



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

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They were going to move forward in a way and a place that they had never been. Forty years before they had refused to go in God's time. They had wandered in the wilderness for forty years but all the time going about in the same territory. This was going to be new.

Joshua 3:4 *Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore.*

They were to keep a space between them and the ark so they could see the direction to God. This was so they could keep their eyes on the direction God was leading. This also ensured that they would not get ahead of God.

IV- Sanctify Yourselves:

Joshua 3:5 *And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you.*

Joshua told them to "Sanctify yourselves." The NIV translates this, "Consecrate yourselves..." The nation needed to get ready spiritually to enter the land. Spiritual preparation is still needed for us to be ready to be used of God. Repentance, prayer and a heart that yearns for the will of God to unfold is important.

V- Stand Still in Jordan:

As the priest lead out they were to stand still in the Jordan. **Joshua 3:6** *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. 7 And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee. 8 And thou shalt command the priests that bear the ark of the covenant, saying, When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan.*

God was going to begin to solidify the leadership of Joshua that very day. Remember Moses is gone and this is the first real test of the leadership of Joshua.

VI- Dry Land and Twelve Rocks:

Notice the instructions given to the children by God through Joshua. The spiritual purpose of the events is found here as well.



Coordinates:
Joshua 3:1-17

Sights to See:

- 1- Sometimes we need to move to get a little closer to the will of God.
- 2- We must endeavor to keep our eyes on God as we travel the path of His will.
- 3- To follow God we many times need to go where we have never gone before.
- 4- Spiritual preparation is the most critical of all preparation to serve God. We must sanctify ourselves for God's service by totally surrender to Him.
- 5- God gave magnification to His chosen leader Joshua by the events of the crossing the river.
- 6- We can see the evidence that there is a living God among us if we will look for them.
- 7- The passing along of the working of God in the life of us as individuals, our families, our church and communities is important. We must find a way to tell the story like the stones gave the Children of Israel a chance to tell.
- 8- God is still able to deliver on His promises and has never renege on a single one nor will He ever.



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They will know by this that God is going before them. *Joshua 3:9 And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, Come hither, and hear the words of the LORD your God. 10 And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you, and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites, and the Perizzites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Jebusites. 11 Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth passeth over before you into Jordan.*

The instruction is also given for the twelve tribes to choose twelve men, one from each tribe. They were to perform a very specific task. We see they are chosen in *Joshua 3:12 Now therefore take you twelve men out of the tribes of Israel, out of every tribe a man.* We go to the next chapter to see the purpose of these men. *Joshua 4:2-3 Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man, 3 And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night.*

The purpose for the twelve stones is given in *Jos 4:6-7 That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones? 7 Then ye shall answer them...*

They passed through on dry land. This was accomplished with a supernatural act of God similar to the crossing of the Red Sea for the generation before. *Joshua 3:13 And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap.*

VII- Deliverance on the Promise:

Could God deliver again at the hands of this man to whom the mantle of Moses has passed? Not only could He do it but, He could stop the river at flood stage.

Joshua 3:14 And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people; 15 And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,) 16 That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho.

The river was at flood stage but God stopped it from flowing. Notice He did not dry up the source He only dammed it up and held back the ever increasing water flow.

Joshua 3:17 And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.

The generation before them passed through the Red Sea on dry land and the God delivered them into the Promised Land by His hand on dry land as well. They truly have gone where they had never gone before. They have crossed into the land that God had promised generations before. God was faithful to His promises.