

Joshua 3

Jesus

- **Chapter 2:** Spies come back with good report v 24

**“Truly the Lord has delivered all the land into our hands
For indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us.”**

- **Crossing Red Sea:** Picture of Salvation: Delivered from bondage of the world/devil
- **Crossing of the Jordan:** Picture of Spirit-Filled Life

We receive the Holy Spirit the moment we are saved/born-again

John 20:21 [Post-resurrection Jesus] He breathed on [His disciples], and said to them, **“Receive the Holy Spirit.”**

Ephesians 1:13 ... **having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit...**

We receive the Spirit of New Life when we believe...
Jesus said there was more: The Power of the Holy Spirit

Luke 24:49 ... **tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.**

Acts 1:8 ...you shall **receive power when the Holy Spirit** has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

First work of the Holy Spirit: Breath of Life to Salvation
Second work of the Spirit: Power of God displayed in us to non-believers

Acts 8:14 [Read] Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had **received the word of God**, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might **receive the Holy Spirit**. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid hands on them, and they **received the Holy Spirit**. 18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the **Holy Spirit was given**, he offered them money, 19 saying, **“Give me this power also**, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”

- **Change was evident:** They were saved but lacked power **until baptized in Spirit**

Evangelist D.L. Moody locked himself in a hotel room in New York City for three and a half days saying, “I’m not coming out of this room until I know the power of the Spirit has come upon me” On the fourth day, God overwhelmed and overpowered him to such a degree that he knew without a doubt that he was empowered to do the work God had called him to do.

The Israelites are about to Cross the Jordan into the Promise Land

- **Crossing Red Sea** Picture of Salvation; i.e. Delivered from bondage of world/devil
- **Crossing Jordan** Picture of Spirit-Filled Life. Victory/Power/Conquest

I. Israel Crosses the Jordan

1 Then Joshua rose **early in the morning**; and they set out from Acacia

Grove and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over.

- **Rose early in the morning? Abundant Life anticipating what God will do**

1. **Abraham** rose early in the morning
2. **Isaac** rose early in the morning
3. **Jacob** rose early in the morning
4. **Moses** rose early in the morning
5. **Samuel** rose early in the morning
6. **David** rose early in the morning
7. **Women** at Jesus tomb rose early in the morning
8. **Joshua** rose early in the morning

- Not everybody is a morning person...

Proverbs 27:14 He who blesses his friend with a loud voice...early in the morning...will be counted a curse...

- **Joshua rose early in the morning:** Excited for what God is about to accomplish

2 So it was, after **three days**, that the officers went through the camp; 3 and they commanded the people, saying, "**When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God**, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and **go after it**."

- Like Jesus 3 days in Tomb is enough...After 3 Days it's time to go

**We are not to stay at the cross...we are not to stay in the tomb
We are to live the resurrected Life of Jesus**

Romans 6:4 ...we were buried with [Jesus] through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life**.

Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, **let us also walk in the Spirit**.

- **Manifested in signs of Life:** Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Luke 20:36 [Jesus calls believers] **sons of the resurrection**.

Not sons of the Cross. Not sons of the Tomb. Sons of the Resurrection

- Resurrection power of the Holy Spirit

Philippians 3:10 [I want to] know Him and the **power of His resurrection** [in this life]

Q: It is possible to be saved and powerless? A: Yes

- Do you want the power of the Holy Spirit? Go after it!

Luke 11:13 ... how much more will your heavenly Father **give the Holy Spirit** to those who ask Him!"

The Resurrection Life: Walking in Step with/in the Power of the Spirit of God

- When you see the Ark...**go after it!**

4 Yet there shall be a **space between you and it**, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near [the Ark], that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before."

- 3000 Foot buffer between people and God before crossing over
 1. **Spiritually** Speaks of God's Holiness
 2. **Practically** People needed to stand back to see the Ark

**Application: Don't go ahead of God and hope He follows
Let God go before you to show the way**

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a **light to my path.**

5 And Joshua said to the people, "**Sanctify yourselves**, for tomorrow the Lord will **do wonders among you.**"

Sanctify Yourself: Set yourself apart *from sin* and *unto God*

- **Something we have to do:** Physical, Mental, Emotional, Spiritual preparation...
 1. Saturday Night preparation for Sunday: TV, books, conversations?
 2. Are we ready for God to do wonders among us?
 3. Salvation, Healing, Relational Restoration

Sanctify yourselves...tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you!

6 Then Joshua **spoke to the priests**, saying, "Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.

- **It's time:** Priests take up the Ark of God

Gold-covered wooden chest with lid cover described in the Book of Exodus and containing the two stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, Aaron's rod that budded and a pot of manna. Wood covered on all sides with gold.

- 4' x 2' x 2' Box w/poles and carried by priests
- **Wood covered with Gold:** [Wood] Jesus humanity and [Gold] Jesus Deity

Ark represents the Presence of the Living God to the people

- **NOTE:** God made His presence known to the people in 4 Ways...
 1. **Pillar of Smoke by Day:** Leading the way
 2. **Pillar of Fire by night:** Stopping/hovering over Tent of Meeting
 3. Here the **Ark of the Covenant** going before the people
 4. Later: **Commander of the Lord of Hosts**

**I will never leave you nor forsake you...a very present help in time of trouble
Jesus means "God with us"**

- Ark went before the people: God's presence goes first

7 And the Lord said to Joshua, "This day I will **begin to exalt you** in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.

