

Life Group Study  
Joshua 3  
“Future Forward – God Intervenes”

Week of March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Study by Wayne Arcand

Pastor Sean: *BOTTOM LINE – God intervenes for your best future*

**Joshua 3 - Crossing the Jordan**

**3** Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. **2** After three days the officers went throughout the camp, **3** giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. **4** Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits (about 3,000 feet or about 900 meters) between you and the ark; do not go near it.”

**5** Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.”

**6** Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the Ark of the Covenant and pass on ahead of the people.” So they took it up and went ahead of them.

**7** And the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. **8** Tell the priests who carry the Ark of the Covenant: ‘When you reach the edge of the Jordan’s waters, go and stand in the river.’”

**9** Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. **10** This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. **11** See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. **12** Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. **13** And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.”

**14** So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of them. **15** Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, **16** the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. **17** The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

1. Discuss some of the things we have faith in.
  - a. How secure is this faith?
2. Joshua 3 is a great example of a people living by faith.
  - a. Read through the passage and highlight the actions that required faith?
  - b. Who did they have faith in?
  - c. Did the risk suggest the measure of faith required?
3. What are the situations that arise in your life that are the greatest challenge to your faith?
  - a. Discuss how our faith is impacted by what we do.
  - b. What has happened in your life that has resulted in a stronger faith in God?
4. In an age when we want faster internet, expect almost instant message and email responses, and are prepared to go into debt rather than waiting until we can afford it, we may find it difficult to wait for God to answer our prayers.
  - a. In the first 4 verses of Joshua 3, discuss the time frames and specific instructions that were given to the people. Why do you think the Lord was so specific in the instructions to His people?
5. Why do you think the writer would have included the observation, *"<sup>15</sup> Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest"*, in recounting the events of Joshua 3?
6. In faith Joshua obeyed the LORD. In faith the priests stepped into the water. In faith the nation crossed the Jordan on dry land. The LORD did amazing things among them because each one obeyed in faith and they were brought into the land God had promised to them.
  - a. How did God choose to work in their lives?
  - b. Discuss how this applies to us today. Have you had the thought, "we should be ....., or I should be....."? Is this the Lord showing you a way that you can bring glory to him and step out in faith? If the Lord is laying something on your heart, would you share it with your life group?

#### For Reflection:

In your quiet time this week, ask the Lord to show those times when he has asked you to step out and do something in faith. Do not think that because he hasn't asked you to do something grand that he is not speaking to you. Every time you do something that allows the character of Jesus to grow in you, you are symbolically stepping into the Jordan. Take that step of faith - ask someone to go to church with you, or watch the livestream. Place a phone call to someone who is hurting or living alone. Take a meal to someone living alone. Ask where you can be involved in ministry in your church using the spiritual gifts the Lord has given you. Take a step of faith and see what God will do. TO GOD BE THE GLORY.