; his grave mistake was to have it transported similar to how the Philistines did and not as required by God's instructions. In the process of transporting it Uzzah was slain for trying to prevent the Ark from falling (2 Sam 6:6-7 ... read Vv. 1-11). Eventually a second attempt was made and they transported the Ark in the prescribed manner which ended in a much better situation ... see 2 Sam. 6, NB Vv.12-19 **note carefully 1 Chron. 15, highlight verses 13-15.**
- For context you may want to Read 1 Sam. 4 to 6; 2 Sam. 6 and 1 Chron. 15. You will also observe what happened at Beth-shemesh ... 1 Sam. 6, NB Vv. 19-21.
- In our study passage, Josh. 3, Joshua was following guidelines as required by God; it was the Levitical priests who would bear the Ark.

(c) **Divine Leader**

Josh. 3:3 Amplified Bible

"When you see the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord your God being borne by the Levitical priests, set out from whence you are and **follow it.**"

KJV: "... go after it."

(1) Go with this flow, God is the Leader!!

- Be confident and accept the invitation to move forward.
- Whenever the people see the priest pick up the Ark and begin to courageously march forth into the Jordan River they were to move out and follow the Ark in the river bed.
- Humanly speaking this seems to be an impossible situation (*briefly discussed in lesson 1 and above*).
 - As noted before the Jordan River had overflowed all its banks (Josh. 3:15).
 - Most likely the current was high and the water seemed ready to consume anyone who enters it.
 - But this was a call of faith in Him who is in control of all situations. This is no time to lean on one's own understanding but to acknowledge God for who He is. It is for His people to give their all to Him; **He will see us through!!** (Prov. 3:5,6)

(2) **The people MUST follow the Ark!**

"... Remove from your place and follow it" (Josh 3:3 KJV)

- Follow it as those resolved never to forsake it!

- Wherever God's ordinances are, there we must be.
- Where He leads we will follow! No turning back!!
- Follow it as those that are entirely satisfied and has no intention of giving it up, never being careless but to treasure and keep it as our guide.

(3) Beloved, our experiences vary but God is in control!!

- He will lead us like a shepherd (Psa. 77:20).
- There is no place beyond the reach of His hand (Psa. 139:9-10)
- **Your Jordan may have overflowed, raging with fury but do not be intimidated, "be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might." (Eph. 6:10).**
- "Accept the Challenge and Move On!!" Go forth in faith under God's leadership!!

(4) **The Hymn: He Leadeth Me**

Verse 1 and the Refrain

He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
 O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
 Whate'er I do, where'er I be
 Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

He leadeth me, He leadeth me.
 By His own hand He leadeth me;
 His faithful follower I would be,
 For by His hand He leadeth me.

(d) Distance to be maintained in following the Ark

Josh. 3:4 KJV

"Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near to it ..."

(1) The people were commanded to keep a distance of 2,000 cubits from the Ark

- That distance is equivalent to (a) 3,000 feet or (b) 1,000 yards or (c) 0.586 mile.
- Translated in (a) Amplified Bible 3,000 feet (b) LASB ½ mile.
- What's the significance of this distance?
 - It brings to light the importance of showing reverence to God.
 - Note carefully, this was emphasized by the officers: **the people were warned not to go anywhere near the Ark.**
 - He is the living and true God, reverence is due Him!!
 - **Psa. 33:8 NKJV**
 "Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him."

- See also Deut. 10:12; Josh. 24:14; Psa. 89:7; Hab. 2:20; 1 Peter 2:17; etc.
- (2) They were to keep a distance between themselves and the Ark but maintained a clear view of it.
- Beloved, we reverence God, not in intimidating fear but Godly reverence and committed lives; never taking our eyes off Him!!
 - Why is this so important? **“That you may know which way to go ...” (Josh. 3:4)**
 - The task ahead of them wouldn’t be possible to be accomplished without God ... they were to fix their eyes on Him (the Ark was a reminder of His abiding presence).
 - They didn’t know the area and what lies ahead but God did, as a result they must totally rely on His leadership.
 - **Isa. 41:10 ESV**
“Fear not for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my right hand.”
 - Stay focus on Him who is the way maker!! (Jer. 29:11; Isa. 43:19; 41:13; 54:7; John 14:6; etc.)
 - Prayerfully read Isa. 43, NB Vv.14-21.
- (3) Two other pointers (Briefly)
- This required distance between the people and the Ark and the safeguard necessary against taking God’s presence for granted.
 - They must express a deep reverential awe of God and it must be maintained.
 - There was (is) a need to safeguard against familiarity which reproduces contempt.
 - There is a great lack today in this area, yet we do not have time for details.
 - We do have free access into the very presence of God because of Jesus Christ (Heb. 4, NB Vv. 14-16; 10:21-22; etc.); however, we still serve a holy God who requires holiness of His people (Heb. 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16; etc.)
 - So many examples in Scripture for us to reflect upon and walk before God in righteousness and true holiness (Isa. 6; Eph. 4:24)
 - Let us steadfastly focus without taking our relationship with Him for granted!! (*But we do need to move on*).
 - (Josh. 3:4) No soldiers or armed priests were assigned to protect the Ark although they were going in hostile territory. Such protection was not necessary because the Ark has all the protection needed.
 - **The Song: What a Mighty God We Serve**
First Verse
What a mighty God we serve

What a mighty God we serve
 Angels bow before Him
 Heaven and earth adore Him
 What a mighty God we serve

➤ **2 Sam. 22:33 ESV**

“This God is my strong refuge and has made my way blameless.”
(Read the chapter, NB Vv. 33-37)

➤ See also Psa. 71:18; 147:4-5; Jer. 10: 12-13; Matt. 22:29; etc.

2. **Sanctification emphasized by Joshua (Josh. 3:5)**

(a) Spiritual Preparation

The following are some brief thoughts leading to the next pointer which is akin and equally important.

(1) Among the many choices relating to spiritual preparation, I am highlighting two pointers from Matt. 25:1-13. “The Virgins Awaiting the Bridegroom.”

- The parable shows the importance of all believers to be in a state of readiness for the Lord’s coming, which no one knows when.
 - The necessity is not only to profess salvation but the importance of maintaining our salvation and be ready for Christ’s return.
 - In some of my lessons, reference has been made that **all who have this glorious hope to be with Jesus will keep himself pure (1 John 3:3).**
- It is a matter of uttermost necessity for believes to maintain faithfulness and watchfulness until Jesus Christ returns. The foolish virgins had sufficient oil only for the watch and not beyond.

Allow me to briefly note another pointer

- The oil in the parable represents true faith, righteousness and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. Beloved, spiritual readiness cannot be shared; each man needs his own experience of righteousness and true holiness. John Wesley said: “No man has more than enough holiness for himself.”

Much more to this parable but we must move on!!

(2) **Some-things necessary to achieve “Spiritual Preparation.”**

The following is a brief listing, with limited comments.

- **Abandonment of Idols**

➤ An idol is anything that takes the place of God in our lives ...
“anything!”

➤ Note 1 Sam. 7:3

- This challenge by Samuel called for **“all your heart.”** It was a call to forsake idolatry to a life of complete commitment.
- Observe the awesome result when someone wholeheartedly commit to God.

1 Sam. 7:3

"If you will return unto the Lord He will deliver you ..."

- See also 2 Chron. 19:3 (Read Chapters 18 and 19 for context).
- **Cleansing of God's Temple**
 - Hezekiah had temple worship restored. See 2 Chron. 29 and note carefully v. 15.
 - Note also **personal cleansing was done ..."sanctified themselves."**
 - They had to get rid of idols and all other items and practices contrary to the **holy God ... His house must be holy!** (Psa. 93:5; etc.)
 - Our bodies are the temple of God ...
 - See 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 3:16-17; Rom. 12:1-2; etc.
 - We (the Church) are a called out community (2 Cor. 6:14-18) and beloved, "pure religion is unspotted with the world" (James 1:27)
- **Returning to the Lord**
 - The account of the angel informing Zacharias of his son to be is recorded in Luke 1:5-25; note v. 17
 - Luke 1:17 NASB**

"It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, **so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.**"

 - Ignorance of God leads to ruin and this was evident among the Jewish people.
 - John was sent to prepare the people for Christ's coming. As a result of his ministry the people wanted to know what should be done (See Luke 3:10).
 - God is reaching out to those who have wandered away or compromising the standards of righteousness.
 - He is reaching out today just as He reached out to the church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7).
 - There is a simple solution to the world's condition found in a well known reference 2 Chron. 7:14.
- **Personal Purification**
 - A major setback for so many is that they continue to live in a state of denial. *Time wouldn't allow for details but note one example ... see Malachi 1:2, 6,7; 2:17; 3:7, 8.*
 - David when confronted by the prophet did not deny but humbled himself . . . see Psalm 51.
 - David in acknowledging the omniscience of God in Psa. 139 closed by asking God to search him, etc. NB Vv.23-24.

- Note carefully the following references: Isa. 1:16; Jer. 4:14; Acts 22:16; 2 Cor. 7:1; James 4:8; 1 John 3:3.

2 Tim. 2:21 Amplified Bible

“So whoever cleanses himself [from what is ignoble and unclean, who separates himself from contact with contaminating and corrupting influences] will [then himself] be a vessel set apart and useful for honorable and noble purposes, consecrated and profitable to the Master, fit and ready for any good work.”

(b) Sanctification

As I have noted above this pointer is inseparable from the above.

Josh. 3:5a NKJV

“And Joshua said to the people, sanctify yourselves ...”

- (1) The Old Testament does not use the term “sanctify” in the full spiritual explanation (sense, definition) of the New Testament, however, the eternal principle has been made clear.
 - God will lead into the “land of promise” only those who will sanctify themselves, meaning separating themselves from all that would defile them. The fact remains, God can do very little for a people who refuse to present a **wholly dedicated life to Him**.
 - As noted in other lessons, only after we have “sanctified ourselves” can God fill us with the Holy Spirit.
- (2) **Briefly**, a close look at the charge by Joshua (Josh. 3:5a)
 - To sanctify, as mentioned above is a call to consecrate and purify themselves.
 - This meant the people were to prepare their hearts before the Lord.
 - They were to pray, confess, repent, rededicate, and recommit their lives to God.
 - This was a call for the people to be spiritually prepared; as briefly noted above, it was a call for “Spiritual Preparation.”
 - The people were to separate themselves from the day to day things and focus wholly on God.
 - This was symbolized by the outward acts of bathing and changing their clothes.
 - It also included abstaining from sexual relations with their wives.
 - **The objective was for them to devote full attention to God (See Ex. 19:10, 14-15; 1 Cor. 7:1-6).**
- (3) **NOTED FOR EMPHASIS**, The take away point is: God will not act powerfully on behalf of His people **if they are not inwardly clean and aligned with His will.**

- Before we ask God to perform signs and wonders in our midst, we must first make sure our hearts are pure and our desires guided by His Holy Spirit (See Acts 3:38; 3:26)
- See also Ex. 19:22; Lev. 20:26; Num. 11:18; 1 Sam. 16:6; 2 Chron. 29:5; 1 Thess. 4:3; 5:23).
- The clarion call continues to go out: special preparation is required before witnessing the mighty acts of God.
 - Reread Ex. 19:10, 14-15; Num. 11:18.
 - Below we will briefly note “Supernatural Works (Josh. 3:5b)

(c) Supernatural Works

Josh. 3:5a KJV

“Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.”

(1) See how Joshua confidently and magnificently speaks of God’s works.

- “He doeth wonders” (KJV). Joshua knew this fact from personal experience, he was there in Egypt; he was there during the wilderness wandering ... he saw it all!!

➤ Moses’ affirmation of the awesomeness of God:

Deut. 3:24 Amplified Bible

“O Lord God, You have only begun to show your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand; for what God is there in heaven or on earth that can do such works and mighty acts (miracles) as Yours?”

➤ See also Psa. 40:5; 71:17; 73:28; 145:3-4, 10-13; etc.

- Beloved, Joshua was not requiring of the people what was not experienced by him; absolutely not, he was intimately acquainted with God, as a result of his fellowship with God he knew the plans of God and His will for the people.

(2) See what preparation was necessary to receive the wonders of God glory and the communication of His favors. The Israelites, as well as all believers must sanctify themselves. (*Briefly noted above*).

(3) The people of Israel were now entering into the holy land therefore **they must sanctify themselves**.

- They were about to experience extraordinary occurrences by the favor of God.
- With them being set apart and giving themselves to meditation and prayer they would be able to pay close attention and glorify God for His goodness.

(4) Despite the many reasons why we are not experiencing more miracles, etc. is there is a need for genuine purity! Purity comes before power this fact has been clearly seen in the New Testament but this subject is for another study.

- Beloved, God changeth not (Heb. 13:8; James 1:17); He is still a God of power (Psa. 62:11; Rom. 16:25)
- **The following is a chorus we sang many years ago**

How great is our God
 How great is His name
 He is the greatest One
Forever the same
 He rolled back the waters
 From the mighty Red Sea
 He says I'll lead you
 Won't you trust in me?

(5) God was, is and will always be a "God of wonders. *Note the following references listed without comments:* Ex. 4:21; Psa. 77:14; Dan. 4:3; Joel 2:30; Acts 6:8.

3. Setting the Pace; Josh. 3:6

(a) Following Standard Procedure

"And Joshua spake unto the priests ..." (Josh. 3:6aKJV)

(1) As it relates to our text, what standard procedures were they adhering to?

- They were transporting the Ark as required by God.
 - As noted before, the Ark was to be borne only by the Levites (Deut. 10:8)
 - It should also be noted that when the Ark was being transported it was completely hidden even from the eyes of those carrying it. It was covered with a large veil.
 - We noted that the Ark symbolized the presence of God, we also realize that the Church (the people of God) is the house of God in which He dwells among His people (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19-20), and they are to live in accordance to His standards. **You may have heard the saying: "We have a life to live and a God to glorify."**
- Another great passage is **1 Tim. 3:14-16**, you are encouraged to prayerfully read these verses. One thing I am noting here is the importance of "Church Conduct." Following "Standard Procedures" is important and it should be noted that the secret of true piety is found in Jesus Christ. We do need to move on but I must add that we do not only conduct ourselves aright during worship time but **our daily lives** ought to prove that we are **genuine "Children of God."**

(b) Faith Demonstrated

Josh. 3:6 (KJV)

"And Joshua spake unto the priests, saying, Take up the ark of the covenant, and pass over before the people. And they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people."

(1) Joshua's instructions were a challenge of faith for the priests.

- Keep in mind the existing conditions of the overflowing Jordan River.
 - The priests had to exercise strong faith in order to follow such instructions.

