DSBC PT: Ron Adema The Book of Joshua, (#09)

THE MIRACLE OF CROSSING THE JORDAN

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Text: Josh.3:1-17

The twelve tribes of Israel are camped on the eastside of the Jordan River at Shittim (8 miles). Two Hebrew spies have three days to scout out Fort Jericho before the Israelites cross the Jordan to began dispossessing the seven occupying nations (Josh.3:2, 10).

Josh. Chs. 3&4 give us the details of the crossing the Jordan River. We will study these two chapters by the following titles:

- Josh.3:1-17 The Miracle of crossing the Jordan River
- Josh.4:1-24 The Monuments to crossing the Jordan River

Today's lesson text will be examined by the following three homiletical points of Miracle at Jordan River.

•	Follow the ark of covenant	(Josh.3:1-6)	Cubits and consecration
•	Follow the leadership of Joshua	(Josh.3:7-8)	Exalt and exhort
•	Follow the word of God	(Josh.3:9-17)	Sign of stopping of Jordan and statehood

This lesson will study FOUR aspects of the Miracle at the Jordan River.

1. From a human viewpoint, God picked the worst time and place for the crossing of the Jordan River.

An important footnote is given in Josh.3:15: "for the Jordan overflows all its banks all the days of the harvest." This meant that the Jordan River was very wide and deep, with strong currents and full of debris and danger from its overflowing banks, making this crossing very difficult and very dangerous. Why would God choose this time to cross?

We are told that there were at least 60 crossing places and most of them would have been better suited for 2.5 million people to cross! Why would God choose this place to cross?

Question: Why does God do this in our lives?

"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." (Rom.8:28)

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isa.55:8-9)

"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." (1 Cor.1:25)

2. God will never put the spiritually advancing believer in a situation in which he is in not secured in Christ and is doctrinally prepared for the test.

This doctrinal principle is important for Joshua and the Israelites as they face the challenge or test of crossing the Jordan River during the worst flooding period of the year: "When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan." (Josh.3:8) [Are you kidding me!]

[&]quot;That, just as it is written, 'Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord." (1 Cor.1:31; Jer.9:23)

	 "No temptation has overtaken you () but such as is common to man; And God is faithful, who will not allow you () to be tempted beyond what you () are able, But with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you () may be able to endure it. (1 Cor.10:13/ personalize it by adding your first name) 				
	The spiritually advancing Believer's life (ph.II) will consist of a series of many conflicts / challenges regarding the faith cycle: "Behold, the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord of all the earth is <u>crossing over ahead of you in the Jordan."</u> (Josh.3:11)				
	• Do you have a Jordan in your life at this time?				
3.	The Lord had spiritually prepared these believers to cross the Jordan River by faith alone.				
	"Then Joshua said to the people, 'consecrate (qadash / hithpael imp) yourselves, for tomorrow the <u>Lord will downders</u> (pala / niphal ptc) [extraordinary / beyond one's power] among you." (Josh.3:5; Rom.4:21)				
	God put them in a situation that only HE (alone) could solve. At this point, they could complain and blame lik their parents (Heb.3:8) or they could take on the grace attitude of Caleb. (Num.14:30; Josh.14:9-14).				
	The reason they were to follow the Ark of the Covenant is given in Josh.3:4: "However, there shall be betwee you and it is a distance of about 2000 cubits (3000 feet) by measure. Do not come near it that you may know th way by which you shall go, for you have not passed this way before." (Josh.3:4)				
	 Note a special Hebrew phase in this verse: "For you have not passed (lo abar / kal pf) this way (be derek) [before - before] (two Hebrew words - temol [formerly] and shileshom [previously, aforetime]." (Josh.3:4) 				
	They are privileged to be the ones to fulfil the land section of the Abrahamic covenant (Gen.12:1-3). It was th second Exodus generation of Believers who were faced with the Jordan test.				
	From Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the Exodus, the walk of faith was required to reach and occupy the Promise Land (2 Cor.5:7).				
4.	God provided a miraculous way to cross the Jordan:				
	"with the temptation will provide the way of escape." (1 Cor.10:13) (Ps.114:3; Joshua 3:13-17; 4:22-24)				
	There is no situation or test in your life too great for the omnipotence of God: "for tomorrow the Lord will ownders among you." (Josh.3:5)				
	The Lord could have planned a normal crossing, but He didn't. Why?				
	Josh.4:14, 23-24 and 5:1 give four reasons. Write the answers on this blank line.				
	Joshua				
	All the peoples of the earth				
	That you may				
	Kings occupying the land				