

# Israel Enters the Promised Land

Joshua 1, 3-5

What are these priests carrying?  
They are in the middle of the Jordan River. Why  
are they not getting wet?  
What miracle was done by God and what  
reminder did God's people have for  
future generations?  
Let's read to find out the answers.



## Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, Today we will hear about Joshua leading the Children of Israel with God's help. Please be with us as we learn about Your Word so that we may then tell others of the Good News found in the Bible and one day consider teaching or preaching Your Word to others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## The Story - Joshua 1, 3-5

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: {2} "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them; the children of Israel. {3} "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses... "No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

{6} "Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an

inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. {7} "Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. {8} "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. {9} "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the



LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

{10} Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, {11} "Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess.'..."

{16} So they answered Joshua, saying, "All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. {17} "Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you. Only the LORD your God be with you, as He was with Moses. {18} "Whoever rebels against your command and does not heed your words, in all that you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and of good courage."

(Joshua 3) Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over. {2} So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp; {3} and they commanded the people, saying, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it. {4} "Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before."

{5} And Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD

will do wonders among you."

{6} Then Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, "Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.

{7} And the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. {8} "You shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, saying, 'When you have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan, you shall stand in the Jordan.'"

{9} So Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Come here, and hear the words of the LORD your God." {10} And Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites: {11} "Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan. {12} "Now therefore, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man from every tribe. {13} "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."

{14} 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, {15} 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), {16} 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. {17} 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.

(Joshua 4) And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying: {2} "Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, {3} "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."

{4} Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; {5} and Joshua said to them: "Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, {6} "that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these

stones mean to you?' {7} "Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever."

{8} And the children of Israel did so, just as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the LORD had spoken to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them to the place where they lodged, and laid them down there. {9} Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day.

{10} So the priests who bore the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the LORD had commanded Joshua to speak to the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua; and the people hurried and crossed over. {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...{13} About forty thousand prepared for war crossed over before the LORD for battle, to the plains of Jericho.

{14} On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they had feared Moses, all the days of his life.

{15} Then the LORD spoke to Joshua,

saying, {16} "Command the priests who bear the ark of the Testimony to come up from the Jordan."

{17} Joshua therefore commanded the priests, saying, "Come up from the Jordan."

{18} And it came to pass, when the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD had come from the midst of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet touched the dry land, that the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks as before.

{19} Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and they camped in Gilgal on the east border of Jericho. {20} And those twelve stones which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal. {21} Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, 'What are these stones?' {22} "then you shall let your children know, saying, 'Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land'; {23} "for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, {24} "that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is

mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever."

(Joshua 5) So it was, when all the kings of the Amorites who were on the west side of the Jordan, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan from before the children of Israel until we had crossed over, that their heart melted; and there was no spirit in them any longer because of the children of Israel...

{9} Then the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." Therefore the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day.

{10} Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. {11} And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. {12} Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.

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***Outer Aim - God was with Joshua and the Children of Israel and led them into the promised land of Canaan.***

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**What the Story Tells Us** - Fill in the CROSSWORD PUZZLE with answers from the Bible Lesson.

ACROSS

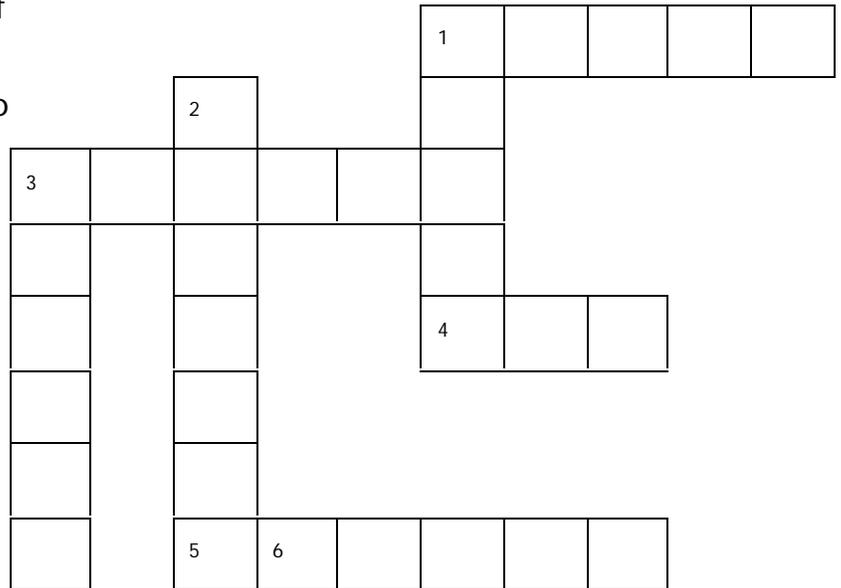
1. Who had died at the beginning of this lesson?

