

- I) V1-6 INTRO: Then Joshua rose early in the morning and they set out from Acacia Grove and came to
 - a) Moses has died and Joshua is being elevated into leadership in the nation of Israel
 - 1) He is about to enter in to the promised land, and God is preparing him for his new role
- II) GOD HAD: Made it clear to Joshua that spiritual leadership requires confidence, courage, and faith
 - a) It also requires obedience to His commands, that he might lead properly and bless the people (1:7)
- III) SINCE IT IS TIME: To cross the Jordan to receive the land, Joshua decided to send spies out
 - a) This is something he had been part of 40 years earlier, and felt it wise to do
 - 1) The two spies returned with faith filled and encouraging words (2:24)
 - 2) This provoked the people to enter in to the land with faith and excitement
 - 3) 1 Th 3:2 and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and *encourage you* concerning your faith
- IV) V1-3 THIS NEWS: Provoked Joshua to move immediately
 - a) They were at that time around seven miles east of the Jordan: they now moved to the banks
- V) V2 SAYS: They remained at this place for three days, making preparations to cross the Jordan
 - a) They had to make sure that everything was in order: families, possessions, etc were to be cared for
- VI) V3 AND: They commanded the people saying When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD
 - a) The Ark of the Covenant was the chest that held the two stone tablets of law that Moses brought down from Mount Sinai, as well as a jar of manna and Aaron's rod that budded.
 - 1) The ark symbolized God's presence with the children of Israel, going before them
- VII) KEY: This was intended to give the people courage, knowing that God was fighting the battle
 - a) The ark reminded the people of Who the true Leader was: God Himself
 - 1) Dt 20:3-4 And he shall say to them, 'Hear, O Israel: Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, do not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them; for the LORD your God *is* He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.'
- VIII) V4 YET: There shall be a space between you and it about two thousand cubits by measure
 - a) A cubit is around 18 inches, so the space would have been 1000 yards
 - 1) This was ample distance for them to keep a watch on the ark, in that they were in a foreign land
 - 2) It will also give them a better view of the miracle that is about to happen
- IX) V5 AND: Joshua said to the people Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders
 - a) The OT law contained rules concerning washing of clothes and personal bathing (Ex 19:14-15)
 - 1) This is not what is being referred to: this is speaking of *preparing their hearts*
 - 2) They are to turn their hearts *in faith* towards God, trusting His promise to be with them
 - 3) Lev 20:7 Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I *am* the LORD your God.
- X) KEY: If you want to see God move, be set apart and keep your eyes on Him, *expectantly*
 - a) Jn 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.
 - b) 1 Pe 3:15 But *sanctify* the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be ready to give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear
 - 1) Be like Philip the evangelist, who was prepared to share with the Ethiopian eunuch (Ac 8:26-39)

- I) KEY: God blesses obedience and faith
 - a) Dt 28:1 Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth

- II) V6 THEN: Joshua spoke to the priests saying Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before
 - a) The priests are commanded to lead the children
 - 1) They were visibly representing God leading the people into His promises

- III) TRUE SPIRITUAL LEADERS: Not only encourage others to obedience, but they also lead the way
 - a) 1 Ti 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity
 - b) Jn 13:15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you

- IV) V7-8 AND: The LORD said to Joshua This day *I will* begin to magnify you in the sight of all Israel
 - a) The children of Israel followed the leadership of Moses, who delivered them from Egypt
 - 1) Through Moses, God brought 10 plagues on Egypt, resulting in their being released

- V) WHEN THEY CAME TO THE RED SEA: Pharaoh's 600 chariots were behind them, the sea before them
 - a) The people began to panic, crying out that they were about to be massacred by the Egyptians
 - 1) Ex 14:13-14 And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. *Stand still*, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. *The LORD will fight for you*, and you shall hold your peace."

- VI) MOSES: Lifted up the rod and stretched out his hand over the sea and the sea was divided
 - a) When the Egyptians attempted to cross over, the water returned and drowned the army
 - 1) This was the key event that cemented Moses' leadership in Israel
 - 2) Ex 14:31 Thus israel saw the great work which the LORD had done in Egypt; so the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD and *His servant* Moses
 - 3) 1 Co 10:1-2 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea

- VII) AS MOSES: Led the nation through the Red Sea, Joshua would lead them through the Jordan
 - a) This would establish him in the eyes of the people as God's anointed leader
 - 1) God is the One Who establishes spiritual leaders
 - 2) Ps 75:6-7 For exaltation *comes* neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. But God *is* the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another.

- VIII) V8 YOU SHALL: Command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant saying When you have
 - a) When they come to the nearest bank, they are to enter in to the Jordan and simply stand still
 - 1) Moses divided the water with the rod, but the Jordan was divided through the ark

- IX) V9-10 SO JOSHUA: Said to the children of Israel Come here and hear the words of the LORD your God
 - a) He addressed the leaders of the tribes, that they would communicate that their God saves
 - 1) They would learn this through the words of the Lord their God, as He keeps His promises
 - 2) Dt 6:3 Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe *it*, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you--'a land flowing with milk and honey

- I) V10 KEY: By this you shall know that *the living God* is among you and that He will *without fail* drive

- a) God keeps His word, without fail: it is guaranteed even in the face of persistent opposition
 - 1) He is the living God, and He has the power to *keep His word*
 - 2) This promise is to fill them with confidence that God is on their side

- II) THIS IS IN CONTRAST: To the lifestyle idols of the pagans
 - a) Idols have no life in them, and cannot save anyone
 - 1) Is 46:5-7 To whom will you compare me? Who is my equal? Some people pour out their silver and gold and a craftsman to make a god from it. Then they bow down and worship it! They carry it around on their shoulders, and when they set it down, it stays there. It can't even move.
there is no answer. It can't rescue anyone from trouble. (New Living Translation)
 - 2) Jer 51:17 Everyone is dull-hearted, without knowledge; Every metalsmith is put to shame by the carved image; For his molded image *is* falsehood, And *there is no breath in them.*

- III) V10 THEY WILL: Drive out the seven nations that inhabit the land
 - a) They were being driven out because of their terrible wickedness
 - 1) Dt 9:4-5 Do not think in your heart, after the LORD your God has cast them out before you, saying, 'Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land'; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is driving them out from before you. It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

- IV) V11 BEHOLD: The ark of the covenant of *the LORD of all the earth* is crossing over before you
 - a) God is the Lord of all the earth: He is omnipotent and all creation obeys Him
 - 1) The water itself will obey God's command

- V) THE LORD: Of the whole earth will make it possible for you to cross over safely
 - a) INCIDENTALLY: He still makes it possible for us to cross over safely
 - 1) Heb 7:25 Therefore *He is also able to save* to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

- VI) V12 NOW THEREFORE: Take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel one man from
 - a) 12 is the number of government: 12 tribes of Israel, twelve spies in promised land, 12 apostles

- VII) V13 AND: It shall come to pass as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark
 - a) The promise and assurance to the people is that the priests will stand, and the water will stop
 - 1) This had happened before, and God will do it once again
 - 2) What occurred in the past can occur in their present:

- VIII) IT DIDN'T HAPPEN: On its own but they needed to enter in first
 - a) Leaders cannot take people where they themselves are unwilling to go
 - 1) If the people are going to cross over, the leaders must take the first step

- IX) V14-17 SO IT WAS: When the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan with the priests
 - a) When the priests obeyed, the miracle occurred, from 15 mi. north down to the Salt (dead) Sea
 - 1) Ps 33:7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap