

Joshua 3-6,23,24

Day 1

Crossing the Jordan. Read Joshua 3

1. How do you think the people felt waiting for 3 days? (Consider: How long had this wait been? Genesis 12:7; 17:8)
2. What led the people into the land? 3:3,4,6 (What significance did the ark of the covenant have for the people? Ex. 25:22)

Digging Deeper

How massive an undertaking would it have been to move this group of people and all their possessions? Exodus 12:37-38

- Why do you think they were not to come near the Ark? (See Numbers 4:15; Ex 19:12)
3. Why did the people need to consecrate themselves? 3:5
 4. How was the miracle of crossing the Jordan going to affect Joshua's leadership? 3:7

FYI: "Joshua's attention was not on the Jordan, but on the Lord his God. He was not focusing on the barriers, but on the God who was able to remove them...he did not tell the people to look to him but to God...Joshua had exalted the Lord by his act of faith, and now God was going to exalt Joshua by doing amazing things through him...From now on his authority was established."
- Africa Bible Commentary (264)

5. How do you think the instructions given to the priests sounded to them? 3:8 (What was the condition of the Jordan river? 3:15b)
6. What confidence would this miracle give them? 3:10
 - How did Joshua assure them? 3:11

FYI: "Jesus is the fulfillment of the ark; He is *Immanuel*, which is translated, *God with us* ([Matthew 1:23](#)). Jesus has cleared the way to victory over all things: ([Colossians 2:15](#))..." (See also Hebrews 12:2) - David Guzik

7. List the titles Joshua ascribed to the Lord in:
 - 3:9
 - 3:10
 - 3:11 (Cf. Psalm 24:1)

8. What “step of faith” precipitated the miracle? 3:13

- List the phrases that describe what happened to the water. 3:16 (Cf. Exodus 14:21-22,29)

FYI: “*Adam* was a city located about twenty miles upstream...‘The Sea of the Arabah’ is the Dead Sea. With the water from upstream ‘completely cut off,’ the water flowing downstream was soon emptied into the Dead Sea.”
- The Expositor’s Bible Commentary

9. Imagine the priests taking that first step into the Jordan and then having to “stand still” in the middle of the river bed while all the people crossed (with their children, animals, and belongings). Consider what they were **seeing** and **hearing** and **feeling**. What do you think they might have been saying to each other? What doubts and fears might they have had?

Applying the Word: Explain a time when you were entirely dependent on God’s guidance through a frightening or challenging situation. What helped you to focus on Him and not on the obstacles or odds against you? How did He guide you?

Day 2

Memorial Stones; Passover. Read Joshua 4:1 - 5:12

10. After crossing the Jordan, what task were the 12 appointed men (3:12) given? 4:2-5

11. What purpose did the stones serve? 4:6-9 (Commentaries disagree whether there were two sets of stones or if there was just one set that Joshua first set up in the riverbed (4:9) and then the twelve men carried to the bank.)

FYI: “A standard feature of Hebrew narratives is **repetition**. Vs. 8 repeats almost verbatim the instructions given in v. 5. Such repetitions are a sophisticated literary device. Often they show that the instructions, usually God’s or those of His representatives, were carried out exactly ‘to the letter.’”
- The Nelson Study Bible (359)

12. What does 4:10-13 add to the atmosphere of this event?

13. What effect did the miracle have on the the people? 4:14 (Cf. Exodus 14:31)
14. What made the waters flow again? 4:18 *What does the exact timing of the beginning and end (3:15 & 4:18) of these miracles say?*
- When did the people finally set up camp in the land of Canaan? 4:19 On what day had they begun preparations, forty years earlier, to leave the land of Egypt? Exodus 12:2,3
15. Write out the purposes God gave for parting of the waters of the Red Sea and the Jordan. 4:24 (Compare 3:10)
16. What effect did this miracle have on the people of the land? 5:1 (Cf. Deut. 11:25)

Second Generation Circumcised

17. What did the people need to do when they got to the land and why? 5:2-7 (What was the significance of this? Genesis 17:11,14)
- What was the danger? 5:8 *Why do you think God had them do this **after** they crossed into the land and not **before**?!*

FYI: "Not only did Israel cross over the Jordan at a militarily undesirable place (right in front of Jericho, the strongest military outpost of the Canaanites), they also incapacitated their army for several days. .. They were put in the place where they could trust in nothing but God alone - a hard place, but a good place. God only asked this of them after He showed His greatness by the Jordan River crossing." - David Guzik

18. What assurance did God give them? 5:9 What things from their past (or their parents and grandparents past) in Egypt might have made them feel *reproach/disgrace*?

FYI: "It is as if God were telling these people. 'Today I have dealt with your past. Let's start afresh.'...The Israelites knowledge of their background must have caused them to lose their sense of self-worth, their self-confidence and their confidence in God....If they were going to be confident enough to face their enemies, then the reproach of Egypt needed to be removed...Through the circumcision at Gilgal, God rolled away the cloud of guilt and fear that hung over these people's heads." - Africa Bible Commentary (267)

19. What happened 4 days after they crossed? 5:10 Of what would this remind them?

- What else happened and why? 5:11-12

Applying the Word: *What are some of the most precious memories you have concerning your relationship with God? Do you have a way of preserving those memories and constructively passing them on?*

Day 3

The Defeat of Jericho. Read Joshua 5:13 - 6:27

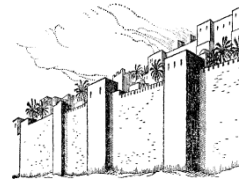
20. Who appeared to Joshua before the battle and what was Joshua's concern? 5:13

- How did Joshua respond to the man's identity? 5:14 How did his focus change?