- Yet the charge was “move forward!” They were to courageously lead the people into the swift dangerous currents of the overflowing river.
 - The people had pledged fullest cooperation and here we see their loyalty would be proven in their action.
 - It was the Levites work to carry the Ark (Num. 4:15; Deut. 10:8); such was the norm for them.
 - Here we see Joshua commanded them and they didn’t see this as being belittling to be told but found it a great honor and their fortification.
 - As Israel, with the Ark prepares to move forward we see Moses’ prayer in Num 10, when the Ark was formed, coming to light:

Num. 10:35 KJV
 “Rise up, Lord, and let thine enemies be scattered and let them that hate thee flee before thee.”
- (2) As the priest took up the Ark and started for the overflowing Jordan, the people were in a state of high anticipation.
- They knew that the Lord was going to do wonders among them (Josh. 3:5)
 - **When God has a sanctified people with sanctified leaders, He “is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us” (Eph. 3:20 KJV)**

(3) **The Hymn: Faith is the Victory**

Verse 2 and the Refrain

His banner over us is love,
 Our sword the Word of God;
 We tread the road the saint above
 With shouts of triumph trod.
 By faith, they like a whirlwind’s breath,
 Swept on o’er every field;
 The faith by which they conquered death
 Is still our shining shield

Refrain

Faith is the victory!
 Faith is the victory,
 That overcomes the world.

4. **Sovereign Assurance and Guidelines (Josh. 3:7-8)**

Instructions given to Joshua by God

(a) **Courage Strength and Faith**

- (1) The life of Joshua was one not only of commitment but consistency, of courage and faith.

- He led the Israelites army in the defeat of Amalek (Ex. 17:8-14) as well as the conquest and possession of the Promised Land.
- We also witnessed his unshakable faith in the living and true God when ten other spies who, viewed Canaan, were creating distrust, fear and disobedience to the will of God (Num. 13:31-14:10).
- The Southern Coalition was persuaded, fully confident of securing victory over Israel but Joshua remained confident and strong in the Lord (Josh. 10, NB V. 25).

(2) Joshua's source of strength and courage was in God (Josh. 1:1-9)

- We are in spiritual warfare and will face great challenges but remember: The courage to persevere rest upon the assurance of God's presence (Josh. 1:5, 9). We must press forward and also remember: Our strength to do God's work comes from trusting Him!! (*Discussed in Lesson 1*)
- *The following is a quote from Studylight.org, commenting on Josh. 1:6*
"The source of strength and courage. 'Be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with thee withersoever thou goest.' This is the secret. It is to have God near, a Friend unseen to others, but visible to us. Christ within us – that will make us strong and courageous. He knows all the dangers that are before us. Our enemies are strong – the wicked heart, the tempting world, the unknown future. But greater is He that is with us that they that are with them. No power can stand against us if He is on our side. And best of all, He loves us. If we know Christ loves us and that He has all power and knows all that is before us, what do we have to fear?"
- See David's charge to Solomon in 1 Chron. 28:20-21, NB v. 20.
- See also **Isa. 41:10-13**; 1 Cor. 15:58; Eph. 6:10; Phil. 1:28; Isa. 54:14.

(b) Commitment and Faith rewarded (Josh. 3:7)

(1) Joshua continues to exercise faith in action.

- Thus God encouraged him and this level of communication with God continues throughout Joshua's leadership.
- It is the desire of God to help us on our earthly pilgrimage and in our service to Him; we must be attentive as He speaks and willing to obey.
- Samuel served in the temple but was not yet mature enough to distinguish the voice of God.
 - God called three times and Samuel went to Eli (1 Sam. 3:3-5, 6-7, and 8-9).
 - Upon Elis' instruction he responded to the fourth call as was necessary (1 Sam. 3:10-11).
 - Beloved, responding to God's call brings further revelation.

- God still speaks and we need to hear and respond: "Speak Lord thy servant, your servant hears."

(2) In Josh. 3:7-8, God gave instructions to Joshua.

- It was necessary for Joshua to learn that God was with him even as He was with Moses.
- Through the miraculous event about to take place, God would exalt Joshua in the eyes of all Israel.
- This great act of God would convince the people that indeed God had chosen Joshua and he was obediently in God's will.
- God wants leaders to enjoy the confidence of His people. As a result of the impending miracle, the people would highly esteem Joshua and follow his leadership.
 - This was guaranteed to Joshua (Josh. 3:7)
 - It became a reality as God promised (John 4:14)

(3) Very Important Lesson: **The accomplishment of the task would bring honor to Joshua. NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

- However, being magnified in the sight of the people was not planned for Joshua's sake alone.
- He was being exalted that the people might know that God was leading them.
- He was to serve as a magnified and improved reflector of God's grace. Thus his promotion was actually designed to increase his capacity to serve others.

(c) Continuance of Faith (Josh. 3:8)

(1) God also instructed Joshua to command the priest to march into the swift and dangerous currents of the flooding river (Josh. 3:8).

- One of the first hurdles in this assignment was that of bringing the people to the brink (edge, verge, etc.) of the impossible, and then getting them (the priests) to "**stand still in Jordan.**" (Josh. 3:8)
- Picture the swift, swollen and perilous current of the overflowing river and imagine what God was asking Joshua to do.
- In order to give such a command, strong faith, faith that was rooted and well grounded in the Almighty God was needed!! **Faith is the Victory that overcomes all Challenges!!**
 - See for yourself what it was like at the riverside. The people were aware of the existing conditions of the raging river.
 - As for Joshua; what thoughts were flooding his mind? Did he have what it takes to "move forward?"
 - Any leader who could maintain the morale of his people under such pressure, indeed deserve to be magnified before them.
 - **Joshua's faith in God remained strong and was demonstrated practically, which resulted not only in him being magnified**

before the people but God glorified and the faith of the people strengthened.

- (2) The priests were to demonstrated obedience and their faith in God by entering the Jordan River.
- Thus the people would know this is the work of God (**See Psa. 114:5. 7**).
 - God could have divided Jordan without the priest, but they could not without Him! **Oh, that we would ALL “Trust and obey!” No matter what challenges we may encounter we must continue trusting God, we must “walk by faith, not by sight!” It’s not always easy but possible and beneficial as we remain in Him!!!**
 - The priests set the example to the people, teaching them to give their very best and all of self in service to God and trust Him as their deliverer and supplier of all their needs.

5. Settling the Facts of the Mission (Josh. 3:9-13)

Joshua instructed the people.

(a) **Preview of Events** (Josh 3:9) (*Joshua saw the importance to pause and discuss God’s directions.*)

- (1) Joshua, the new leader, was a strong believer in information and representative organization for his people.
- As noted in Lesson 1 (Accept the Challenge and Move On): “Joshua exemplified the effectiveness of a well planned procedure and proper implementation ...” (Lesson 1b, page 4).
 - As observed in Joshua 3, Joshua wanted the people to know that he received his ideas from God, and requested them to **“hear the word of the Lord.” (Josh. 3:9).**
- (2) Before they see the works of God, they need to hear the words of God.
- Most likely they were excited and just wanted to move on.
 - Despite their anxiety, Joshua saw the necessity for them to pause and be informed.
- (3) **We live in a fast-paced age where everyone rushes to keep up.**
- It is easy to get caught up in our task, and getting to the point of being too busy for what God has to say, although hearing from God is essential in our everyday life!!
 - Before making our schedule, we need to take time to focus on what God wants from **all** our activities.
 - It has been proven time and time again that the importance of knowing what God has to say before rushing into our daily activities; is a sure way to avoid foolish mistakes
- (4) Note the hymn: **Have You Any Room for Jesus?**
 The Refrain
 Room for Jesus, King of Glory!
 Hasten now, His Word obey.
 Swing the heart’s door widely open;

Bid Him enter while you may.

(b) **Purpose of God's Miracles (Josh. 3:10)**

Joshua explained the purpose of God's miracle; he gave the reason why God was going to make a way to cross over the Jordan River.

(1) **First**, the miracle would prove that the God of Israel is "the living God."

- As the living God, "He is the only true God who can actually save His people through all the trials of life, even from the terrible trial of death.
- Because He is "the living God," He alone is to be worshipped and served by the people.
- Many have had their rude awakening and finally acknowledged this undeniable fact of the One Living and True God!! One example is Nebuchadnezzar ... see Daniel 4, NB Vv. 34-37.

(2) **Second**, the miracle would prove that God will always give the power to defeat the enemies of His people.

- God will work through His people, saturating them with His power.
- God will enable His people to overcome and dispel (turn back, chase away, etc.) all enemies of the Promised Land.
- Moses and Miriam in celebrating God's spectacular victory over the Egyptians, penned the hymns in Ex. 15 (a) Moses Vv. 1-19 (b) Miriam Vv.20-22; note carefully verse 11.

(c) **Presence of God/Prepare to Build a Memorial (Josh. 3:11-12)**

Joshua declared the assurance of God's leading: the Ark of God, symbolizing the presence of God would lead the way through the raging currents of the Jordan River.

(1) The Ark was the visible assurance of God's presence

"... the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord of all the earth is passing over before you into the Jordan" **(Josh. 3:11 Amplified Bible)**

- God was to be central in all they do.
- **Their strength was to come from Him, and their honor to be given Him.**
- It was all of God and all to God's glory; He was the one to cause the waters of cut off.

(2) The Ark of the Covenant must be their guide, it will go before them.

- Matthew Henry notes:
"... During the reign of Moses, the cloud was their guide, but now in Joshua's reign, the ark; both were visible signs of God's presence and presidency, but divine grace under the Mosaic dispensation was wrapped up in a cloud and covered with a veil, while by Christ our Joshua, it is revealed in the Ark of the Covenant unveiled."
- Jesus Christ is the "Hope of Glory." (See Col. 1:21-29)

The hymn: Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

Verse 1

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
 Pilgrim through this barren land.
 I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
 Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
 Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven,
 Feed me till I want no more.
 Feed me till I want no more.

(3) The Ark is called “The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord of all the earth ...”
 (Josh. 3:11)

- We have witnessed some earthly leaders behave as if they control the world, they are mighty and powerful and there is none like them; but it must be remembered that **“God is Lord of all the earth” (Josh. 3:11)**
 - See the majestic hymn that recognizes God’s dominion over all the earth!! (Psalm 24)
 - The Lord God is sole owner of the whole creation. We enjoy it simply by His permission.
 - He is the Transcendent Creator and Sovereign King! It is all His! He is the Creator and sustainer, above Him there is no other!!
 - See also Ex. 19:5; Lev. 25:23; Psa. 50:10; Ezek. 18:4; Rom. 14:8; etc.
- Indeed, it is an honor and awesome privilege to be in covenant with Him ... He is Lord of all the earth!!

(4) The people were told, the Ark would pass before them (Josh. 3:11)

- God would not allow them to go anywhere without Him. His assurance to Joshua was His assurance to the people, He will always be with them (Josh. 1:5, 9)
- Matthew Henry comments as follows:
 “While we make God’s precepts our rule, His promises our stay, and His providence our guide, we need not dread the greatest difficulties we may meet in the way of duty.” **(See Isa. 43:2)**

(5) The most essential component was for the people to exercise faith in God!

- They were to believe God and trust His miraculous power.
- They were to demonstrate their trust by preparing to build a memorial to God’s glorious power, after they crossed over the Jordan River (Josh. 3:12).

(d) **Pathway through Jordan River Explained (Josh. 3:13)**

(1) Joshua explained how God would take them through the Jordan River.

- As soon as the priests set foot in the Jordan, the waters of the river would cut off upstream.
 - The waters would actually be stopped and begin to pile up in a heap (Josh. 3:13).
 - Done differently when God divided the Red Sea and creating a pathway for Israel (Ex. 14).

- By dividing the flooded waters of the Jordan River, God made it distinctively clear that He was with Joshua as He was with Moses (Josh. 3:7 ... noted before).
 - By this exceptional demonstration of His power, God would strengthen the faith of His people so that they might **face the challenges** of possessing the Promised Land.
 - This would make them realize that without such power, they would not be able to take walled cities and advance in their military campaign. With God, whether there are giants (Num. 13:32-33) or any other form of opposition, they would conquer in the new land.
 - Oh, Beloved! Man's impossibilities are God's possibilities; let us commit it all to Him. **"What is impossible with men is possible with God."** (Luke 18:27 Amplified Bible) (Isa. 43:13; Matt: 19:26; etc.)

(2) **The Jordan River is a picture of problems and difficulties, trials and temptations that confront us throughout life.**

- Faith in God is the only way to conquer the challenges of life! Faith is the victory that overcomes the world!!
- God is always there for us, because He cares!! (1 Peter 5:7)
 - He cares about the problems that confront us and He wants to strengthen us to overcome all challenges.
 - He wants to show us the way to triumph over obstacles that stand in our way.
 - Believing God, trusting God, having faith in God – this is the only way to become a conqueror throughout life (Rom. 8:28-39)
 - **Faith in God is the victory that overcomes the world with all its distractions and obstacles!**

- **Faith is the Victory**

Third verse and the Refrain

On every hand the foe we find
 Drawn up in dread array;
 Let tents of ease be left behind,
 And onward to the fray.
 Salvation's helmet on each head,
 With truth all girt about,
 The earth shall tremble 'neath our tread,
 And echo with our shout.

Refrain

Faith is the victory!
 Faith is the victory!
 O glorious victory,
 That overcomes the world.

- See also **1 John 5:4-5**; Gal. 3:6; Eph. 6:16; Heb. 11:6; 2 Cor. 20:20
Psa. 37:5.

(3) **What are the rivers or obstacles in your life? Beloved, there is victory in Jesus Christ!!**

- In obedience to God, take the first step ..., "Accept the Challenge *and in the name of Jesus Move On!*"

- **The Hymn: Only Believe**

Verse 2 an the Refrain

Fear not, little flock, He goeth ahead,
Your Shepherd selected the path you must trod;
The waters of Marah He'll sweeten for thee
He drank all the bitter in Gethsemane

Refrain

Only believe, only believe;
All things are possible, only believe;
All things are possible, only believe.

C. Walk of Faith Josh. 3:14-17

They crossed because they walked forth.

1. Obedience acted out (Josh. 3:14)

- (a) In obedience to God and unwavering confidence, the people walked into the water.
- (1) God did not fail those who were expecting great things of Him.
- Jesus never fail me yet! Jesus never fail me yet!
"He is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." (Heb. 11:6)
 - Faith in God produces blessings: Matt. 8:13; 9:29-30; 17:20; Mark 9:23.
- (2) The crossing of the Jordan River was all the more remarkable because it took place at the season when Jordan was in flood stage.
- The river would have swollen by melting snow in the Lebanon Mountain and by the spring rains.
 - No crossing by natural means would have been possible at this time, especially with so many people and their possessions.

- (b) We are reminded once more of God's presence with them.

(1) **Josh. 3:14b NBKJV**

"... with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people."

(2) **The Hymn: Guide Me, Oh Thou Great Jehovah**

Verse 4

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

2. Omnipotent God (Josh. :15-16a)

They crossed because of the mighty power of God.

(a) The Jordan River was flooded

- (1) This we have noted several times before ... all the banks were overflowed, making it extremely difficult to cross especially with this large group, humanly speaking, it was impossible.
- (2) The entire length of the river's bank was flooded which most likely include the low areas (the fords Josh. 2:17)

(b) The flow of the river was miraculously stopped from upstream.

- (1) As soon as the priests' feet touched the water's edge the Jordan began to lower and eventually stopped overflowing from upstream. (As promised by God, relayed to them through Joshua Josh 3:9-13).
 - Miraculously the river bed was dry and hard enough to keep the people and animals from bogging in mud.
 - This was a possibility because of the glorious and amazing demonstration of the power of God.
- (2) God assures power to overcome all obstacles that confronts His people.
 - Beloved, we have a High priest who meets all our needs (Heb. 4:14-16)
 - God is the helper of His people
 - **Psa. 28:7 KJV**
"The Lord is my strength and shield, my heart trusted in him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him."
 - See also Psa. 40:17; Isa. 50:9; Heb. 13:6

(c) Red Sea/Jordan River!

- (1) When Israel passed through the Red Sea, the waters were a wall on either side of them; here (Jordan ... Josh. 3) it was only on their right-hand.
- (2) **Note Josh. 3:16a NKJV**
"That the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan ..."
 - The river piled up in a great heap, far back to the city of Adam.
 - The city was about 18 to 20 miles upstream.
 - The river was completely cut off, cut off from all branches and tributaries that ran into the river.
 - **Is there anything the Master of the universe will not do for His people?**
 - Note again Josh. 1:1-9 . . . God is faithful, what He says, He will do!!
 - He was (is) their (our) refuge and strength (Psa. 46; etc.)

- He was (is) their (our) deliverer the Almighty God who is to be feared (reverenced) Psa. 114; etc.)

(d) Irrespective of our challenges God wants us to always trust Him!

The following briefly noted

(1) God counsels us not to worry, for example see Matt. 6:25-34.

- “Take no thought” as used in v. 25 means “do not be anxious”
- In Matt. 6:25-34, at least eight examples have been listed as to why not to worry. For example:
 - Do not worry about necessities v. 25a
 - Do not worry about your life and body v. 25b
 - Do not worry about food and shelter v. 26
 - Etc.

- God does not want His people to worry; our responsibility is to give Him the preeminence and trust Him to see us through (Matt. 6:33)

(2) Beloved, we serve a great and mighty God, the living and true God and we should always keep that awesome reality in mind ... always!!

- **Eph. 1:19 ESV**
“And what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might.”
- See also Isa. 14:27; 43:14; Je. 32:27; Matt. 19:26; Luke 1:7; etc.

3. **Ongoing Faith of the People (Josh. 3:16b)**

They crossed over because they believed in the power of God.

(a) This is faith demonstrated by action.

- (1) Their faith in God’s power was proven by what they did: without hesitation they began to move forward towards the overflowing Jordan River.
- (2) God honored their faith, as they stepped in the water it receded.
- (3) They not only had a way provided but miraculously the riverbed became dry making it possible to travel across without encountering a muddy and difficult process.
- (4) Because God was with them they had no fear that the normal flow of the river would resume before they were all safely across.
- (5) Faith is the victory! Faith is the victory! Oh, glorious victory! That overcomes the world!

(b) **They camped opposite of Jericho!!**

- (1) They demonstrated their boldness and strong defiance of their enemies, no matter how powerful they considered themselves to be.
- (2) The experience of crossing the Jordan River was a major contributing factor of the assurance of all God’s promises.
- (3) Their enemies were already terrified but Israel’s success in crossing the overflowing Jordan River created more confusion and terror for the Canaanites.

4. Ongoing Faith of the Priests (Josh. 3:17)

They crossed because the priests (ministers) believed in the power of God.

(a) The priests' challenge was: To try their faith if they accepted the charge to move forward towards the overflowing and raging Jordan River.

(1) They not only made a bold step of faith when they set foot in Jordan but stood still in the middle until all were safely across.

(2) Ministers, in times of peril, should be examples of courage and confidence wholly leaning on Jesus Christ.

(b) Their (the priests) act of faith in action, showed the people and helped them to see that they can venture triumphantly into Canaan without fear because of the abiding presence of God.

(c) Through faith, the priests believed that God would hold the raging flood waters back. Through faith they stood in the middle of the river until all the people had crossed over the Jordan.

(d) We must learn to walk by faith, not by sight!

(1) If we walk by sight – by what we see – then every obstacle that confronts us will stop us dead in our tracks.

(2) If we walk by sight – problems and difficulties, temptations and trials that confront us will defeat us.

(3) God has promised never to leave nor forsake us ... we must trust in His power to conquer.

- God will make a way; He will show us how to overcome obstacles and barriers.
- God will show us how to conquer temptations and trials.
- No matter what confronts us, no matter how terrifying and fearful the challenges are, through Jesus Christ we can be victors.
- We can conquer as long as we walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7) *I have used this reference several time (2 Cor. 5:7) and want to point out the importance of also walking in the light that will ensue our readiness to be with the Lord (note 2 Cor. 5:8-9; you are encouraged to prayerfully read the chapter 2 Cor. 5. You may also want to review pages 10 -12 of this lesson)*

(4) See Rom. 8:35-39; Gal. 5:16; Eph. 5:15; 1 John 1:7; 2:6.

The Hymn: Faith is The Victory

Fourth verse and the Refrain

To him that overcome the foe,

White raiment shall be given;

Before the angels he shall know

His name confessed in heaven;

Then onward from the hills of light,

Our hearts with love aflame,
 We'll vanquish all the host of night,
 In Jesus conquering name.

Refrain

Faith is the victory
 Faith is the victory
 O glorious victory
 That overcomes the world.

For Israel the beachhead continues to be established, Canaan will be conquered!!

1. They were assured of victory also by Moses. See Deut. 7
2. In Deut. 7, note the following
 - (a) Conquest and Cleansing Vv. 1-5
 - (b) Chosen People Vv. 6-11
 - (c) Covenant with God Vv. 12-21
 - (d) Complete Victory (ALL ENEMIES) Vv. 22-26

With such assurances it was for Israel to "Accept the Challenge and Move On!!"

2 Tim. 2:15

KJV

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Amplified Bible

"Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth."

LESSON 3 PART A REVIEW QUESTIONS

- Choose the correct answer:
 "It is believed that Rahab married _____ of the tribe of Judah.
 (a) Solomon
 (b) Simeon
 (c) Saul
 (d) Salmon
- In what ways the **scarlet rope** used by Rahab identify her home as a "safe house" has Scriptural significance? Give references.

- In what way the crossing of the Jordan river, the erecting of the stone memorials and camping at Gilgal by the Israelites is of great significance (Josh. 3-4)?

- Complete the following by choosing the correct answer:
Discussing the necessity for Israel to move forward in obedience we noted:
 "Let there be no doubt but go forward with the assurance, knowing for certain _____
 _____ for that
 which we find ourselves insufficient (2 Cor. 12:7-10, NB v. 9)."
 (a) we can depend on our ability
 (b) we can depend on God's sufficiency
 (c) we can depend on others strength
 (d) we must rely on church membership

5. In preparing to cross the Jordan River what major, problem confronted the Israelites (Josh. 3)?

6. In regards to “**rising early**” (Josh. 3:1) (a) what great lesson is taught by this example? (b) Briefly define “oversleeping” and how is it addressed in the Bible? Give references.

7. Although Joshua was aware of the challenges to be overcome, what were some positive signs from the people that encourage him?

8. What is the scriptural application represented by a (a) the Jordan River b) The Promised Land? (*Discussed in our lesson*)

9. As it relates to the Jordan River, what had to be done by Israel in order to claim their inheritance promised by God?

10. List the major areas of instructions given by the officers to the people, in preparation for crossing the Jordan River (Josh. 3:2-4).

11. Briefly explain the differences noted, of the visible objects of God's presence during the administration of (a) Moses (b) Joshua.

12. In Josh. 3:3 the KJV, mention is made of the "priests" and "Levites"; does it mean they are distinctively different sets of ministers? Briefly explain.

13. The people were instructed to **“follow the Ark”** (Josh. 3:3). Briefly note what significant lessons to be learnt ... **“follow it.”**

14. Complete the following:
“Your Jordan may have (a) _____, raging with (b) _____
but do not be (c) _____, be (d) _____
in the Lord and in the (e) _____ of His (f) _____
(Eph. 6:10).”

15. The people were to follow 3,000 feet from the Ark (Josh. 3:4). Several lessons are taught as the reason why; list at least three.

16. When we discussed “Spiritual Preparation” reference was made to Matt. 25:1-13. What does the oil in the parable represents and what important lesson taught?

17. Four pointers were briefly discussed as steps necessary to achieve “Spiritual Preparation”; list each with a brief explanation.

18. The people were to “sanctify” themselves (Josh. 3:5a); (a) what was this a call to? (b) What were they (Isabel) to be separated from?

19. Complete the following:

“God (a) _____ not act (b) _____ on behalf of His
(c) _____ if they are not (d) _____ clean and
(e) _____ with His (f) _____.”

20. (a) Answer True or False (b) Explain your answer:

“It would have been OK for any of Joshua’s officers to have been allowed to transport the Ark.”

21. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

“When God has a _____ _____,
_____, He ‘is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us’” (Eph. 3:20 KJV)

- (a) special people with special talents
- (b) settled people with personal goals
- (c) sanctified people with sanctified leaders
- (d) selected group that criticize others

22. When God magnified Joshua, what were some precautionary measures necessary for Joshua to keep in mind?

23. In addition to Joshua being magnified by God before the people, what two other things were realized?

24. Although we live in a fast-paced age, why is it important to find time to hear from God before decisions are made?

25. Briefly explain the purpose of God's miraculous parting of the Jordan River ... what did it prove?

26. By dividing the flooded Jordan River, what were some things God made distinctively clear as the people moved forward to possess the Promised Land?
