

Day 220 - TUESDAY: August 8th

Joshua 3

Joshua 3:1–17 NKJV

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. So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp; 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. 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." And Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you." 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. 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. 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.' " So Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Come here, and hear the words of the LORD your God." 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: Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan. Now therefore, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man from every tribe. 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." 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, 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), 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. 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.

Daily Deep Dive:

This chapter is an exciting moment for the people of God and a chapter I have been thinking about for some time now. I'll share some of what I find fascinating, but let's first read the UCG reading plan: "Joshua 3:7 is significant. The people would naturally feel a big letdown after losing their great leader Moses. That feeling could easily have turned into chronic disappointment and contempt for Joshua if they never saw any more miracles. The crossing of the Jordan on dry ground coming so soon after the inauguration of Joshua provided the people with quick evidence that as God was with Moses, so He would be with

Joshua. Truly God "exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel" (Joshua 4:14). The parallel with the most impressive miracle under Moses' leadership, the crossing of the Red Sea, was unmistakable.

When the Israelites crossed the Red Sea in leaving Egypt, the waters were parted and formed a wall on both sides of them (Exodus 14:21–22). With the crossing of the Jordan River, the waters upstream halted and piled up, while the remaining water continued to drain downstream into the Dead Sea, leaving an empty streambed (Joshua 3:13, Joshua 3:16). Indeed, as in the Red Sea, the Israelites crossed on "dry ground" (verse 17)—not shallow water or even mud. And this didn't happen at some time of drought when the Jordan River was low. Rather, it happened in the spring, at a time when the Jordan overflowed its banks (verse 15). The people were to cross at a rather distant 2,000 cubits (more than a half mile) from the Ark of the Covenant (verse 4). When journeying, it was normally the responsibility of the Levites who were sons of Kohath to transport the ark once the priests had prepared it (Numbers 4:1–15). For this, and other special occasions, the priests themselves (fellow Kohathites, Aaron having been a grandson of Kohath, see

Exodus 6:18, Exodus 6:20) carried the ark (compare Joshua 6:6; 2 Samuel 15:29; 1 Kings 8:6).” [END]

Verse 4 – These verses are fascinating as we consider the typology displayed before us. Here is an amazing moment for the peoples of Israel that parallels what God has done for us through Christ our Passover.

The nation of Israel after 40 years of wandering is about to go from “not in the Promise Land” into the Promise Land, however, they are unable to do it on their own, they need a miracle from God. God instructs the people of God to trail behind the Ark of the Covenant by “about 2,000 cubits”. Remember this occurs in the spring of the year, right around the Passover. The Jordan River is not a dried-up stream, but at its height in the early spring. God is the master of timing and never wastes a miracle. As their parents had gone through a body of water, God was about to open another liquid barrier to a new generation of followers and allow them to pass through.

The Ark contained three things inside that all had amazing symbolism tied to our Savior Jesus Christ (compare Hebrews 9:4). First, it contained the Ten Commandments.

This law came directly from the pre-Incarnate Jesus Christ, the great "I AM" who etched these laws directly on the tablets of stone Himself (Exodus 31:18). This same One known as The Word (John 1:1-4) at the incarnation would become the only man to ever submit and live under these commands perfectly, making Him the perfect sacrifice and offering.

Second, the Ark contained a golden jar of manna, which was a type of the True Bread of Life that came down from heaven (compare John 6:32-33, 35). We take in a symbol of the body of Jesus Christ at Passover (unleavened bread). Also contained in the Ark was the rod of Aaron that budded (Numbers 17:5, 8, 10). This budded rod proved that Aaron and his family were chosen by God to be the priestly order. The priesthood of men selected by God was always a type of the ultimate spiritual High Priest approved by our Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ who became our perfect High Priest after the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:11, 28).

Above the Ark were two cherubs covering the Mercy Seat (Hebrews 9:5). Once a year under the Old Covenant, the human High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies and make

propitiation (the atoning sacrifice) for Himself and the People. The story found in Leviticus 15 ultimately points to Jesus Christ, the ultimate atoning sacrifice, that makes it possible under the New Covenant for mankind to be forgiven of our sins and have a right relationship with God the Father possible (compare Hebrews 9:12, 14, 24–25). In this amazing moment at the Jordan, the typological symbols pointing to our Heavenly Father's ultimate chosen deliver were to go before the people and a miracle would occur.

It was previously impossible for the nation of Israel, the chosen people of God, to cross into the Promise Land, but with the great "I AM" going before them, the One who in human manifestation would later proclaim, "I am the Door/Gate" (compare John 10:9), I Am the Way (compare John 14:6), opened the waters allowing the Promise Land to be accessed as they trailed approximately 2,000 cubits behind.

This finally leads to leads to an interesting matter for all of us to consider. Why was Israel asked to lag behind at this distance? It's fascinating to consider the possible meanings

and typology meant by God. Joshua had performed and put into order all that God had instructed him in preparing for this triumphal entry into the Promised Land. And Joshua, the Levites, the priests, and yes the people all had a role and a job to perform. But God alone would receive the glory in fulfilling His promise. It would not be Moses, Joshua, or themselves that would bring them into the land of promise, but The Great Divine Deliver alone! In a sense, Israel was put into the “bleacher seats” to watch this come into being so that once again the powerful divine point might be established that their deliverance was not by their own doing.

The great lesson for us, “The Israel of God” today (Galatians 6:16) is that God in partnership with us will always give us a job that we can do, and then do what only He alone can do as we behold His glory. We note in the gospels that so often Jesus would “give a job” to those that He healed either before or after the event. Sometimes they didn’t fully understand why and perhaps neither will we at the given moment. But this is where faith comes in!

I hope you will ponder this moment for physical Israel and the typology deeply since we too, the spiritual Israel of God,

are waiting for our “Jordan” moment when we will be granted access and entrance to the Kingdom of God.