

1 ☐ **“Crossing the Jordan”**
Joshua 3:9-17

Studies in Joshua
Study #4

2 ☐ **“... the history of the children of Israel was a typical one ... too plain for any anointed eye to miss.”**

A. W. Pink

- Their oppression by Pharaoh and their groaning
- Their utter inability to free themselves from the cruel yoke of the Egyptians
- The sovereign grace of God in raising up a deliverer in the person of Moses

3 ☐

- The provision of the Lamb and the efficacy of its blood to provide shelter from the angel of death on the night of the passover
- The overthrow of Pharaoh and his hosts at the Red Sea and Israel’s sight of the Egyptians dead upon the seashore (Ex. 14:30)
- The subsequent history of Israel in the wilderness, their testings and trials there

4 ☐ **The crossing of the Jordan**

5 ☐ **Some important spiritual lessons from the crossing**

- The most important lesson is this: God Himself went before them!
- Israel failed miserably forty years earlier at Kadesh Barnea because when God was ready to lead them into the Promised Land, they refused to follow, because of their fear and unbelief! [Numbers 13 & 14]
- Then, they tried to advance even though God wasn’t leading and the result was disaster! [Numbers 14:39-45]

6 ☐ **The ark reminded the Israelites about God**

- The ark symbolized God’s sovereignty, power, and His rule!
- The ark symbolized God’s holiness
- The ark symbolized God’s justice
- The ark symbolized the mercy of God

7 ☐ **This principle of substitutionary sacrifice can be traced back to the very beginning of God’s dealing with the sins of fallen mankind**

- Genesis 3:21

- "... he [Christ] dipped his feet in death: and, dying, abolished death. It fled before him, as Jordan before the priests; and for those who live and believe in him, though the semblance of dying remains, it is as a riverbed from which the water has shrunk away, and the blood-bought go over dry shod."

14 **The spiritual lesson is also that as we see all the Jordans which God allows to flow between us and our Canaans...**

- ... we are not to focus on the troubled waters that are rushing past; we are to look at the priest who is also the ark of the covenant, the Lord Jesus Christ!

15 ***"There shall be a space between you and the ark."***

Joshua 3:4

- Heb. 13:20 Jesus is "*that great shepherd of the sheep*," Who was the first to pass through the grave in the power of the resurrection!
- I Cor. 15:22-23 "*For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ the first fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.*"

16 **And we are to follow Him [our Great Shepherd] on this side of glory as well as in the resurrection from the dead!**

- Jn. 10:27 "*My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*"
- Our 'Jordans' may seem to be many, but ...

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- God permits the Jordans that He may educate our faith and teach us about His great faithfulness and love toward us.
- Do not look at the troubled waters rushing by, look at the priest, who is also the ark of the covenant which God has provided!
- It may seem as if He is leading you to certain destruction at times. But when you look to Him in faith and step trustingly into the trials of each new Jordan river in your life, you will find Him faithful to make the waters flee before you!!!

18

- "*Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; ... you are precious and honored in my sight because I love you ... Do not be afraid, for I am with you ...*"

Isaiah 43:2-5