



## Our aim - Be strong & Courageous

- Be **encouraged** by the faith and bravery of Joshua who faced some very challenging situations.
- Develop **practical strategies and a strong spiritual fortitude** to help survive the battles of life.
- To **regroup our frontline** by “strengthening the things that remain” and patiently enduring until the return of Christ.

**Joshua - "Yahweh will save"  
Victory through Faith**

**Ch 1-5**

**Entering the Land**

**Belief - The First Principles of Faith**

**Ch 6-12**

**Conquering the Land**

**Action - The Works of Faith**

**Ch 13-22**

**Occupying the Land**

**Vision - The Promise of Faith**

**Ch 23-24**

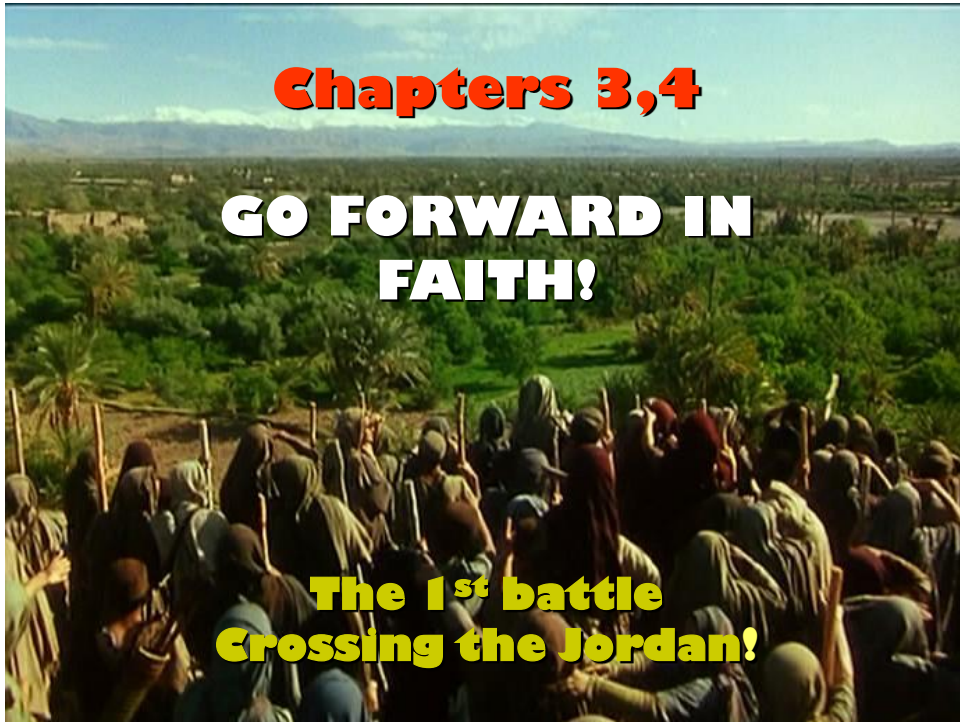
**Keeping the Land**

**Consistency - The Reality of Faith**



**Chapter 1**  
**FOCUS FIRST**  
**FOLLOW THE LEADER!**

**God encourages Joshua**



### *Go forward in Faith! - The 1<sup>st</sup> Battle - Crossing the Jordan*

**Jos 1:11** Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals: for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.

**Jos 2:16** And she said unto them, Get you to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you; and hide yourselves there three days. Until the pursuers be returned: and afterward may ye go your way.

**Jos 2:22** And they went, and came unto the mountain, and abode there three days. Until the pursuers were returned: and the pursuers sought them throughout all the way, but found them not.

