

Joshua 1-4 • Chapter Study

INTRODUCTION

Joshua is one of those figures of history who tends **not** to get the recognition he deserves because he lived in the shadow of someone even greater.

As Moses' trusted assistant, he spent 4 decades faithfully serving him.

He's one of the few who obediently trusted God. (Ex. 24:13)

For that faith & loyalty, he was 1 of only 2 who survived the Wilderness wandering to make it into the PL. Caleb was the other.

Joshua was born in Egypt.

He's repeatedly referred to as the son of Nun, of the tribe of Ephraim. (1 Chron. 7:20-27)

His original name was Hoshea, which means "salvation," but Moses changed it to Yehoshua; Yeshua for short, which means "Yahweh is salvation" (Num. 13:16).

When the Amalekites attacked Israel as they made their way thru the Wilderness, Joshua led the army against them (Ex. 17).

He & Caleb were 2 of the dozen spies sent to reconnoiter Canaan after only a year and a half out of Egypt.

They alone wanted to go up and take it, against the counsel of the other 10 who persuaded the people to balk. (Num. 14)

That unbelief; their distrust of God's provision and protection was the cause of their next 38 years of wandering around in circles.

God told Moses, Joshua would replace him as leader & take Israel across the Jordan into the PL.

Moe brought him before the elders, and commissioned him in their sight.

God marked His approval by causing the pillar of cloud to stand over the place of the commissioning. [Deut.

31:15]

Not long after, Moses hiked up Mt. Nebo from whence God gave him a panorama of Canaan.

Then he breathed his last.

That brings us to the beginning of the book of Joshua.

Chs 1-12 is a chronicle of the conquest of Canaan and covers 7 yrs.

The remainder of Joshua's life was spent dividing the land among the tribes.

He died at the ripe old age of 110.

It's been said that for most NT truths, there's an OT picture to illustrate them.

The Book of Joshua is a marvelous picture book of some of the most important NT truths.

The author of Hebrews draws an analogy between faith in Christ & Israel's entering the PL.

He makes Joshua a **type** of Christ who gives rest to His people.

In 1 Cor. 10, Paul is explicit when he says Israel's entire experience from Egypt to Canaan is a portrait of the Christian life.

He uses an interesting word in v11 when he says Israel is our "example" = Grk "typos" = type.

A "type" is a sign or picture that points to something of even greater significance.

Paul means that while the Exodus was an historical event, it's meant to be understood as pointing to something **even more significant**.

Now all these things happened to them as examples [types], and they were written for OUR admonition (instruction), upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Some old hymns & spirituals present the PL as **heaven**.

But that can't be right because Canaan **had to be conquered**. There were **enemies** there.

The PL isn't heaven.

It's a type, as Heb 4 makes clear, of the rest that awaits God's people when they cease from their **attempts at being right with God**, & instead trust wholly & only in Christ.

Canaan is a picture, not of heaven, but of the Spirit-filled life.

The Spirit-filled life isn't free of trouble, but it does overcome because it depends & prevails thru the power of God rather than man; just as Israel secured their victory in Canaan by depending on God.

This was THE FIRST LESSON they had to learn in their 1st conquest at Jericho.

And that's why Moses, representing the law, couldn't take them into the Land.

Only Israel's "Yeshua" could take them in.

It was Joshua who divided the inheritance among the tribes, just as Eph1 says Jesus gives us **our** inheritance.

Crossing the River Chs. 1-5

The Commission To Joshua Ch. 1

¹ After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: ² "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.

An old saying says, "God buries His workmen, but the work goes on."

While God **uses** people, it's comforting to know He's not **dependent** on them.

The plan of God will not be stalled or hindered by the frailty of human strength.

Israel has finished mourning Moses. It's time to move into the Promise.

³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.

This is a vast territory God charts here.

This reference of the Hittites bears comment.

The Hittites were one of the earliest empires to spread over the ancient ME.

