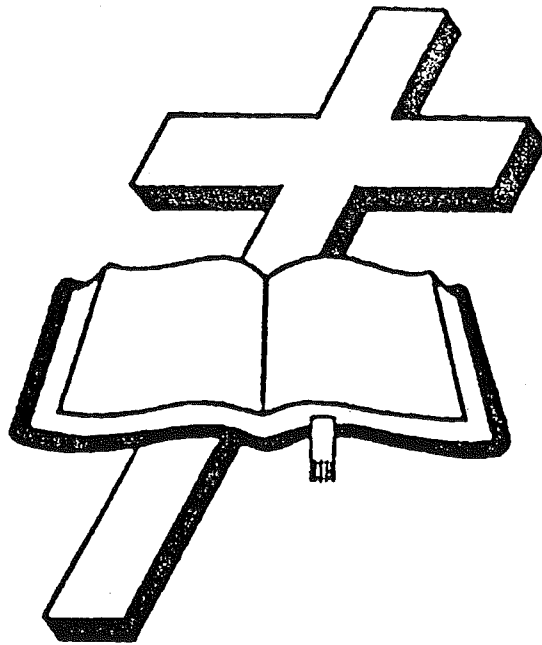


THE JORDAN RIVER

(How The Presence Of God Makes All The Difference)

Joshua 3:1-17



- ◆ The Preceding Of The Miracle (Vs. 1-8)
- ◆ The Purpose Of The Miracle (Vs. 9-13)
- ◆ The Power Of The Miracle (Vs. 14-19)

“..When You Are Come To The Brink Of The Water Of Jordan, Ye Shall Stand Still In Jordan”
(Joshua 3:8)

Bill Kirk

“THE PRESENCE OF GOD”
(In The Jordan River)

Text: Joshua 3:1-17

Subject: “The Presence Of God Makes All The Difference” (In Crossing Over Jordan)

Introduction

Fact: Joshua is a picture of the overcoming Christian life:

- ◆ How courage is born in your heart,
- ◆ How battles are a part of Christian living,
- ◆ How God has so much more He wants to do,
- ◆ How enemies are defeated in the journey,
- ◆ How a “Joshua Spirit” is so desperately needed.

In chapter 1:1-9, **“The Spirit Of Courage”**
(How Joshua was prepared to possess the land)

In chapter 1:10-18, **“4 Ingredients That Lead To Victory”**
(A spirit of obedience, a spirit of meditation, a spirit of separation and a spirit of cooperation)

In chapter 2:1-24, **“The Legacy Of Rahab”**
(How a harlot (a prostitute) arrested God’s attention)

In chapter 3:1-17, **“The Presence Of God Makes All The Difference”**

Question: Pastor, what did Israel do first when they came to the Jordan River?

Question: Pastor, why did God instruct Joshua to take the Ark of The Covenant into the water?

Question: Pastor, what’s the significance of the Ark?

Question: Pastor, what preceded the miracle of crossing Jordan?

Question: Pastor, how does (v. 17) encourage my heart? “All the people passed clean over Jordan?”

(Tonight)

“The Presence Of God Makes All The Difference”

Question: How many of you are glad God brought you **out of** Egypt (the place of sin?)

Question: But, How many of you want God to bring you **in to** Canaan (the place of possession, growth, rest and victory in every spiritual warfare?)

I. The Preceding Of The Miracle (vs. 1-8)

Fact: In chapters 1 and 2, the Israelites had come to the River of Jordan.

Fact: In chapter 3, the Israelites must go through the river to the promise land.

Fact: But before the river opens and the people cross over into new territory (something precedes the miracle).

Question: Pastor, what prepares us for the unknown and the unpredictable Jordans of life?

(Notice V.4 The Last 7 Words)

“Ye Have Not Passed This Way Before”

- ◆ Maybe you are passing a way never traveled before.
- ◆ Maybe you are passing through sorrows never encountered before.
- ◆ Maybe you are passing through temptations as never before.
- ◆ Maybe you are facing a new family difficulty.
- ◆ Maybe you are a teenager passing through peer pressure you never faced before.
- ◆ Maybe you're walking through sorrows deeper than ever before.

(It's Okay)

- ◆ Because God will take you over where you've never been before!

Question: What preceded divine intervention for Joshua?

Answer: (3 things that prepare us for battle)

#1. **Quietness To Hear** (V. 2)

Fact: The nation is waiting by the Jordan River.

Fact: The river is at flood stage and a million people are anxious to march onward and over.

Fact: Joshua ordered the people to travel ten miles from Shittim to Jordan.

Fact: And just before the miracle (v. 2) speaks loud and clear:

"And it came to pass after three days" (v. 1 says)

"And Joshua rose early in the morning" (but notice v. 2)

Question: What happened at Jordan?

Answer: There was a 3 day delay before crossing over! (how come?)

- | | |
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| ◆ To experience the ministry of stillness. | ◆ To become quiet before God. |
| ◆ To make it possible to hear the final instructions | ◆ To listen and to hear what God has to say. |
| ◆ To not run ahead of God. | ◆ To pause and hear "what saith the Lord". |

(The 2nd Preparation I Call..)