**Jos 3:2** And it came to pass after three days, that the officers went through the host...

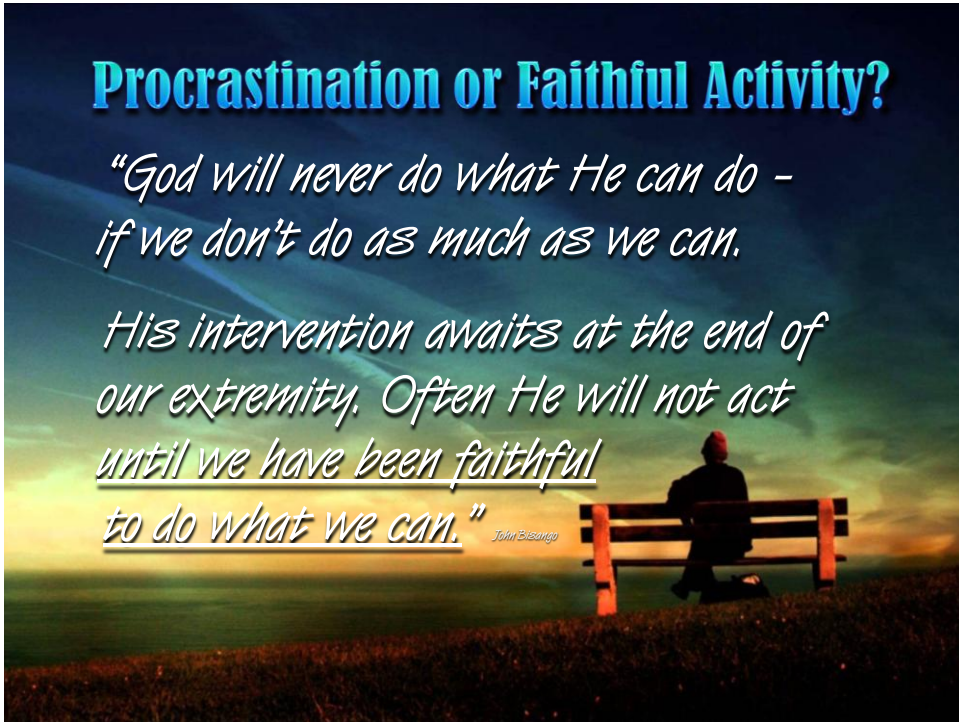


## Procrastination or Faithful Activity?

*"God will never do what He can do -  
if we don't do as much as we can.*

*His intervention awaits at the end of  
our extremity. Often He will not act  
until we have been faithful  
to do what we can."*

*John Esposito*



### Go forward in Faith! - The 1<sup>st</sup> Battle - Crossing the Jordan

**Jos 2:9** And she said unto the men, I know that Yahweh hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

**Jos 2:10** For we have heard how Yahweh dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

**Jos 2:14** And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when Yahweh hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee.

**Jos 2:24** And they said unto Joshua, Truly Yahweh hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.

*Go forward in Faith! - The 1<sup>st</sup> Battle - Crossing the Jordan*

## **1/ The Word of Faith Instruction**

**3:1-13**

## **2/ The Walk of Faith - Implementation**

**3:14-17**

## **3/ The Witness of Faith Influence**

**4:1-24**

# **Unhesitating Commitment**

**"Abraham rose up early in the morning"**

**Gen 21:14**

**"Abraham rose up early... and took Isaac his son"** Gen 22:3

**"Jacob rose up early in the morning..."**

**Gen 22:18**

**"Gideon rose early" Jud 7:1**

**"Samuel rose early to meet Saul"**

**1Sam 15:12**

**"Hezekiah the king rose early"**

**2Chron 19:20**

**"In the morning, rising up a great while before day" Mk 1:35**

**"Certain women... early at the sepulchre" Luke 24:22**

**"They entered into the temple early in the morning" Act 6:21**

**To send Ishmael into the wilderness**

**To sacrifice his only begotten, the son of his love**

**Leave his family for unknown territory**

**To confront the Midianites "they were like grasshoppers for multitude"**

**To advise the king he had been rejected**

**To cleanse the house of Yahweh**

**To seek recovery from the exhaustion of healing multitudes**

**To care for the dead body of the Messiah**

**After being imprisoned and beaten the night before**

# A Decisive Leader

Joshua **rose early in the morning**; and they removed from Shittim, and came to Jordan, he and all the children of Israel **Josh 3:1**

And Joshua **rose early in the morning**, and the priests took up the ark of Yahweh **6:12**

On the seventh day, they **rose early about the dawning** of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times **6:15**

So Joshua **rose up early in the morning**, and brought Israel by their tribes **7:16**

Joshua **rose up early in the morning**, numbered the people, and went up, he and the elders of Israel, before the people to Ai **8:10**

To cross over a river and enter a land full of Canaanites

To engage in the battle for impregnable Jericho

To lead the nation in a most unusual manner

To find remove a troublemaker who had caused death

To return to the scene of an embarrassing defeat

## Energy for the Truth

Whatever thy hand findeth to do, **do it with thy might**; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest **(Ecc 9:10)**