Their home was in **Anatolia**, modern Turkey. // But their dominance was short lived.

When the borders of their empire collapsed, many of their people stayed in the colonies they'd planted, including Canaan.

The Hittites were a rather advanced civilization compared to others, who envied & despised them.

So they tried to erase all evidence of them.

There was no record of the Hittites outside of Scripture.

So skeptics universally mocked the Bible for its numerous references to them.

Then, once archaeology came of age & work began in the ME, evidence of the Hittite empire turned up all over.

The discovery of the Hittite Empire was a significant turning point in archaeology's attitude toward the Bible as an historically accurate record.

⁵ No man shall *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, *so* I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. ⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God *is* with you wherever you go."

God repeatedly issues this word of rousing encouragement to Joshua; "Be strong & courageous."

This is one of my favorite passages, so we'll save it for a week from Sunday.

God's spoken to Joshua; now it's time for him to speak to the people

¹⁰ Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, ¹¹ "Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within 3 days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess.'"

IOW: "Load & Gear Up! We'll be moving soon."

This suggests they've been camped where they are for a while and have settled in.

It's time to go mobile once more.

¹² And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh Joshua spoke, saying, These tribes had already settled on E of the Jordan.

But they'd promised to send their men over with the other tribes to secure their place in Canaan.

Joshua reminds them of that vow.

¹³ "Remember the word which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, saying, 'The Lord your God is giving you rest and is giving you this land.' ¹⁴ Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side of the Jordan. But you shall pass before your brethren armed, all your

mighty men of valor, and help them, ¹⁵ until the Lord has given your brethren rest, as He *gave* you, and they also have taken possession of the land which the Lord your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and enjoy it, which Moses the Lord's servant gave you on this side of the Jordan toward the sunrise." ¹⁶ So they answered Joshua, saying, "All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. ¹⁷ Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you. Only the Lord your God be with you, as He was with Moses. ¹⁸ Whoever rebels against your command and does not heed your words, in all that you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and of good courage."

Pretty straight-forward. But v17 contains a laughable irony.

The men of Reuben, Gad & Manasseh say, "Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you."

THAT'S most likely why God had to keep saying, "Be strong and courageous" to Josh! [Explain]

The Covenant with Rahab Ch. 2

¹ Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out 2 men from Acacia Grove [**Hebrew • Shittim**] to spy secretly, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there.

Canaan at this time was divided up into several city-states, ruled by powerful local rulers who were mini-kings.

Most of these city-states belonged to a different ethnic group.

Hittites, Perrizites, Jebusites, Hivites, Canaanites, and so on.

The two biggest cities were Hazor in the N, guarding access to the rich farmlands of the Galilee, & Jericho in the S, dominating the lush plains just W of the Jordan.

The **key** to conquering **all** Canaan lay in taking these 2 massive fortress cities.

Now, Joshua doesn't know **how** God will give them their first objective, Jericho which lies directly in front of them.

From his reconnaissance trip nearly 40 yrs before, he knows the individual city-states form alliances with one another for mutual defense & support.

No doubt from interviewing the numerous caravans that made their way through the area, he'd discovered the most recent alliances and devised a plan for conquest.

He'd cut a path straight across the land, cutting it in 2 from N to S.

That would keep the city-states from reinforcing each other.

Then he'd shift his focus to the relatively easy S.

Once that was pacified, he'd move N.

But the real test was their first obstacle = Jericho.

Conquering it was the key to his strategy of cutting Canaan in 2.

So he sent a couple spies to scout Jericho's defenses.

Being covert, they stayed with a local prostitute. Seemed like a good cover.

But all Jericho was on alert!

The news of Israel's past was known to everyone in the area.

For weeks, maybe months as Israel camped across the Jordan, the people of Jericho wondered what their next move was.

We can be sure they had their own scouts keeping an eye on this huge body of people who'd brought mighty Egypt low.

Who'd whooped the Amalekites & Amorites.