#2. **Holiness To Cleanse** (V. 5)

"And Joshua said unto the people, sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you".

(It's A Two-Fold Admonition)

#1. An order to sanctify ourselves today (and)

#2. A promise that God will work wonders tomorrow.

Question: What does this word sanctify mean?

Answer: It is described in Exodus 19:9-15 (all read) (When Israel was at Mt. Sinai)

(v. 10) "Sanctify today and wash your clothes"

(v. 14) "And Moses sanctified the people and they washed their clothes"

- ◆ In the Bible, the washing of the body and the changing of the clothes symbolizes making a new beginning with God.
- #1. At Jacob's new beginning, his family washed and changed their clothes. (Genesis 35:1-3)
- #2. At David's confession, he bathed and changed his clothes. (II Samuel 12:20)
- #3. In Revelation 3:5, "Be clothed in white raiment".
- #4. In Revelation 19:8, "Be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white".
- #5. In Ecclesiastes 9:8, "Let thy garments be always white".

(Why So Important? Why Sanctify Ourselves?)

- ◆ So repentance can prepare us for renewal.
- ◆ So we can be ready to obey.
- ◆ So we can enjoy the Holy presence of God.
- ◆ So we can hear the voice of God.
- ◆ So we can be trusted with spiritual responsibility.
- ◆ So we can see the miracles of Jesus.

(The Third Preparation I Call)

#3. Faithfulness To Follow (vs, 3,4,6-8)

Question: What was the instruction to the people?

Answer: (v. 3) "When you see the Ark of the Covenant, get up and follow it".

(3 Little Words) "Go After It"

In (v. 4) "Follow the Ark from 3,000 feet".

In (v. 6) "Take the Ark before the people".

In (v. 8) "Take the Ark in Jordan and stand still".

Question: Why carry the Ark of the Covenant?

Answer: Because the Ark was the presence chamber of God in Israel's journey.

#1. God's glory rested upon the Ark in the Tabernacle. (Exodus 25:10-22)

#2. The Law of God was in the Ark, (which was a reminder of His covenant).

#3. The Ark before the people was telling them that God was going with them (and would open up the river).

#4. The Ark was the guarantee of the presence of God with the people.

Question: How many of you know, that's all we need in the journey (the presence of God)?

Question: How many of you feel like Joshua, "God we want you to lead the way".

Question: How many of you believe that in the presence of God, miracles transpire?

II. The Purpose Of The Miracle (vs. 9-13)

Question: Why is God going to open the Jordan River?

Answer: To encourage us that God will do even more:

(v. 9) "Hear the Word of the Lord"

(v. 10) "You will know that the living God..."

#1. "Is among you"

#2. "He will drive out before you every enemy"

#3. (v. 13) "The waters will open and you can cross over"

(In Other Words)

◆ "What you cannot do for yourself in your own strength (I will do for you)" (and)

◆ "If you let Me go before you, My presence will remove every obstacle in the way"

III. The Power Of The Miracle (vs. 14-19)

Fact: Jordan is now a mile wide.

Fact: The priests carry the Ark ahead of the troops. (v. 14)

Fact: The priests step into the water. (v. 15)

Fact: The waters stand up on edge. (v. 16)

Fact: The people pass through on dry ground. (v. 17)

(Why?)

- ◆ Because the presence of God was working with the faith of the people! (Repeat)
- ◆ Because the Ark was a type of Jesus our Captain.
- ◆ Because where Jesus is, something happens!
- ◆ Because the Ark is here tonight to lead you from victory to victory at every Jordan River.
- ◆ In Joshua 6, the Ark was carried around Jericho, the armed men followed it, and the impassable walls came down.
- ◆ In I Samuel 5, the Philistines took the Ark and put it in the house of their false idol (Dagon).
 - * The next day the Philistines found (Dagon) fallen on his face in pieces. (why?)
 - * Because no idol, or sin, or demon, or bad habit, or power can defeat the presence of God.
- ◆ In Psalm 97:5, the Bible says, "The hills melt like wax in the presence of God".

(What's It Mean?)

"**Hills**" represents anything in your life that is not God's will for you.

"**Melt**" (means) "To clear a pathway and dissolve".

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Hard hearts melt like wax in a fire.
- ◆ Burdens, yokes and fears melt like wax in the oven.
- ◆ Diseases and chronic sins dissolve and clear away in the presence of God.

(What Happens In The Presence Of God)

From Joshua Chapter 3?

- #1. God Builds Our Faith
(Israel was edified at the presence of the Ark)
- #2. God Motivates Us To Action
(Israel walked into the middle of Jordan)
- #3. God Overcomes Every Obstacle
(The Lord held back the water till all crossed over)
- #4. God Gives Us Our Inheritance
(Israel marched forward to possess the Promise Land)

(Why?)

Because In The Presence Of God

- #1. We are cleared from dirt and debris.
- #2. We are comforted in the face of Jordan Rivers.
- #3. We are convicted and changed for the better.
- #4. We are challenged to go after the ark (and pursue the Lord as never before).

Conclusion

- ◆ My concern isn't the Jordan Rivers I'll come up against.
- ◆ My concern is that the Ark (Jesus Himself) is **with me in the water!**

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor