

Cover to Cover: Easter Special

 *Joshua 3*

Watch: <https://www.bible.com/en-GB/videos/3024-joshua-the-bible-project>

Context: Moses has just finished reiterating the Law for a new generation of Israelites. As he concludes His final sermon he reminds the people to love the Lord and wholly follow Him. Then he passes the reigns of leadership to his assistant Joshua. Now it is the moment the Israelites had been waiting for; it is time to cross the Jordan River and enter into the Promised Land.

*Think about Pastor’s sermon on Mt 28:1–10 from this past Lord’s Day:*

* What strikes you about the context of this story?
* What is the difference between the soldiers and the women’s response to the angel?
* How is the Lord calling you to trust in Him today and “not be afraid”?
* Why does the Resurrection matter?
* How are we to emulate the women (v. 9)

**Read:** Josh 3

*Questions*

1. From what you can remember about the Ark, why was it going to precede Israel?
2. V. 4- *2000 cubits is half a mile (.8km).* Why did they need to leave such a distance? What other reason may there have been.
	1. V. 17- Where did the Ark remain as the people passed over, why?
3. Why is it sometimes necessary to step back and see where the Lord is leading?
4. Moses told the people to sanctify themselves before the wonders of the plagues (Ex 19:10–15). Here Joshua tells the people to consecrate themselves (v. 5, see Ex for what was probably involved). How can we consecrate ourselves to the Lord? Could it be that we do not see as many wonders because we fail to consecrate ourselves completely to His service?
5. Notice how in v. 5 Israel is called a people but in v. 17 they are called a nation. What had transpired to mature them? How would you describe your spiritual state/ that of MBC: a people or a nation?
6. V. 7- *The LORD exalts Joshua as He had Moses so that the people would follow Him.* Why should we pray the Lord might be pleased to do this with our leaders, our church, our lives?
7. V. 10- What encouragement was this event going to offer?
8. V. 12- *These twelve men would be the same (presumably) who set up the stones as a reminder of this event (Josh 4:2).* Where did they get the stones from?
9. *FYI- (see map below). The place where Israel crossed the Jordan is where, historically, the River was at its widest (100’), though even wider during the spring floods at this time of the year. It is also near here that John the Baptist baptized (showing you need plentiful water for the ordinance!). Today, because of over irrigation no water reaches the Dead Sea, which is why it is evaporating. size and flow of the Jordan River. Some 1.3 billion cubic metres of water flow down the Jordan each year (Niagara Falls is 202 billion cubic metres!).*
10. In v. 13 and 15 we see the promise and fulfilment of a great miracle and event in salvation history. What is significant about this event for Israel? How has “crossing the Jordan” been used in Christian imagery?
11. What happened when the priests entered the water? How would a “heap” and the “dry ground” been such a great miracle? What do you think this inspired in the people. Is there a spiritual event that has left an indelible mark on your life?

What is the Lord teaching you these days? How can we praise Him? How can we be praying for one another?

