

CROSSING OVER

Crossing over – it represents moving from a stuck past to a promised future!

I want you to understand something this morning – God has power over the impossible obstacles that have separated you from the future!

This miraculous becomes possible when we sanctify ourselves and step out in faith – the Lord will do wonders among us!

Joshua 3 Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from ^[a]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 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, ^[b] 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 two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed *this way* before.”

⁵ And Joshua said to the people, “Sanctify ^[c] yourselves, for 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.

⁷ And the Lord said to Joshua, “This day I will begin to exalt ^[d] you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. 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.’ ”

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 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.”

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 ^[e]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.

Let me ask you something – if what God has promised you was just on the other side of your obstacle, would you cross over?

We see in this text there are key steps we must take to see the miraculous

Are you ready to witness miracles today?

v. 1-5

To cross over to your promised future you need to prepare and sanctify yourself

Prepare: They camped by the river for 3 days for what? To learn to wait on God’s timing and also to follow His instructions was a command not just a suggestion

A delay is not a deleted promise.

Sanctify or consecrate yourself:

v. 5

This means to set yourself apart from sin and preparing our heart and mind to see God's work in our lives

Sanctify is to divorce ourselves from anything that is unclean and in rebellion towards God's Word

To devote myself completely to the Lord: church, God will not work powerfully on behalf of His people who are inwardly unclean. Leave the unclean behind

Acts 2:38,39 NKJV Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the ^[k]remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

v. 3-4

Follow His Presence – the Levites carried the Ark of the Covenant, which represented God's presence ahead of the people

They were to keep a distance of 2000 cubits (1000 yards) – this was to impress on the people of the sacredness of the Ark

Up till now, they were led by a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Now the Ark would show them the way – it means His presence must guide us now!

The Holy Spirit will navigate us in uncharted territory. Why?

v. 4

Because we have not passed this way before!

Passed – to cross over, go beyond, get over, go through, pass through, pass along, come over and pass beyond

The point is, in life there will be many times we are in uncharted territory – that's when we must allow His Ark, His presence to go before us and guide us into His promises!

Psalm 139:7-10 Where can I go from Your Spirit?

Or where can I flee from Your presence?

⁸ If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there;

If I make my bed in ^[e]hell, behold, You *are there*.

**⁹ If I take the wings of the morning,
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
¹⁰ Even there Your hand shall lead me,
And Your right hand shall hold me.**

Great news – there's no place you can get in life that He's not already there!

Just because you've never been there, doesn't mean He hasn't!

v. 8 & 13

Faith is required. Look, God didn't part the river immediately. The priest had to take a step of faith and put their feet into the overflowing river first!

v. 13

Church, the miraculous is most often experienced when our obedience to step out in faith precedes what we see as a breakthrough!

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the ^[a]substance of things hoped for, the ^[b]evidence of things not seen.

Faith is the title deed of things hoped for. If you don't have the title, it's not really yours yet. Faith says you have what the promise is because He holds the title to your promise, faith unlocks it

v. 13-17 Before & After

We see God works wonders after we prepare or sanctify ourselves and after we put our trust in Him by being obedient to His instructions

The water didn't just stop or divide, it stood still and rose in a heap. God was showing His power to put a stop to the problem!

Remember where the Ark was? In the middle of the Jordan

His presence will cross before you and hold everything steady as you cross over to His promises on dry ground until all that we're promised had crossed over!