Those scouts had seen Israel loading & gearing up.

So the spies turned out not to be too stealthy after all; they were followed

² And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, "Behold, men have come here tonight from the children of Israel to search out the country." ³ So the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the country." ⁴ Then the woman took the 2 men and hid them. So she said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they *were* from. ⁵ And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. Where the men went I do not know; pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them." ⁶ (But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof.)

"Yes" she says, "some guys came here, but they left just before the city-gate shut."

They bought her story and went after them.

⁷ Then the men pursued them by the road to the Jordan, to the fords. And as soon as those who pursued them had

gone out, they shut the gate.

Why would Rahab help these guys who are clearly enemies?

She might have earned some favors from powerful people if she'd turned them in.

Well- now we learn why she hid & protected them . . .

⁸ Now before they [**the spies**] lay down,

Since the gate is shut, they have to spend the night.

she came up to them on the roof, ⁹ and said to the men: "I know that the Lord [**Yahweh**] has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. ¹⁰

For we have heard how the Lord [**Yahweh**] dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the 2 kings of the Amorites who *were* on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. ¹¹ And as soon as we heard *these things*, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the Lord [**Yahweh**] your God, He *is* God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

3 times she refers to God by His covenant name = Yahweh.

Jericho worshipped the dual deities Baal & his consort, Asherah.

Archaeology has affirmed these were the deities worshipped by **all** Canaanites at this time.

But Rahab's come to believe Yahweh, Israel's God, is in a class apart from them.

While Baal & Asherah are tied to a specific region, Yahweh is God over all; in Heaven and Earth.

She heard the reports of Yahweh's power; things He did 4 decades before when Israel first left Egypt.

In fact, she reports, **all** Canaan is shaking in their sandals about it and what Israel's next step is.

For Rahab, Israel's victory is certain; a done deal.

She wants to be on the right side of it.

¹² Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the Lord, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token, ¹³ and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death." ¹⁴ So the men answered her, "Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the Lord has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you."

The spies swear an oath that when Israel arrives, her family will be preserved.

¹⁵ Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house *was* on the city wall; she dwelt on the wall. ¹⁶ And she said to them, "Get to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you. Hide there 3 days, until the pursuers have returned. Afterward you may go your way."

The mountain she refers to is W of Jericho, the opposite direction from where Israel's camped.

Rahab was concerned if the spies went straight home, they'd run in to the returning patrol.

So she sent them **W** for a few days till it was certain the coast was clear.

¹⁷ So the men said to her: "We *will be* blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear, ¹⁸ unless, *when* we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father's household to your own home. ¹⁹ So it shall be *that* whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood *shall be* on his own head, and we *will be* guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood *shall be* on our head if a hand is laid on him. ²⁰ And if you tell this business of ours, then we will be free from your oath which you made us swear." ²¹ Then she said, "According to your words, so *be* it." And she sent them away, and they departed. And she bound the scarlet cord in the window.

That rope was a kind of **flag** marking off Rahab's house as exempt from the destruction to come.

V15 says her house was part of the wall.

We know those walls collapsed when Israel marched round them.

Later we read Rahab's family was saved.

So her house, alone of all the wall, was left standing.

That scarlet cord, a sign of her faith in God, preserved her & her family from the judgment of God.

But the spies made it clear, if any of them wandered outside the scope of that scarlet cord, their life was forfeit.

The scarlet cord becomes an emblem of the **red thread of redemption** that weaves thru Scripture.

Isaac was redeemed from death by the ram caught in the thicket on Mt. Moriah.

Israel was redeemed at PO by the blood on their doorposts & lintel.

The Nation was redeemed each year thru the blood of the Sacrifice on the Day of Atonement.

Rahab was redeemed from destruction by a scarlet cord.

We're redeemed by the blood of Christ, which we commemorate every time we take Communion.

