

A Very Simple Survey of the Old Testament

Sunday School Lessons — by Keith R. Blades

Lesson 34: Crossing the Jordan: Joshua 3 – 4

Comprehension Questions & Answers

Q1. What had God done among the nations of Canaan before Israel crossed the Jordan, and how was this confirmed?

Answer: God had put a state of terror and fear of Israel into the hearts of all the nations — just as He had promised when He brought Israel out of Egypt (Exodus 15:13-16). Rahab told the two spies that every inhabitant's heart had 'melted' and no courage remained, because they had heard what the LORD did at the Red Sea and against the Amorite kings Sihon and Og (Joshua 2:9-11). The spies confirmed to Joshua: 'all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.'

Q2. What did Joshua emphasize to the people before they entered the Jordan, and why was it so important?

Answer: Joshua reminded the people that the 'ark of the covenant of the LORD of all the earth' was going before them, and that 'the living God is among you' going ahead to drive out the nations. He wanted Israel to understand that they were not simply moving into new territory — they were engaged with the LORD Himself in actively repossessing the earth that belongs to Him, battling Satan's stronghold in the land of Canaan.

Q3. How did God part the Jordan River, and what did this miracle demonstrate?

Answer: When the priests bearing the ark of the covenant stepped into the water, God miraculously parted the Jordan and Israel crossed on dry ground — exactly as He had done at the Red Sea 40 years earlier. The miracle demonstrated the LORD's power as 'Lord of all the earth,' confirmed His presence with His people, and even further intensified the fear of Israel among all the nations of the land.

Q4. What were the two sets of memorial stones established in connection with crossing the Jordan, and what was each for?

Answer: The first set of 12 stones (one from each tribe) was taken from the midst of the Jordan and set up on the other side in the land, to remind Israel how God brought them in by His mighty power. The second set was placed by Joshua 'in the midst of Jordan' itself and was covered over by the returning waters — designed for a future day when the Lord Jesus Christ will cross the Jordan in the same place to repossess the land once and for all for His people Israel.

Q5. What is the future significance of the stones Joshua placed in the midst of the Jordan River?

Answer: In a future day the Lord Jesus Christ will come in 'power and great glory' to deliver Israel from Satan's final attempt to destroy her, following the same route by which He first brought Israel into the land. He will cross the Jordan again, parting its waters in the same place where Joshua stood. In that day the people of the earth will know that 'the hand of the LORD is mighty' and Israel will 'fear the LORD their God forever.'

Fill in the Blank

A. Lesson Concepts

WORD BANK

Jordan | Rahab | ark | miracles | stones

1. God had put a state of terror into all the nations of Canaan, confirmed when _____ told the spies that every inhabitant's heart had 'melted' with fear.
2. The _____ carrying priests were to lead the crossing, and when their feet touched the Jordan's edge the waters parted and stood up as a heap.
3. Twelve _____ were set up at Gilgal as a permanent memorial of how God miraculously stopped the Jordan River for Israel to cross on dry ground.
4. God dried up the _____ at flood stage so Israel could cross on dry ground, just as He had done at the Red Sea forty years before.
5. The purpose of all the _____ God performed was so that all peoples of the earth would know that the LORD is God, and that Israel would fear Him forever.

B. Key Verses

WORD BANK

hand | priests | sign

1. **(Joshua 3:13)** And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the _____ that bear the ark of the LORD...shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off.
2. **(Joshua 4:7)** That this may be a _____ among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come...What mean ye by these stones?
3. **(Joshua 4:24)** That all the people of the earth might know the _____ of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever.

Word Search

Find each word — forward, backward, up, down, or diagonally.

K	D	H	K	Y	T	V	T	C	P	C	D	B	O	C
B	N	V	T	A	Q	C	L	W	N	A	A	N	A	C
T	J	P	U	B	N	A	M	U	E	Z	L	X	U	N
B	O	C	R	F	G	K	M	Z	X	L	F	C	D	O
Y	S	B	Y	I	V	K	Q	Q	Z	F	V	S	D	E
Y	H	D	N	C	E	J	O	R	D	A	N	E	L	G
C	U	B	T	Q	K	S	C	W	J	Q	J	C	U	L
H	A	M	W	X	T	P	T	B	P	V	A	I	L	A
L	Q	R	A	D	T	P	O	S	I	R	Q	R	U	I
C	O	N	Q	U	E	S	T	S	I	S	Z	T	B	R
I	T	I	C	M	A	I	O	M	V	J	P	L	B	O
Q	M	Q	B	X	E	X	G	S	Q	M	S	U	A	M
V	V	J	P	B	U	A	U	X	O	A	R	A	H	E
I	W	C	J	A	Z	R	G	V	M	E	J	F	A	M
B	E	A	G	S	Q	K	Z	A	J	B	E	M	R	X

Find These Words:

- ☐ CONQUEST
- ☐ MEMORIAL
- ☐ MIRACLE
- ☐ PRIESTS
- ☐ CANAAN
- ☐ JORDAN
- ☐ JOSHUA
- ☐ TWELVE
- ☐ RAHAB
- ☐ ARK

Words may go forward,
backward, up, down,
or diagonally.

WORD SEARCH — ANSWER KEY

Crossing the Jordan: Joshua 3 – 4
Each word is highlighted in its unique color.

K	D	H	K	Y	T	V	T	C	P	C	D	B	O	C
B	N	V	T	A	Q	C	L	W	N	A	A	N	A	C
T	J	P	U	B	N	A	M	U	E	Z	L	X	U	N
B	O	C	R	F	G	K	M	Z	X	L	F	C	D	O
Y	S	B	Y	I	V	K	Q	Q	Z	F	V	S	D	E
Y	H	D	N	C	E	J	O	R	D	A	N	E	L	G
C	U	B	T	Q	K	S	C	W	J	Q	J	C	U	L
H	A	M	W	X	T	P	T	B	P	V	A	I	L	A
L	Q	R	A	D	T	P	O	S	I	R	Q	R	U	I
C	O	N	Q	U	E	S	T	S	I	S	Z	T	B	R
I	T	I	C	M	A	I	O	M	V	J	P	L	B	O
Q	M	Q	B	X	E	X	G	S	Q	M	S	U	A	M
V	V	J	P	B	U	A	U	X	O	A	R	A	H	E
I	W	C	J	A	Z	R	G	V	M	E	J	F	A	M
B	E	A	G	S	Q	K	Z	A	J	B	E	M	R	X

FILL IN THE BLANK — ANSWER KEY**A. Lesson Concepts**

1. Rahab
2. ark
3. stones
4. Jordan
5. miracles

B. Key Verses

1. (Joshua 3:13) priests
2. (Joshua 4:7) sign
3. (Joshua 4:24) hand