

GOD'S PROMISES FULFILLED A Study in the Books of Joshua and Ruth

Crossing the Jordan Joshua 3

"This is how you will know that the living God is among you..." Joshua 3:10

Skim Joshua 3.

1. For three days, Israel camps on the eastern shore of the Jordan River.
 - a. What is the condition of the river? (v. 15)

 - b. What familiar city is just visible in the distance across the river? (v. 16)

 - c. Why do you think God performed such a public miracle as moving a couple of million people across a river at flood stage?

2. In Ex. 25:10-22 God gives Moses the instructions for building the ark of the covenant of the Lord.
 - a. Briefly describe what it is and what it looks like.

 - b. What is the purpose of the ark?

 - c. What is the significance of the presence of the ark at this point in time? (vv. 3-4)

3. Find at least three things God wants his people to learn through the crossing of the Jordan. (vv. 7-10)

4. Note the word "begin" in verse 7. How does God encourage Joshua through the events of this period? (v. 7; 1:5)

Mercy Seat: Sometimes translated as 'Atonement Cover,' the mercy seat is the lid of the ark. "Atonement" means 'to wipe away' or 'to cover' the guilt of sin from God's eyes. This was accomplished by a blood sacrifice in the OT. The shedding of blood dramatizes the cost of forgiveness and points to the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross. ¹

5. In verse 5, the Israelites are told to consecrate themselves.
a. What did this look like in the past? (Ex. 19:10-11, 14-15)

Consecrate: to
dedicate or devote to
a sacred purpose ²

- b. How does this prepare them for what the LORD is about to do?

6. What would it look like for us to consecrate ourselves today? (1 Peter 1:13-16)

7. Describe how God had led Israel for the last 40+ years. (Num. 9:17-22)

- a. How does God lead them across the Jordan? (vv. 3, 10-13)

- b. What is the Lord revealing about Himself in verses 11 and 13?


8. Israel being led by the ark of the covenant is a picture of what reality that God's people experience today? (Jn. 1:14; Rom. 8:14-15)

9. Can you see a progression in God's teaching the Israelites about Himself?

- a. What is He teaching them?

- b. Have you seen a progression in your own life of the Lord's revealing himself to you?

This study was adapted from a previous study on Joshua, New Life Women's Bible Study, 2000-2001.

 Denotes 'for further study'.

1 The Reformation Study Bible; Copyright 2015, p.132 notes 25:17.

2 <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/consecrate>