²² They departed and went to the mountain, and stayed there 3 days until the pursuers returned. The pursuers sought *them* all along the way, but did not find *them*. ²³ So the 2 men returned, descended from the mountain, and crossed over; and they came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all that had befallen them. ²⁴ And they said to Joshua, "Truly the Lord has delivered all the land into our hands, for indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us."

The spies reported to Joshua all Rahab told them; how the Canaanites already *felt* defeated.

Just as God promised, **He went before them** to give them victory.

All they needed to do was move forward & take possession of that which God was giving them.

The lesson for us is this:

The Canaanites represent the adversaries who resist our laying claim to our inheritance in Christ.

They knew about Israel's covenant with Yahweh, just as the demonic realm knows about **our** covenant with Him.

They can't **keep** us from laying hold of all God has for us, but they still try.

Just as for Israel, their key to victory is being convinced the enemy is already defeated!

And that the **ONLY** thing hindering our securing our inheritance is faith, trusting God to keep His promise.

In other words, **they enemy** knows he can't win, but he doesn't know if **we** know it & resists until we either prevail or give up.

Listen: In ancient Israel, in some places, clans & families obeyed God & dispossessed the native Canaanites.

They took **full** possession of their inheritance & experienced the unmitigated blessing God promised.

But others, most really, didn't obey.

They defeated the main Canaanite centers, but allowed little pockets to remain.

Their attitude was, "We've won. We're in charge now. It's okay to leave these last Canaanite holdouts.

Why, we can even turn them to service."

Those Canaanites bided their time; they feigned compliance.

But they eventually accelerated Israel's slide into idolatry, judgment & ruin.

Xian: There's no cease-fire in Spiritual Warfare. No peace with the enemy of your soul.

Satan and demons are committed to your destruction and will use ALL means to that end.

Including a false-peace, seeming compliance; a season of letting you bask in the glory of blessing.

But that seed of unforgiveness, that root of bitterness, the lust, envy, greed, whatever, that bugs you, but has been tamped down but not overcome, not dispossessed from your soul – even now it's festering, just waiting for the right moment to re-emerge and take you out.

As you grow in Christ, there isn't a single obstacle that can stand in the way of laying hold of all God intends for you.

Christ's victory is complete.

He wants each & every one of us to experience the reality of that victory in our own lives.

But don't make the mistake of thinking that means your spiritual adversary is going to pack up & move out the moment you're born again.

He'll hold his ground as long as he can, until we understand exactly what the victory of Christ means for us personally, **in** the face of opposition.

We must come to the place Paul expresses in Romans 8:37 when he said,

In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Crossing Jordan • Chs. 3-4

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. ² So it was, after 3 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. ⁴ Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about 2000 cubits by measure. **[3000 ft. Lil more than half mile]** Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before." Till now the ark was carried in procession in the middle of the people; 6 tribes in front & 6 behind.

Now it'll set out 1st, a good half mile in front.

This gave specific expression to what we looked at last week in the last chs of Deut – when God says He'd not only go **with** them, He'd go **before** them.

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

To ‘**sanctify**’ means to set something apart as special; reserved for a special purpose.

As Israel crossed Jordan & took their 1st steps in Canaan, they were to do so with the awareness they were special & had a unique mission to complete.

Israel was the agent of divine judgment on the incredibly wicked Canaanites.

In the execution of that task, God would do miraculous things in and through them.

It was imperative they own that identity with a sober sense of responsibility.

What was true of them is even more true of the followers of Jesus.

We are the Bride of Christ. We bear His name.

And as we walk with Him, the Spirit of God effects mighty changes and bestows immense blessing.

Being the recipients of abundant and amazing grace, it's crucial we never treat as common the holiness or glory of God.

It's shocking the way some, mightily used of God when they're small in their own eyes, become so familiar with God's grace, they begin to think **THEY** are the origin of their anointing, their effectiveness for the Kingdom.

Humility is pushed aside by pride, which quickly sours into arrogance.

Humility isn't thinking lowly of yourself; it isn't putting yourself down.

