

Timeline of Truth – God Does Wonders and Exalts Joshua (Joshua3)

<p>Joshua 3:1-4 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 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. 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 <i>this</i> way before."</p>	<p>1. Israel _____ the Jordan River</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The camp moves b. The officers instruct the people <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. When you see the ark – you shall go after it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difference – what was leading before? ii. You shall leave a space between yourself and the ark <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 2000 cubits – 3000 feet (0.56 mi) • To keep sight of the ark? • To protect God’s holiness?
<p>⁵ And Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you."</p>	<p>2. Joshua Commands the People to _____ Themselves</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sanctify – שָׁדָשׁ – <i>qadash</i> - be set apart, consecrated b. Why? Because the Lord is going to do wonders among them. פָּלָא – <i>phala</i> - be surpassing, extraordinary
<p>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.</p>	<p>3. Joshua Commands the _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Take up the ark b. Cross before the people
<p>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. 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.' "</p>	<p>4. God Declares that He Will _____ Joshua</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. God will begin to exalt Joshua גָּדַל – <i>gadal</i> - grow up, become great b. Why? So that they will know God is with Joshua c. Joshua is to tell the priests to stand in the Jordan
<p>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 <i>is</i> among you, and <i>that</i> He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Gergashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites:</p>	<p>5. Joshua Tells the People that They Will _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Joshua is speaking the word of the Lord b. Joshua is telling them how they will know God is with them. c. Joshua is telling them how they will know they will drive out the people.
<p>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, <i>that</i> the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap."</p>	<p>6. Joshua Prepares the People for a _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The ark of the covenant will cross over first b. One man from every tribe will go along c. As soon as the soles of the feet of the priests rest in the waters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The waters shall be cut off (cut off – same word used Ex. 12:15, Deut. 12:29) • The waters will 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.

7. God _____ Up the Jordan

- a. The people set out as instructed
- b. This was the time of harvest – the Jordan overflows its banks. – Uncrossable by fording (at least 12 feet deep near Jericho) – Extremely dangerous to swim.
- c. The waters upstream stood still and formed a heap
 - They rose a very far way away
 - At Adam, the city which is beside Zaretan – about 16 miles north of the crossing.
- d. The people were able to cross
 - The priests stood on dry ground
 - All Israel crossed on dry ground
 - All crosses completely
- e. Could this happened by natural causes?

Takeaways:

1. We can trust God _____ He leads us.

The Jordan seemed, in human terms, to be an impassible object. However, God took Israel to the place where He wanted them to cross. He did not fail Israel.

2. When we obey God, He always proves Himself _____.

At the Jordan, God commanded the people specifically how to cross. The people did not provide the means to cross. They were just expected to obey. As they obeyed, God was faithful to provide the way across the Jordan.