

Joshua Bible Study Series

“It’s Your Season To Be Blessed”

I’ve Come Too Far To Turn Around

QUESTION: Why has it been said that it would take more faith for Israel to cross over the Jordan River into Canaan than it would take for Israel to cross through the Red Sea into the wilderness? In many ways the book of Joshua is a scriptural depiction of our Christian growth and maturity. Through grace and by faith we like the Israelites were delivered from the bondage of slavery (sin) in our case and groomed into maturity in a daily walk; which was a forty year journey for these Israelites. Now, finally after proving and maturing us he allows us to enter into a new level of blessings and responsibility. Once the priests brought the Ark of the Covenant out of the river and the waters began to flow again, there would be no way for the Israelites to change their mind and turn away from the very real challenges that faced them in their future.

QUESTION: Why do you suppose God just didn’t drive all of Israel’s enemies out of the Promised Land prior to the crossing of the Jordan and hand them over a land free and clear of opposition?

Testimonies In Stone Joshua 4: 1 - 9

Joshua instructs the tribal leaders to send a man from each tribe to the middle of the Jordan River where the priests have been standing holding the Ark of the Covenant to retrieve a stone to represent each of the twelve tribes. The stones were to be taken over to the western banks of the river and piled up; not as an altar but as a memorial for posterity. **QUESTIONS:** According to scripture here, what was the primary purpose of this memorial? What have we erected that serves as a point of reference and remembrance of the mighty power and accomplishments of God to our younger generations? Do we have any spiritual responsibilities toward the younger generations?

Pictures of Unity

The placing of the twelve stones also served to exemplify unity among the tribes of Israel. Though they had elected to live on the eastern shore of the Jordan River, the tribes of Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh still accompanied the rest of the nation over the Jordan to fight and conquer with the other tribes. Another important picture of unity was that between Joshua and the people; (Josh 4:14)- God had magnified Joshua in the eyes of the people. A final example of such unity can be seen in the relationship of God, Joshua and the people.

QUESTIONS: How would you describe the role of the Ark of the Covenant in chapter 4? In what way does the Ark exemplify Christ’s relationship with the church?

Final Reminder: Joshua 4: 20 - 24

The chapter ends with a reiteration of the significance of the placing of the stones. **QUESTION:** What parallels does the author draw with Jordan River crossing and that of the Red Sea?

Preparing for Victory (Joshua 5: 1 - 8)

Chapter five of Joshua opens with the fearful testimony of the Amorites concerning the conquering capacity of the armies of Israel. Given the paralyzing fear that the enemies were harboring towards Israel and their tremendously triumphant entry into Canaan, you would think this would have been the perfect time for Joshua to launch his attack against Jericho. Rather than taking a military advantage of this moment, Joshua endeavors to strive to further reconcile the nation with God. **QUESTION:** Why did Joshua not begin warring immediately?, In what ways did Joshua attempt to reconcile the nation with God? God's people must be able to be trusted with victory! The pending victory must be by the hand of God and not that of Joshua or the people.

Renewing the Covenant

The mark of the covenant reminded them that their bodies belonged to the Lord and were not to be used for sinful purposes. Israel was surrounded by nations that worshiped idols and included in their worship rituals that were sensual and degrading. The mark of the covenant reminded the Jews that they were a special people, a separated people, a holy nation ([Ex. 19:5-6](#)), and that they were to maintain purity in their marriages, their society, and their worship of God. **QUESTION:** Why might it be necessary for this new generation to renew their covenant prior to fully moving into the Promised Land? Compare with **Rom 2: 25 – 29**

QUESTIONS: In what way did this act of circumcision served to test the faith of the Israelite army?

The ritual was also to “roll away the reproach of Egypt off of you.” What was this reproach and how might circumcision address it? The reproach might have been that fact that many had worshipped idols while in Egypt and perhaps the fact that they failed the test to enter the Promised Land some forty years earlier; or perhaps it was their constant murmuring and complaining while being proved of God in the wilderness.

Do We Need To Burn Some Bridges?

Again, we consider that after the crossing of the Jordan River, there would be no turning back. **QUESTIONS:** Are there times when God may purposely place us in situations and circumstances where all returning to where we once were is not an option? Once Noah and his family had entered the ark and God shut the door, there was no option of getting off the ark. These are examples of situations that God has orchestrated that left people with no other option but to move forward. **QUESTIONS:** Are there other times when God would encourage us to “burn bridges” that are behind us so that we would never be tempted to go back from where we have come? **READ Rom. 8:13 Col 3:5** – What does these authors mean by “mortify your members?” Here it means we are to “kill” or in our analogy, to burn down all those emotional and spiritual bridges that would take us back into our old sins. This would suggest to us that there are some sinful habits or demonically motivated behaviors that are not going to simply die on their own – there are some things that you and I must kill! – So, cross the Jordan, step boldly into where God is calling you; and if necessary burn some bridges behind you!