

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible  
Current Book: Joshua – Message 5

2018 VISION: *Mission Jerusalem: Reach* ①

### Scriptures for Today: Joshua 3:1-17 – The miraculous crossing of the Jordan River

Today's Message: **Creation Takes a Stand – Trusting God by faith to lead you into His promises.**

## INTRODUCTION

Last week, we followed 2 spies as they were sent from Joshua to view the land on the other side of Jordan and **Jericho**. And, we witnessed one of the greatest acts of faith present in the holy Bible by a Gentile harlot named Rahab. She saved her entire house by faith through the *scarlet thread* promise. Today, it is time to cross the Jordan River! Upon receiving such great news from the returning spies, Joshua will *immediately* make way for the Jordan. God is about to \_\_\_\_\_ to the children of Israel just how **glorious** and **powerful** He really is. There is going to be an interesting difference between the crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus) and this crossing of the Jordan River. Pay close attention as we will be learning very important lessons from God about how He will lead us in the \_\_\_\_\_ we *must* to go.

## LEARNING TOGETHER

### 1. The Text Joshua 3:1-17

- **Space Requirement** – They were to \_\_\_\_\_ *the ark* closely when it was on the move.  
3:1-4            *“When ye see the ark... **go after it**... Yet there shall be a **SPACE**...”*
- **Sanctify Yourselfs** – They were to **PURIFY** *inwardly* before experiencing God *externally*.  
3:5-6            *“Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do WONDERS...”*
- **Stand Still** – The blessing from God would come as the priests *stood* \_\_\_\_\_ in Jordan.  
3:7-8            *“...**command the priests**... to the brink... **STAND STILL** in Jordan.”*
- **Come Hither** – Joshua gathered them together to *hear* the future \_\_\_\_\_ it happened.  
3:9-13            *“And Joshua said... **Come hither, and hear the words of the LORD**”*
- **God Delivers** – Creation obeyed its Creator as their \_\_\_\_\_ was turned into God's glory!  
3:14-17            *“And **AS**... **the feet** of the priests... were **DIPPED** in the brim...”*

### 2. The History Exodus 25 (*the ark*); Jeremiah 12:5 (*the Jordan*)

- **The ark** – The *ark* was a picture of Jesus Christ and represented **the presence of God** – **Inside**: golden pot with *manna*, Aaron's *budded rod*, and the *tables* of the

covenant. **On top:** the *mercyseat* where God would commune with them.

*Exodus 25:10-22; Num 7:89; Deut 31:26; 1 Sam 4:6, 22; 2 Sam 6:7; Heb 9:1-5*

NOTE When the ark moved, the people of God moved. That is how He led them. It was located inside the vail within the Holiest of all. When they advanced, the ark was wrapped in the vail and was to be handled with care (example: Uzzah).

- **Jordan** – The Jordan overflowed every year at the time of *harvest* (7 weeks from *the feast of Passover* and ended with *Pentecost*). It was crossed miraculously by Elijah (2 Ki 2:8) and Elisha (2 Ki 2:14), and the place of the baptisms of Naaman (2 Ki 5:10), John the Baptist (Jn 1:28) and Jesus Christ (Mt 3:13).  
*Jeremiah 12:5; Joshua 5:10; Exodus 23:16; Lev 23:9-14*

NOTE At the time of Joshua 3, the Jordan was overflowed and impossible to cross. God told **His creation** to STAND for Him as \_\_\_\_\_ to God's people and the world watching (Jericho close by) that He was in fact the Lord of all the earth!

### 3. The Lessons Exodus 33:15; Isaiah 30:7; Matthew 14:29

✓ *God's people were commanded to go after the ark when they saw it moving.*

- **God First** – God's people were to sanctify themselves and follow His leading carefully.

**Exodus 33:15** *"If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence."*

**John 17:17** *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."*

**Truth:** Moses' desire and prayer to God was for Him to \_\_\_\_\_ him the way.

**Learning:** We must be careful not to get ahead of God. Follow obediently.

✓ *God's priests were commanded to stand still in the brink of the water and wait for God.*

- **Still Strength** – God's priests had to bare the ark into the water and stand still.

**Psalm 46:10** *"Be still, and **KNOW** that I am God: I will be exalted..."*

**Isaiah 30:7** *"...therefore have I cried concerning this, **Their strength is to sit still.**"*

**Truth:** The priests' job was to get into the water and stand \_\_\_\_\_.

**Learning:** We must realize our strength is to be and sit still – wait upon God.

✓ *God wanted to show them His glory, but He needed them to take a step of faith first.*

- **Faith Step** – God's priests were asked to put their feet in the water \_\_\_\_\_ this time.

**Matt 14:29** *"...he said, **Come.** And when Peter was come... he walked on water..."*

**Truth:** God parted the Red Sea. Now, he wanted them to step in the water.

**Learning:** As we grow in Christ, God will ask us to take more steps of faith.