21. What similarities do you see between this encounter and Moses with the burning bush? (What was the Lord doing for Joshua that He had done for Moses?)

22. What state were the people of Jericho in? 6:1 (Cf. 2:9-11)

23. What claim did the Lord make before Jericho was even attacked? 6:2



FYI: "Ancient Jericho (Heb. Lit. 'moon' and thus 'moon city')...was likely dedicated to the worship of a moon god. Located about five miles west of the Jordan River, Jericho was an oasis in the Dead Sea area. This fortress city controlled the entrance to the Land."
- The Woman's Study Bible (343)

24. List the instructions the people were given. 6:3-5 (How much *military* sense do these instructions make?)

- How mighty was this armed force marching around the city? See Numbers 26:2,51

25. What happened the first day? 6:7-11 (How do you think the people felt when they came back to camp with nothing tangible to show for it? What was God asking them to do?)

- In crossing the Jordan, the Ark of the Covenant led the way. In the battle for Jericho, it was in the middle of the procession. (6:7-9) Do you see any significance in that?

26. What effect do you think the silence of the people, the sound of trumpets and seven days of marching had on the people of Jericho? 6:12-14

27. What happened the 7th day? 6:15,16 (Why were the people told to shout?)

Digging Deeper
For another amazing defeat, read about the battle of Gibeon in Joshua 10:6-15.

FYI: "Seven priests, seven trumpets, seven days and seven trips around the city. The number seven is referred to in one way of another in nearly six hundred passages in the Bible...It symbolized perfection, fullness, abundance, rest, and completion...The seventh day of the week was holy (7 days of creation) ...there were seven days of unleavened bread...and seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles...The seventh year was the sabbatical year."
- Africa Bible Commentary (272)

28. To whom did the spoils of the city belong? 6:17-19 How did this compare to the instructions given for the second battle? 8:2 (Compare the principal of firstfruits in Exodus 34:19,26.)

FYI: "Here was another great test of obedience. The people had lived in the wilderness for forty long year, and a rich city such as Jericho with all its gold and silver must have presented very real temptations. People must have longed to take some articles for themselves."
- Africa Bible Commentary (273)

29. Who was spared and why? 6:17b,23-25 (Cf. Hebrews 11:31)

30. What (who) caused the wall to collapse? 6:20 (See Hebrews 11:30) Apparently, how easily did the people enter the city? 6:20

FYI: "Conquering a walled city usually required breaching the walls or laying siege until the inhabitants exhausted their food and water supplies (a process often taking months.) But God displayed His power to the Israelites by leveling the walls that had frightened their fathers 40 years earlier (Numbers 13:28)."
- The Woman's Study Bible (349)

31. What was an outcome of this battle? 6:27

Applying the Word: When has trusting God without having a lot of answers or immediate results been a challenging time for you? What did you learn from that experience?

Day 4

Joshua's Last Days. Joshua 23,24

32. At the end of the battles, what had the Lord accomplished for the nation?

- 21:43-45
- 23:9,10

33. What final commands did Joshua give the people?

- 23:6
- 23:7,8
- 23:11

Hold fast, cling, cleave (23:8) "*dabaq* OT:1692, "to cling, cleave, keep close." Used in modern Hebrew in the sense of "to stick to, adhere to," *dabaq* yields the noun form for "glue" and also the more abstract ideas of "loyalty, devotion." (See Gen 2:24) - Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

34. What consequence did he remind them of once again? 23:12-13

35. Under the (conditional) covenant relationship of the law, what responsibility and consequences would they face for disobedience? 23:15,16

FYI: Jesus has *redeemed us from the curse of the law* ([Galatians 3:10-14](#))...Therefore, in Jesus we no longer can experience Gods faithfulness to curse us as Israel knew it. Yet we do experience Gods faithfulness to correct us as a loving Father ([Hebrews 12:7](#)),." - David Guzik

36. After recounting the history of Israel (24:2-23) and all that the Lord had done to bring them to Canaan, what decision did Joshua ask the people to make about life in this new land? 24:14,15 (What does the command to “*put away the gods*” indicate?)

- What stand did Joshua take? 24:15b

37. What decision did the people make and what reasons did they give for it? 24:16-18

- How was the decision by the people confirmed and memorialized? 24:25-27

38. How well did the people follow through on their commitment? 24:31; Judges 2:7

The Next Generation

39. What happened after Joshua’s death? Judges 2:10

- What practices did the people engage in? Judges 2:11-15

40. Even in His anger, what did the Lord provide? Judges 2:16,18

41. What happened with succeeding generations? Judges 2:19; 3:5-7

42. From 2:17,19,20, list the words that describe the peoples attitude and behaviors.

would not listen

prostituted themselves to other gods

43. What was the final answer to Israel's and all mankind's inability to keep the law and stay faithful to God? Galatians 4:4-5

Applying the Word: Write down a commitment you want to make to the Lord. Prayfully give this to the Lord and put the paper as a reminder in your Bible or write it on some memorial [e.g. stone] to keep on display.

And/or:

On a piece of paper, write down a "god" you want to forsake. Prayfully give this to the Lord and throw the piece of paper away!