

JOSHUA STUDY

CHAPTER 3:14-17

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-321 JANUARY 3, 1999

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

Taking a Step of Faith

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

Joshua 1:6

"Be strong and of good courage"

Last Week;

“Standing at the Edge”

Answering The Call to Live by Faith

Chpt. 1 - **Positionally** Joshua Answering the Call

Chpt. 2 - **Individually** Rahab Answering the Call

Chpt. 3 - **Nationally** Israel Answering the Call

Standing at the Edge

1.) The Officers Message to all the People	vv. 1-4
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Verse 3

then you shall set out from your place **and go after it**

2.) Joshua’s Message to all the People	vv. 5
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"Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you."

* "Sanctify heb. 6942 qadash (kaw-dash')
to dedicate oneself, to decide to separate. To be set
apart personally.

sanctification

To Wash or Be Washed

Hebrews 12:14

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

We Miss Out On So Much

of what God wants to do, because we fail to prepare ourselves for His use

So Powerful is God's Ability to Wash Us...

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

3.) Joshua's Message to all the Priests

vv. 6

saying to the priest,

"Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people."

4.) The Lord's Message to all of Joshua

vv. 7-8

"This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel,

Psalm 75:5-7

5 Lift not up your horn on high: speak not with a stiff neck. 6 For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. 7 But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

5.) Again, Joshua's Message to all the People

vv. 9-13

9...the LORD your God	Yehovah (yehovaw')	the I AM
10...the living God	EI (ale)	the All Mighty
11...the Lord of all the earth	Adonai (ad-o-noy')	the Possessor, owner
13...the Lord of all the earth	Adonai (ad-o-noy')	the Possessor, owner

The Point Made to All the People

Verse 11

"That the Lord of all the earth
is crossing over before you into the Jordan"

John 10:4

"And when he brings out his own sheep, **he goes before them;**
and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

Matthew 28:7

The Angel at the Tomb

"And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."

A Very Important Point

because if you are not willing to step out of your comfort zone and trust Him,
then you will never live the exciting and victorious Christian life that God has for you

Taking a Step of Faith

Joshua 3:14-17

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.

Taking a Step of Faith

1.) The People Had Prepared Themselves

vv. 14-15

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)

a.) The People had Understanding and Correct Motives v.14

So it was, when the people set out from their camp
to cross over the Jordan,

The Flow of the Narrative is Filled with Action
Based on Prophecy

Their Understanding;

So it was, when the people set out from their camp

The Children of Israel Were “Believing” in God

- they were **single minded** / they were **in unity**
- they **believed Joshua** / they **believed God**
...they were **able** to set out

The Example of the Early Church

Acts 1:14

These all continued with **one accord** (co-spirited) in prayer and supplication,

Acts 2:1

Now when the Day of Pentecost had fully come,
they were all with (co-spirited) **one accord** in one place.

Acts 2:46-47

46 So continuing daily with (co-spirited) **one accord** in the **temple**, and breaking **bread** from **house to house**, they ate their food with **gladness** and **simplicity** of heart, 47 **praising** God and having favor with all the people.

(The result) -- And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

When we are trusting in God to...

#1

Do What He Wants to Do

#2

To Invite Him to Do It in Our Lives Personally

#3

We can Live Life with Meaning and Purpose

Philippians 2:2

fulfill my joy by being like-minded,
having the same love, being of (co-spirited) **one accord**, of one mind.

!!! We become Invincible in this Life !!!

... and Their Motive;

was to cross over the Jordan,

* cross heb 5674 `abar (aw-bar');
to allow yourself to travel, to willfully be brought to a place.
To go without resistance. To allow yourself to accept the offer

73 times used in Joshua

The Exact Opposite Meaning is Found In...

Psalm 32:9

Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding,
which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you.

What is **Your** Understanding About God's Will ?

What is **Your** Motive About God's Will ?

Taking a Step of Faith

2.) Is to Expect God to Do the Supernatural vv. 16

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.

Matthew 17:20

20... for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

a.) Expect God to Do - When You Have Stepped Out v.16

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

Adam is about 15 miles north, up river towards Galilee

- * stood heb 5975 `amad (aw-mad');
to stand, to abide in one central location. To appoint, to be made to endure
- * and rose heb 6965 quwm (koom);
to abide in one place, yet continue on, to get up, make raise (up), rear (up), to be held stationary, while rising upward).
- * heap heb 5067 ned (nade);
from 5110 in the sense of piling up; a mound, wall or wave of water made to stop advancing

b.) Expect to Do, Once God has Done v.16

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.

God Equips Us for Whatever He has Decreed for Our Lives

John 15:5

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

“and rose in a heap very far away at Adam”

The Water symbolized Judgment. Judgment has been rolled back very far from us in Christ

Romans 3:23-26

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Taking a Step of Faith

3.) God's Leaders Are Called to Stand by Faith vv. 17

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.

a.) Standing Where We Could Never Have Stood Before v.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**

The Priests were standing where they should have been swimming,
even drowning !!!

2 Corinthians 2:14-16

14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. 15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?

Hebrews 5:4

No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

Explanations have been offered, Excuses and denying have failed

The God of the Bible

The Lord. He is the Creator of All Things. And being the Creator God that He is, He has reserved the exclusive right to have absolute control over His Creation.

Psalms 107:35

35 He turns a wilderness into pools of water, and dry land into watersprings.

Psalms 114:3-8

3 The sea saw it and fled; Jordan turned back. 4 The mountains skipped like rams, the little hills like lambs. 5 What ails you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan, that you turned back? 6 O mountains, that you skipped like rams? O little hills, like lambs? 7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob, 8 Who turned the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a fountain of waters.

Psalms 135:6-7

6 Whatever the LORD pleases He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deep places. 7 He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; he makes lightning for the rain; he brings the wind out of His treasures.

Psalms 104:13-14

13 He waters the hills from His upper chambers; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works. 14 He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the service of man, that he may bring forth food from the earth,

Psalms 145:3-4

3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable. 4 One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts.

Romans 8:31

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Taking a Step of Faith

b.) The Lord will Never Abandon You in Obedience to Him v.17

and all Israel crossed over on dry ground,
until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.

“and all Israel crossed over”

How Many People were Left Behind?
Were there any priests that drown... surely a priest was lost?

Nope

Because it was done God's way,
Not Joshua's Way, Not the Way of the People, Not the Priests Way

and all Israel crossed over

That River would have separated those who had crossed over from
those who wouldn't - forever!

There was only One way to Go

That “One way” is Jesus

John 10:1-4

1 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 "But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 "And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

John 10:7-9

7 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 "All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

Taking a Step of Faith

c.) The Proof of Having Passed Through the Waters v.17

until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan

The Proof

was not how wet you were or how long it took you to cross over -
but how different you were

New Life, Yes!

But Also the Fact is that a **Funeral** Had taken Place as Well

Colossians 3:1-8

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. 5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. 8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Romans 6:6

knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

Ephesians 4:22-24

22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

They Had Crossed Over to a New Life with God

Because Symbolically, their sins had been washed away in the Jordan by putting their faith in God

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Hebrews 10:22

let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

John 15:3

"You're clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

Acts 17:30

30 "... but now God commands **all** men everywhere to repent, 31 "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to **all** by raising Him from the dead." - The Man.

Just Say The Word

Matthew 10:32-33

32 "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.
33 But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

The End