It is God who raises up leaders

Psalm 75:6 ...exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south.
7 But God is the Judge: **He puts down one, And exalts another.**

- **Joshua is exalted by God**
- **Self-exaltation:** Sure-sign the person's authority is not of God

Acts 20:28 ...take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come **in among you**, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from **among yourselves men will rise up**, speaking perverse things, to **draw away the disciples** after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

- **The people God exalts are...**
 1. Generally, not interested in being noticed
 2. Humble enough not to care/be moved if they are noticed
 3. Realize that being noticed is a very dangerous place to be
- God does not exalt the arrogant/prideful
- God does not exalt the new believer

2 Timothy 3:6 [An overseer cannot be a...] **novice**, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good **testimony** among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

- **Spiritual Leadership is a Dangerous Calling**

God exalts the Humble/ and Tested. Joshua was both

"I will begin to exalt you in the sight of the people"

8 You shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, saying, 'When you have **come to the edge of the water** of the Jordan, you shall stand in the Jordan.'

- Priest go in the water with the Ark **before the people**

Godly leaders do not ask people to do what they are unwilling to do

- **Jesus washed the feet of Apostles:** Now go and do likewise

John 13:14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

9 So Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Come here, and hear the **words of the Lord your God.**"

**If we say "Thus says the Lord" we better be right
Joshua hung out with the Lord in order to know Him**

- **Followed his mentor Moses:** Did make a move without the Lord

Exodus 33:14 [God speaking to Moses] "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." 15 Then [Moses] said to [God], "**If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here...**"

- Joshua gives the people the Word of the Lord...

10 And Joshua said, "By this you 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** is crossing over before you into the Jordan.

How do we know God is among us? We walk in Victory over this World

1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Matthew 1:23 "... they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "**God with us.**"

- I will go before you and drive out the enemy...

Exodus 33:2 And I will send My Angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the...

- Later the Psalmist would remember what God would do here...

Psalm 44:2 **You drove out the nations** with Your hand... You afflicted the peoples, and cast them out.

- **He will be with us when we cross over...when we die**

1. **Salvation** Dying to self/Giving up old life/Baptism a picture
2. **Physical Death** Scary time unless faith in Him alone

Isaiah 43:1 But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "**Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.**" 2 When you **pass through the waters**, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. 3 For I am the **Lord your God**, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior...

Behold, the ark of the covenant of the **Lord of all the earth**
Crosses over before you into the Jordan

12 Now therefore, take for yourselves **twelve men** from the tribes of Israel,

one man from every tribe. 13 And it shall come to pass, as soon as the **soles of the feet of the priests** who bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be **cut off**, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall **stand as a heap.**"

Joshua's Faith: Waters will stand in a heap

- 12 men/one from each tribe to witness the waters parting

Priests move toward water 1000 feet in front of millions now watching

14 So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the **priests bearing the ark** of the covenant before the people, 15 and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the **priests who bore** the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest [One mile wide at this time]), 16 that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

Water stopped 19 Miles upriver: Walk by faith not sight

Psalm 114:3 The sea saw it and fled; Jordan turned back.

This miracle obviously connects with the miracle the nation knew some 40 years earlier: the passing through the Red Sea. God brought them out of Egypt's bondage with a miracle, and He brought them in to the Promised Land with a miracle. [Guzik]

17 Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord **stood firm on dry ground** in the midst of the Jordan

Standing Firm: Preparing for Battle

- Priests who upheld the Ark of the Lord "**stood firm**"
 1. Listened *for God* then Listened *to God*
 2. Believed what God said/Obeyed what God instructed ...Fruit of obedience?

They stood firm...We need to stand Firm

Ephesians 6:10 [Read] Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be **able to stand** against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be **able to withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, **to stand.** 14 Stand therefore, having girded your **waist with truth**, having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, 15 and having shod your **feet with the preparation** of the gospel of

peace; 16 above all, taking the **shield of faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the **word of God**

Armor to stand and withstand the enemy...and stand firm in the Lord

1. **Belt of Truth:** What God says is true...period. To defeat deception of satanic world system
 2. **Breastplate of Righteousness:** Practical Righteousness to defeat easy condemnation
 3. **Shoes prepared:** Ready to share means watching what we say/do not to be disqualified
 4. **Shield of Faith:** Believing what God says and acting on it. Faith w/out works is dead
 5. **Helmet of Salvation:** Confident in what Jesus accomplished: "It is finished"
 6. **Sword of the Spirit:** Word of God every day. Word empowered by the Spirit for obedience
- **Standing Firm:** A consistent victorious walk/ gold chain...not perfect but growing

The priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord
Stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan
God said it...I'm going to do it...now up to Him

17b... And **all Israel crossed** over on dry ground, until all the people had **crossed completely over the Jordan.**

- Priests stood for hours as the people crossed/entered the Promised Land

Moses and the people crossed the Red Sea: Picture of Salvation through Faith

Joshua and the people crossed the Jordan: Picture of Spirit Filled life also through Faith

Go after it!