Humility is thinking accurately about who and what you are.

It's realizing in and of ourselves we are desperately flawed and prone to great error.

But that **IN CHRIST**, Who is our Life, we can do all things.

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. 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.

The reason people honored Moses was because of the many miracles he did.

Joshua was about to step into that same esteem, for the same reason.

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.’”

Josh was to instruct the priests carrying the ark to wade in to the water.

⁹ So Joshua said to the children of Israel, “Come here, and hear the words of the Lord your God.” 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. ¹² Now therefore, take for yourselves 12 men from the tribes of Israel, 1 man from every tribe.

What these guys do will be explained later.

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.” 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), 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. 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; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan. When the priests waded into the river, the down-stream flow stopped, backing up to the N a distance of 17 miles.

That left a large span of riverbed for the nation to pass over quickly.

Now, it's entirely possible God stopped the flow miraculously, as He'd divided the Red Sea 40 yrs before.

A miraculous crossing was meant to affirm Joshua's appointment by God just as the earlier crossing affirmed Moses'.

But it is interesting to note that in 1267, 1906, & 1927, landslides dammed the Jordan for hrs.

If God *did* use a slide to halt the River, it's still miraculous that it occurred at the very moment the priests put their feet in the river.

¹ And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying: ² "Take for yourselves 12 men from the people, 1 man from every tribe, ³ and command them, saying, 'Take for yourselves 12 stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.'" ⁴ Then Joshua called the 12 men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, 1 man from every tribe; ⁵ and Joshua said to them: "Cross over before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, ⁶ that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones *mean* to you?' ⁷ Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever."

A rep from each tribe took a small boulder from the riverbed and carried it to their camp.

They piled these on top of each other, making a monument to the miracle they'd just witnessed.

A major highway of the ancient ME passed right by there.

In gens to come, when their kids asked what the significance of the monument was, they were told how God dried up the waters of the Jordan to let their ancestors cross.

[Memorials – Holidays]

⁸ And the children of Israel did so, just as Joshua commanded, and took up 12 stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the Lord had spoken to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them to the place where they lodged, and laid them down there. ⁹ Then Joshua set up 12 stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day.

Along with the memorial on land, Joshua piled up 12 large boulders in the middle of the river.

These were big enough when the flow resumed they weren't knocked over.

They were still in place when this was written.

This pillar in the River corresponded to the pillar at their camp.

I pointed to the other & proved the River had miraculously dried up.

¹⁰ So the priests who bore the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the Lord had commanded Joshua to speak to the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua; and the people hurried and crossed over. ¹¹ Then it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over, that the ark of the Lord and the priests crossed over in the presence of the people.

¹² And the men of Reuben, the men of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh crossed over armed before the children of Israel, as Moses had spoken to them. ¹³ About 40,000 prepared for war crossed over before the Lord for battle, to the plains of Jericho. ¹⁴ On that day the Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they had feared Moses, all the days of his life.

¹⁵ Then the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying, ¹⁶ "Command the priests who bear the ark of the Testimony to come up from the Jordan." ¹⁷ Joshua therefore commanded the priests, saying, "Come up from the Jordan." ¹⁸ And it came to pass, when the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord had come from the midst of the Jordan, *and* the soles of the priests' feet touched the dry land, that the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks as before. ¹⁹ Now the people came up from the Jordan on the 10th day of the 1st month, and they camped in Gilgal on the east border of Jericho. ²⁰ And those 12 stones which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal.

We're reading this at the same time of year it happened.

On the Hebrew calendar, their 1st month corresponds to March & April.

Gilgal becomes the main base for Israel during the next few years as they set-out to conquer Canaan.

²¹ Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, 'What *are* these stones?' ²² then you shall let your children know, saying, 'Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land'; ²³ for the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as

the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over,²⁴ that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the Lord, that it *is* mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever.”

Parents, tell you children you story. [elaborate]