



Session 7 | Crossing Over Jordan | Joshua 3:10-17

The spies returned from the city of Jericho with good report. Joshua mustered the *children of Israel* and instructed them to *Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you*. After forty-years of living in the desert in tents, it is time to cross over Jordan into Canaan, the land flowing with milk and honey, the land promised by God himself to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Now, at the banks of the river Joshua speaks to the people

Verse 10—

Ye shall know that the living God is among you. When they cross over into the land they are going to encounter many enemies; **Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites**. All of which worshipped gods made of wood and stone. The Israelites worshipped the living God and today we too worship that same living God.

Throughout Scripture our God is defined as **Living**:

- Deuteronomy 5:26: *the voice of the living God.*
- 1 Samuel 17:26: Speaking of Goliath, David said, *Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?*
- Jeremiah 10:10: *But the LORD is the true God, He is the Living God...*
- 1 Thessalonians 1:9: The apostle Paul describes and praises the Thessalonians, *you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.*

None of those nations who worshipped false Gods are around today; they are all gone. Only the true God brings life!

Verses 11-16—

The **ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth** moved ahead of the people toward the waters of the Jordan. In 3:4 we saw that the people were about a mile behind the priests as they carried the ark of the covenant. Joshua commanded that twelve men be selected out of the tribes (we will find out next time, in chapter four, the reason for selecting these men). God is about to perform another miracle, similar in many ways to the one forty-years ago when He parted the Red Sea so the Israelites could escape the Egyptians and cross over into safety on their way to the Promised Land (Exodus 14). Now they are crossing over again, this time to actually enter the land that was promised to them by God.

Verse 17—

Until the people were passes clean over Jordan. Crossing, or passing over is a theme throughout Scripture. There are many examples we could cite like, Abraham presumably crossing the Euphrates River on his way from Ur of the Chaldees, to go to the land of Canaan. Or, Jacob passing over the river as he fled Laban, or Moses crossing the Red Sea; in our passage today crossing over the Jordan and many subsequent crossings of the Jordan throughout the O.T. Jesus crossed over the Sea of Galilee, and he crossed *over the brook* Kidron to the Mount of Olives where there was a garden and where he would be betrayed.

Likewise, spiritually speaking, when we believe in Jesus Christ we cross from death to life (John 5:24). This is a promise for all who believe in Jesus Christ, death shall be no more. In fact, when we cross from death to life, we are victors! The apostle Paul states it like this, *“But thanks be to God, which giveth us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:57.*

We should live our lives this week, and every week, as victors, immersed in the gift of grace which has been given us by our Lord and Savior.