## Enthusiasm for our service

Not slothful in business; **fervent in spirit; serving the Lord** **(Rom 12:11)**

## Early commitment for God

O God, thou art my God; **early will I seek thee**: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is **(Ps 63:1)**

## Eager attitude to study

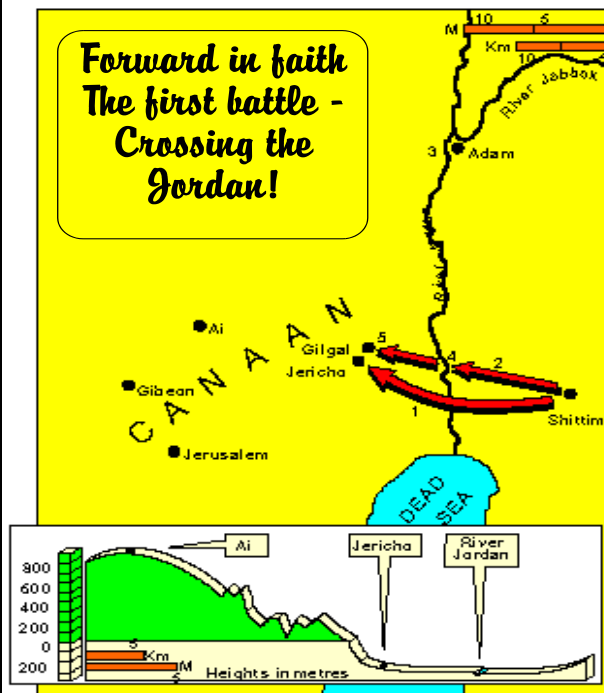
I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies. **I made haste, and delayed not** to keep thy commandments. **(Ps 119:59,60)**

Every morning in Africa a gazelle wakes up.  
It knows it must run faster than the lion  
or it will be killed...

Every morning a lion wakes up.  
It knows it must outrun the slowest gazelle  
or it will starve to death...

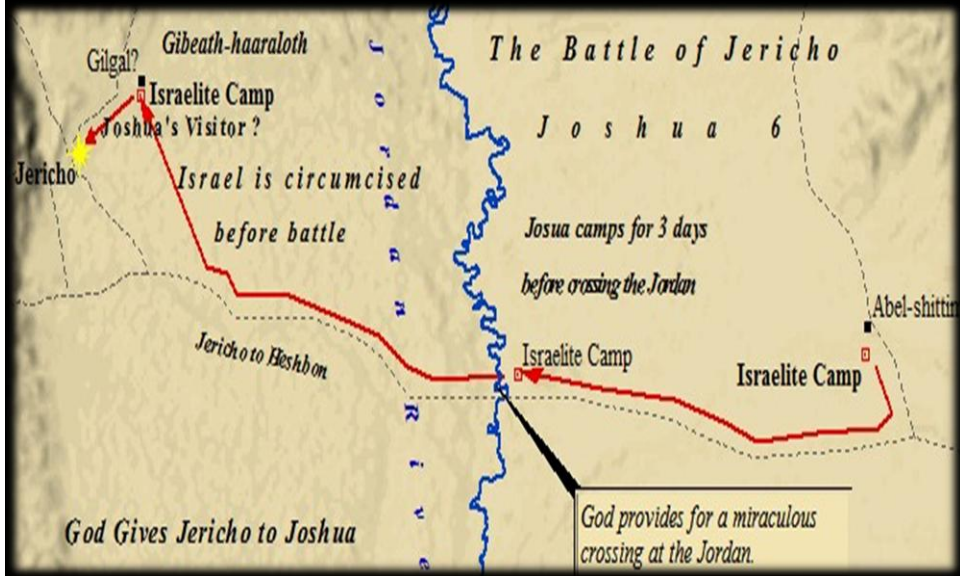
It doesn't matter whether you're a lion or  
gazelle...

when the sun comes up you'd better be  
running!!





