

CROSSING THE JORDAN RIVER

Introduction: Israel faced an obstacle before they could begin their conquest of Canaan: they had to cross the Jordan River at flood stage. It was dangerous for a strong man to swim across the Jordan at flood-time, but impossible for a nation of about two million to swim across it with its army, women, children, cattle and other possessions. Israel was not to seek human methods for crossing the river (a bridge, pontoons, or boats), but it was to depend on God's method. Israel could cross it only by faith in God. They had to have dependence on God's promise, confidence in God's presence, reliance on God's power, and complete obedience to God's plan. The lessons that Israel learned in crossing the Jordan would be needed for victory in the overall conquest of Canaan.

Lesson Aim: To show faith in God by complete obedience to His plan.

Memory Verse: "Without faith it is impossible to please God; for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Heb 11:6).

Lesson Outline and Questions to Answer**I. Readiness for the Crossing — 3:1-13**

1. Name the two commands that Israel was to obey when they crossed the Jordan River. 3:3-4
 - a.
 - b.
2. What did Joshua command the people to do the day before they crossed the Jordan? 3:5
3. What two commands did Joshua give the priests that carried the Ark of the Covenant? 3:6,8
 - a.
 - b.
4. What did God do for Joshua on the day Israel crossed the Jordan? 3:7
5. What two proofs would the crossing of the Jordan give to Israel? 3:10
 - a.
 - b.

II. Realization of the Crossing — 3:14-17

6. What happened when the priests stepped into the Jordan River? 3:15-16
7. What two men parted the Jordan later to show God's supernatural power? 2 Kings 2:8, 14
8. What was said about the ground of the river bed? 3:17

III. Reminders of the Crossing — 4:1-24

9. Why did a man from each tribe take a stone from Jordan's river bed? 4:2-3, 6-7, 19-23
10. Where was another memorial put? 4:9
11. What happened when the priests came up out of the Jordan river bed? 4:18
12. Why did God have the Israelites cross over the Jordan at flood-time? 4:24
 - a.
 - b.