3. What river did the people have to cross?

4. The \_\_\_\_ of the Covenant was carried into the river.

5. What 12 things did men pick up and bring out of the dry river bed?

7. What was the name of the special place of the memorial of stones?



DOWN

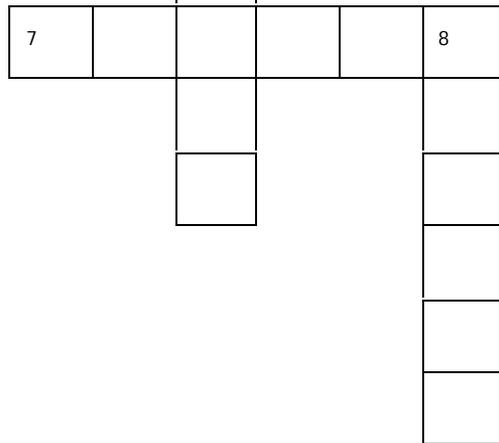
1. What did God no longer send for the people to eat?

2. Who held the ark of the covenant in the middle of the river so the people could cross?

3. Whom did God choose as the leader after Moses?

6. How many stones were carried out of the river for the memorial?

8. How did the kings of the land feel about the Children of Israel?




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***Inner Aim - God is with us as we travel on this earth and will lead us into the promised land of Heaven.***

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**What God's Word Tells Us** - Find Joshua 1:6 and write it on the lines below. Then make a list of things of which you are afraid and a list of things and people God gives us to make us strong and of good courage.

Joshua 1:6 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***Things that make me afraid:***

▼ kidnappers

▼

▼

▼

▼

▼

▼

***Who and what God gives me to make me strong and courageous:***

▼ pastors

▼

▼

▼

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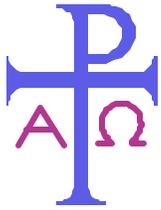
**Passages**

Joshua 1:6 - Be strong and of good courage.

Romans 8:31- If God is for us, who can be against us?

Psalm 1:1-2 - Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.

**Your Turn** - The Children of Israel were given a pile of 12 stones as a memorial or reminder of God's help for them in crossing the Jordan River. Draw a line to match the Christian symbol we have and its meaning or reminder to us.



☎ Baptism ☎

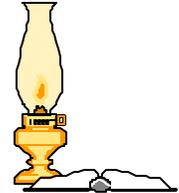
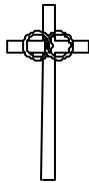
☎ Father, Son, Holy Spirit ☎

☎ Christ's Suffering ☎

☎ God's Word is a Light ☎

☎ Marriage in Christ ☎

☎ Jesus Christ, the Beginning and End ☎



**Hymn** - TLH #292 v. 1, 2, 8, 9

Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide,  
For round us fall the eventide;  
Nor let Thy Word, that heav'nly light  
For us be ever veiled in night.

A trusty weapon is Thy Word,  
Thy Church's buckler, shield, and sword.  
Oh, let us in its power confide  
That we may seek no other guide.

In these last days of sore distress  
Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness  
That pure we keep, till life is spent,  
Thy holy Word and Sacrament.

Oh, grant that in Thy holy Word  
We here may live and die, dear Lord;  
And when our journey endeth here,  
Receive us into glory there.

**Prayer**

Dear Jesus, Today we learned about how important it is to listen to Your Word and to Your promises. Help us to be strong and courageous in our faith life. Give us faithful leaders such as Moses and Joshua and help me to consider becoming a Pastor, Day School Teacher or Sunday School Teacher. Help us to remember all You have done for us so that we can serve You all our days. Amen.