

Bible Study on Joshua
JOSHUA 3: ISRAEL CROSSES THE JORDAN

1. Joshua 3.1-6. Initial preparations

- The ark of the covenant (Numbers 4:4-6, 15; 10:33-36)

- “As believers today, we do not have a visible object to assure us of God’s presence, but we have His Word that He will not leave nor forsake us. We have the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit as our comforter and guide [Ps. 23:4]” (Reformation Heritage Bible).

2. Joshua 3.7-8. The LORD’s exaltation of Joshua

3. Joshua 3.9-13. Joshua tells the people what God is about to do

4. Joshua 3.14-17. The crossing itself

- The Jordan flows from the Sea of Galilee southward until it empties into the Dead Sea (about 100 miles).

TYOLOGY

1. The crossing of the Jordan was the completion of what was started by the Exodus and the crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 15:16-17; Psalm 78:13; 114:3).
2. Just as the crossing of the Red pointed to complete salvation from the penalty and bondage of sin, so the crossing of the Jordan points to complete salvation from the *presence* of sin. Entering into Canaan was entering into a land flowing with milk and honey, a new garden of Eden (Paradise restored) in a fallen world, pointing to the ultimate Paradise of eternal life on a new earth
3. “Matthew Henry comments that the miracle of the Red Sea crossing under Moses was repeated in the Jordan River crossing under Joshua ‘to show that God has the same power to finish the salvation of his people that he had to begin it.’ God did not bring the people out of Egypt and leave them to finish their own salvation; He was with them to bring it to completion. The same God who began a good work in us will be faithful to complete it (Phil. 1:6)” (Table Talk, Jan. 2019, 39).
4. Hymn #598: Guide me a Thou Great Jehovah. How Firm a Foundation.