

Forward By Faith Joshua 3-4

Main Idea: By faith, God brought us out of slavery in order to bring us into a promised victory, but first, we must war!

Joshua 3:14-17

¹⁴ So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, ¹⁵ and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), ¹⁶ the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷ Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.

Introduction

- How different will I live if I believe this is my land of promise?
- How different will I live if this life is my preparation for the land of promise?

We Are Brought Out

- The Redemption of Israel - **Hebrews 3:16**
- The Redemption of Rahab - **Joshua 2**
- The Redemption of the church - **Ephesians 1:7-10**
- The Inheritance is ours to possess - **Romans 8:16-18**

We Will Be Brought In (Ch. 3)

- The obstacle - **v. 1**
- The preparation - **vv. 1-8**
 - Pursue God's holy presence - **vv. 3-4**
 - Pursue your personal holiness - **vv. 5-6**
 - **Exodus 19:9-15**
 - Remember the Lord's promise - **vv. 7-8**
- The purpose - **vv. 9-13**
 - The promise - **vv. 9-10**
 - You will not fail - **Exodus 19:5**
 - The Living God goes before us - **v. 11**
 - **John 14:15-17**

- The process - **vv. 14-17**
 - God goes in first
 - The priest stands firm by faith
 - The people move forward by faith - **vv. 16b-17**

But First We Must War - (Ch. 4)

- A place to remember - **vv. 2-7**
 - The men - **vv. 2-3**
 - The stones - **v. 3; 19-24**
 - Why a pile of rocks?
 - The purpose - **vv. 6-7; 21-24**
 - For ourselves - **vv. 6-7**
 - For our children - **vv. 21-23**
 - For the nations - **v. 24**
- A battle to fight - **vv. 10b-14**
 - Ready to fight
 - Ready to follow - **v. 14**
 - No turning back! - **vv. 15-18**

So What?

Am I too afraid to get my feet wet?

- **1 John 5:4**
- **Hebrews 6:1**

Has my monument turned into a mausoleum?

- **Amos 5:4-6**

What is your Jordan?

- **1 Corinthians 15:50-58**

Now What? (Small Group Discussion)

- As believers, do we have a Promise Land to look forward to? Or, is this life all there is? How should this impact our present lives?
 - Revisit our Big Story. Creation - Fall - Redemption - Glorification (Consummation)
 - The Garden lost - The Garden Regained (The place of Rest lost- The place of Rest regained (New Heaven & New Earth)
- How important are landmarks or spiritual markers in your life? Why is this important? Is there a connected danger with remembering the past?
 - Revisit monuments versus a mausoleum
 - Something you write in your Bibles, a place or a smell or a tree planted.
 - Something that reminds us of God's power, provision, and faithfulness and encourages us to keep on keeping on.

- Read **Exodus 25:10-22**. Why is the Ark of the Covenant so important to God's people? What does it teach us about God and ourselves? Why don't we have something like the Ark today? Or do we?
 - The ark symbolized God's sovereignty, power, or rule, and the point of the crossing of the Jordan led by the ark was that God was the same in his power on this occasion as he had been earlier when the people crossed the Red Sea under the leadership of Moses.
 - The ark symbolized God's holiness.
 - Within the box or chest that was the ark itself were the stone tables of the law that had been given to Moses on Mount Sinai. The ark was the repository of the written expression of the moral character of God.
 - The ark also symbolized God's justice.
 - It was rather that the whole ark was a picture of God's judgment.
 - Within was the law, which the people of Israel had broken. Above, between the wings of the cherubim, was the presence of the thrice holy God.
 - As God looked down, he saw the broken law. Thus the ark was a constant reminder of the need for the Judge of all the earth to do right. Judgment must follow sin.
 - The ark also symbolized God's mercy.
 - The covering of the ark was called the "mercy seat" because it was there once a year, on the Day of Atonement, that the high priest sprinkled the blood that had been shed moments before for the sin of the people
 - Thus, the ark pointed to the unchanging character of God. It taught that God is always the same in his sovereignty, holiness, justice, mercy, and other attributes.