

The Crossing of the Jordan

Joshua 3:11-13 "Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan. "Now therefore, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man from every tribe. "And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, *that* the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap."

Yes, that was the promise the priests were relying on as they stepped into those raging waters.

Quite literally, it was a step of faith.

In the absence of an absolute miracle, those
brave men would have been swept away.
And that would be the principle that must
prevail throughout the entire campaign in
Canaan.

They must trust the Lord in the face of
impossible circumstances.

And it is a principle that must prevail in
the life of a Christian if he is to
experience any meaningful victories.

He must step out in complete dependence upon
the Lord's enablement, rather than his
own.

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But this marvellous crossing also paints
another picture.

It is a picture of a *Person* rather than a
principle.

In fact, it is a picture of our Lord Jesus
Christ as He hung upon the cross.

Let's continue reading in Joshua 3:14-17.

"So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), that the waters which came down from upstream stood *still*, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that *is* beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho. Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over

**on dry ground, until all the people had
crossed completely over the Jordan."**

On the one side of the ark, the Jordan was
backed up as far away as the city of
Adam.

On the other side, the riverbed was
completely empty, all the way to the Dead
Sea.

It was as if a mighty dam had been placed
across the river.

And if you look at the ark as a type of the
Lord Jesus Christ, a picture begins to
form.

Yes, here we see our blessed Lord holding
back that tremendous weight of sin that
had piled up way back to Adam.

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V17 **"Then the priests who bore the ark of
the covenant of the LORD stood firm on
dry ground in the midst of the Jordan;**

and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan."

Yes, the priests **"stood firm on dry ground."**

And when a believer takes his stand on the solid rock of Christ's salvation, not one drop of judgment will ever fall upon him.

All of his sins, indeed, the sins of the whole world have been borne by his blessed Saviour.

And the ark remained in the middle of the Jordan until all the people had crossed **"completely over."**

Not a single member of God's chosen people would be left behind on the other shore, or would be engulfed in that mighty flood.

That is also true of every believer who has trusted in Christ's salvation.

Yes, in John 10:28-29, Jesus has given us
this double assurance.

**"And I give them eternal life, and they
shall never perish; neither shall anyone
snatch them out of My hand."My Father,
who has given *them* to Me, is greater than
all; and no one is able to snatch *them*
out of My Father's hand."**

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Joshua 4:11 **"Then it came to pass, when all
the people had completely crossed over,
that the ark of the LORD and the priests
crossed over in the presence of the
people."**

No, the ark did not remain at the bottom of
the Jordan.

It rose out of that river of death to lead
God's people from one victory to another.
And Christians also serve a *risen* Saviour -
a Saviour Who ever liveth to make

intercession for them . . . their mighty
Joshua Who is able to lead them from one
victory to another.

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But there's more.

Before the waters of the Jordan were allowed
to resume their pathway to the sea, God
gave a very important commandment.

Joshua 4:1-3 **"And it came to pass, when all
the people had completely crossed over
the Jordan, that the LORD spoke to
Joshua, saying: "Take for yourselves
twelve men from the people, one man from
every tribe, "and command them, saying,
'Take for yourselves twelve stones from
here, out of the midst of the Jordan,
from the place where the priests' feet
stood firm. You shall carry them over
with you and leave them in the lodging
place where you lodge tonight."**

It wouldn't be long before the place where
the priests had stood would be covered,
but it wouldn't be forgotten.

No, the very stones on which the priests'
feet had rested would be piled up upon
the shore as a perpetual memorial.

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And even though many years have rolled by
since the Lord Jesus hung on that cross,
His sacrifice is not forgotten.

Every Lord's Day, as believers celebrate the
breaking of bread, His broken body and
His precious blood are *remembered* until
that glorious day when He will return to
take them home.