



# Joshua

Part #7 –  
Taking Jericho

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# Introduction

## Key Scriptures

- And thou shalt command the priests that bear the ark of the covenant, saying, When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan. – Joshua 3:8
- And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, *that* the waters of Jordan shall be cut off *from* the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap. – Joshua 3:13
- And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,) – Joshua 3:15



# Introduction – Cont'd

## Key Scriptures

- That the waters which came down from above stood *and* rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that *is* beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, *even* the salt sea, failed, *and* were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho. – Joshua 3:16
- And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan. – Joshua 3:17
- Now therefore take you twelve men out of the tribes of Israel, out of every tribe a man. Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man, Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man: – Joshua 3:12, 4:2, 4:4



# Keys

## ***And the people passed over right against Jericho – Joshua 3:16***

- That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord...
- As the Lord spoke unto Joshua
- ...unto the place where they lodged, and laid them down there
- ...until every thing was finished that the Lord commanded Joshua to speak unto the people, according to all that Moses commanded Joshua:
- ...and the people hastened to pass over



# In this lesson

- The significance of the witness
- The significance of the twelve men
- The significance of the twelve stones
- The significance and duration of the tasks
- The significance of the location



# The Significance of the Witness – The Ark

The Ark was mentioned 10 times in 8 verse in Joshua 3 and 7 times in Joshua 4

- They were to remind the children of Israel about the standard
- They were to remind the children of Israel about the covenant
- They were to remind the children of Israel about their courage
- They were to remind the children of Israel about the presence of God
- They were to remind the children of Israel they were not alone
- They were to remind the children of the Lord's protection
- They were to fix their minds on the Lord who went before them



# The Significance of the Witness

## The Priests that bare the Ark

The Priests were mentions 7 times in Joshua 3 an 8 times in Joshua 4

- There were other Priests, but the instruction given was for the children of Israel to watch the Priests that bear the ark of the Lord
- The sign was to be revealed from those the Priests that bare the ark of the Lord
- The waters of Jordan were cut off as soon the feet of the Priest that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, and the people passed over right against Jericho.
- The Priest which bare the ark stood in the midst of Jordan. – Joshua 4:10



# The Significance of the Witness The Priests that bare the Ark – Cont'd

The Priests were mentions 7 times in Joshua 3 an 8 times in Joshua 4

- The Priests passed over in the presence of the people after all the people came over – Joshua 4:11
- The Priests came out of the Jordan by command – Come ye up out of Jordan
- When the soles of the Priests feet were lifted up unto the dry land – the waters of Jordan returned unto their place and flowed over all his banks, as they did before.





# The Significance of the 12 Men

*Now therefore take you twelve men out of the tribes of Israel, out of every tribe a man. Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man, Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man: – Joshua 3:12, 4:2, 4:4*

- These were ordinary men from the 12 tribes of Israel. A man from every tribe
- These men had to be prepared – Physically, Emotionally and Spiritual
- These were men that could response to instruction
- These men had to be instructed on what to do and how to do it and where to do it
- The number twelve means Perfect Government – Perfect Government Kingdom Number



# The Significance of the 12 Stones

*And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel: – Joshua 4:5*

*Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever. – Joshua 4:7*

- There were two sets of stones gathered
- The first set of stones were gathered from the midst of the Jordan River, out of the place where the feet of the priest stood firm
- These stones were to be a **sign** among the children of Israel
- These stones were to be a source of **inquiry, conversation, memorial and testimony**
- They were to remember!



# The Significance of the 12 Stones – Cont'd

- Those questions and inquiries will come from children – *What mean ye by these stones?* Joshua 4:6,21
- They were to answer those who asked in a manner that will bring glory to God.
- The stones were to be carried out of the midst of the Jordan and into a place where they lodged and laid down there
- The stones were laid at a place called Gilgal – A wheel, rolling - A place where the reproach of Egypt was rolled away – Joshua 5:9
- They were to place where they were to dwell that night
- The second set of stones were laid by Joshua in the midst of the Jordan where the ark of the covenant stood, and they are there until this day



# The significance and duration of the tasks

*For the priests which bare the ark stood in the midst of Jordan, until every thing was finished that the LORD commanded Joshua to speak unto the people, according to all that Moses commanded Joshua: and the people hastened and passed over. – Joshua 4:10*

- They were to remain there until everything was finished that the Lord commanded Joshua to speak unto the people
- It was not until Joshua felt he was done, but it was when Joshua had spoken everything that the Lord commanded him
- Joshua was to completely adhere to what his predecessor Moses had commanded him
- However long a time it took him to accomplish that
- The people hastened to pass over



# The significance of the location

*And the people came up out of Jordan on the **tenth day of the first month**, and encamped in Gilgal, in the east border of Jericho – Joshua 4:19*

*And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day. – Joshua 5:9*

- Joshua circumcised the children of Israel the second time – Joshua 5:2
- The rolled away the reproach of Egypt – Out of their sight; Out of their mind; Out of their bodies
- They kept the generational promise (14<sup>th</sup> day of the month) in the plains of Jericho
- They ate the old corn of the land the day after the Passover
- The manna ceased the day after they ate the old corn, They did not have manna anymore
- But they ate of the produce of the land of Canaan that year



# Conclusion

## **From the pages of Joshua**

- There were things they had to testify about when their children should earnestly or mockingly inquire about the stones
- They were required to say it as it was and not in a manner conducive to the times



# Next Week

We will continue next week, beginning with:

- Taking the land – Joshua 6