

“Crossing the Jordan River”

Joshua 1-5

Open: Story

- Joshua 1 = The promise and preparation
 - Moses, the great servant and prophet, has died. **Deu. 34:5-8, 10**
 - We see a change of human leadership, but God and His promise remains the same. **Joshua 1:1-9**
 - Joshua prepares the people to move on from a place of mourning to a place of victory. **Joshua 1:10-18**
- Joshua 2 = The plan and protection
 - Joshua learns from the mistakes of the past, and performs the previous plan with success. Joshua sends two spies into Jericho to spy out the land. **Joshua 2:1**
 - The spies performed the duties commanded them and found protection from an unexpected source. **Joshua 2:2-7**
 - The evident power of God is revealed to spies through the revelation from Rahab. **Joshua 2:8-11**
 - Rahab is rewarded for her faith and is promised protection from the coming destruction. **Joshua 2:12-21**
 - The spies return to reveal the story. **Joshua 2:22-24**
- Joshua 3 = The passing over and proclamation
 - Joshua once again prepares the people to take the next step of faith. **Joshua 3:1-6**
 - God reveals to Joshua that because of his obedience, his leadership will be accepted by the people. **Joshua 3:7-8**
 - Joshua proclaims to the people the plan that God revealed to him, and leads the people to pass over Jordan. **Joshua 3:9-17**
- Joshua 4 = The putting together of a memorial and the purpose of the memorial
 - Joshua instructs 12 leaders from the different tribes to construct a memorial in the middle of the Jordan River out of large stones. **Joshua 4:1-5, 10, 18**
 - Joshua not only tells the people the reasoning for the memorial’s construction, but also instructs them on how to keep before future generations, the memorial of the working of God. **Joshua 4:6-9; 19-24**
- Joshua 5 = Preparation and provisions
 - The power of God preceded the children of Israel and prepared the inhabitants of the land to be destroyed. **Joshua 5:1**
 - Joshua prepared the people to be blessed by God in the area of separation. **Joshua 5:2-9**
 - God cut off the provision of manna and for the first time since they left Egypt; they were able to eat of the fruit of the Promised Land. **Joshua 5:10-12**
 - God provided for Joshua another reassurance of His provision and protection. **Joshua 5:13-15**

I. Preparation for victory promotes the faith necessary to press on in battle.

- **Joshua 1** – *“Many fail in the battle of the Christian life because they fail to properly prepare themselves to succeed in the following of God’s plan.” (Joshua 1:8)*
 - This was the purpose of the commandments, laws, and ordinances given by God through Moses to the people prior to entering the Promised Land.
- A. Moses prepared the people to follow God regardless of who the human example leading them was. **Deu. 31:3-6**
- B. Joshua led the people how to live life in a blessable and victorious way. **Joshua 1:5-9**
- C. Joshua did not tell the people to blindly follow him; he gave the people the same instructions God had given him. **Joshua 1:10-11**

II. Previewing the blessings of God promotes confidence in God's ability to fulfill His promises.

- **Joshua 2** – *“Many never develop the appetite for the things of God because they never sample the potential blessings of God.” (Ps. 34:8)*
 - This was the purpose of Moses instructing the spies 40 years prior to bringing back a sample of the fruit of the Promised Land.
- A. The spies were able to relay the protection and provisions of God. **Joshua 2:1-7; 15-16**
- B. The spies were able to relay the evident power of God. **Joshua 2:9-11**
- C. Joshua was able to rally the people around the promises of God. **Joshua 2:23-24**

III. Proper execution of the predetermined plan is preeminent to the fulfillment of God's promises.

- **Joshua 3** – *“To many never see the fulfillment of God's promises in their life because they fail to execute the plan that God has given to them.” (Joshua 23:6)*
 - This is the purpose of God giving us HIS plan, so we can experience HIS blessings in OUR Christian life.
- A. Joshua prepared the leadership to lead the people. **Joshua 3:1-2**
- B. Joshua prepared the people to be blessable by God. **Joshua 3:3-5**
- C. Joshua prepared the priests to lead in the displaying of faith. **Joshua 3:6, 8**

IV. Properly displaying the fulfillment of God's promises in life will increase the faith of others.

- **Joshua 4** – *“Many Christians in life get discouraged, or live an unfulfilled Christian life, because they are not conduits of God's fulfilled blessings in life.” (Lk. 19:40)*
 - This is the purpose for God instructing His people to unashamedly promote who He is, His Word, and the many blessings that come to those who live obediently.
- A. Joshua prepared each family to take part not only in the fulfillment of the promise, but also in securing the memory of the fulfilled promises for future generations. **Joshua 4:1-5**
- B. Joshua not only placed a physical memorial of God's power but gave to each family a responsibility of verbally keeping before their family the memory of God's power. **Joshua 4:6-9**
- C. The carrying out of the plan that was given by God, to the spiritual leaders, etched the evident power of God and the workings of God into the hearts and minds of the spiritual leaders. **Joshua 4:10-11**

V. **Prior planning for separation is not paranoia, but a protection of God's promised blessings.**

- **Joshua 5** – *“Many want to complain about the separated life that is required to be lived in order to be blessed by God; then blame God for an unfulfilled Christian life.” (Deu. 33:16)*

- This is the purpose of separation, not so we can be robbed of joy in life or have an opportunity to lift ourselves above those around us; but so we can enjoy the full benefits of living the Christian life.

- A. God wanted it evident to the world, and to His children, that His people were different in more than name only, they were different in how they lived and worshipped God. **Joshua 5:2-8**
- B. Their mark of separation was a daily reminder of the power of God's forgiveness and restoration. **Joshua 5:9**
- C. The purpose of separation was to increase the people's faith, relationship with God, and blessings in the Christian life. **Joshua 5:11-12**

Close:

- Don't **delay** God's blessings in your life because of a lack of faith in God's ability to provide.
- Don't **diminish** God's blessings in your life because of a lack of faith in God's plan.
- Don't **deter** God's blessings for future generations because of a lack of promotion of God's power.