# Preparation: crossing the Jordan





## **Focus on God**

# **“The Ark” 16x in 2 chpts!**

**Josh 3:3** When ye see **the ark of the covenant of the LORD** your God...

**6** Joshua spake unto the priests, saying, Take up **the ark of the covenant**, and pass over before the people. And they took up **the ark of the covenant**,

**8** And thou shalt command the priests that bear **the ark of the covenant**...

**11** Behold, the **ark of the covenant of the Lord** of all the earth

**13** the priests that bear **the ark of the LORD**, the Lord of all the earth...

**14** the priests bearing **the ark of the covenant** before the people;

**15** As they that bare **the ark** were come unto Jordan...that bare **the ark** were dipped

**17** And the priests that bare **the ark of the covenant of the LORD** stood firm

**Josh 4:5** And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before **the ark of the LORD**

**7** were cut off before **the ark of the covenant of the LORD**

**9** which bare **the ark of the covenant** stood:

**10** For the priests which bare **the ark** stood in the midst of Jordan

**11** **the ark of the LORD** passed over, and the priests

**16** Command the priests that bear **the ark of the testimony**

**18** that bare **the ark of the covenant of the LORD** were come up

## **Sanctification – how does it apply to us today?**

“**Sanctify** yourselves” **Josh 3:5**. “**Sanctify** the people, and say, **Sanctify** yourselves tomorrow: There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee **Josh 7:13**”

### **Be careful with relationships...**

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? ...for ye are the temple of the living God... Wherefore come out from among them, and **be ye separate and touch not the unclean** thing...

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves** from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit. **2Cor 6.14-7:1**

### **Recognise your changed values**

Nor fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers... shall inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you: **but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified**, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus. **1Cor 6.10**

# Sanctification – how does it apply to us today?

## Develop a right attitude to God

But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; **But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts:** and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear **1Pet 3:13-15**

## Make it a continuous process

Christ also loved the ecclesia, and gave himself for it; That he might **sanctify and cleanse** it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious ecclesia, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish **Eph 5.25**

# The Living God

**Josh 3:10** And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that **the living God is among you**, and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites...

**v11** Behold, the ark of the covenant of **the Lord of all the earth** passes over before you into Jordan.

**v13** And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of Yahweh, **the Lord of all the earth**, shall rest in the waters of Jordan...

**1Sam 17:26,36** Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of **the living God?**

**2Kings 19:16:** Open, Yahweh, thine eyes, and see: and hear the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent him to reproach **the living God**

**John 6:68,69** Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of **the living God.**

**Heb 3:12** Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from **the living God.**



## AN ASTOUNDING MIRACLE...

“The water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up **in a heap a great distance away**, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea ) **was completely cut off.**” NIV

The text specifically defines the distance to emphasise the miracle.

**40% of the total length of the River Jordan was parted!**

## As remarkable as the Red Sea crossing!

### Psalm 114:1-5 - The Lord Works Wonders

God brought his people out of Egypt, that land with a strange language. He made Judah his holy place and ruled over Israel. When the sea looked at God, it ran away, and **the Jordan River flowed upstream**. The mountains and the hills skipped around like goats. Ask the sea why it ran away or ask the **Jordan why it flowed upstream**.

**Ps 66:5,6** Come and see the works of God: he is awesome in his doing toward the children of men. He turned the sea into dry land: they **went through the flood** on foot: there did we rejoice in him.

**Ps 74:15** You opened the ground for streams and springs and **dried up mighty rivers**

**Is 50:2** Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, **I make the rivers a wilderness**.



## As remarkable as the Red Sea crossing!

### Israel's most powerful prophet reverses the direction!

**2Kings 2:1,7,8** And it came to pass, when Yahweh would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha **from Gilgal...** And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood to view afar off: and they two stood **by Jordan**. And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and **they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.**

This would have uncovered the 12 stones placed by Joshua hundreds of years before and encouraged Elijah that although his dramatic confrontation had concluded, God's still, small voice continued to work unseen in smoothing and shaping individuals for the kingdom.

## As remarkable as the Red Sea crossing!

**Thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you..."**

**Isaiah 43:1-2, NASB**



## Go forward in Faith! The 1<sup>st</sup> Battle – Crossing the Jordan

Many insist that this was no miracle as the event can be explained as a natural phenomenon. They point out that on Dec 8, 1267 an earthquake caused the high banks of the Jordan to collapse, blocking the river for about 10 hours.

On July 11, 1927 another earthquake blocked the river for 21 hours. God could have employed natural causes such as an earthquake, however, considering all the factors involved we need to view this occurrence as a special act of God brought about in a way unknown to man. Many supernatural elements were brought together in an amazing way.

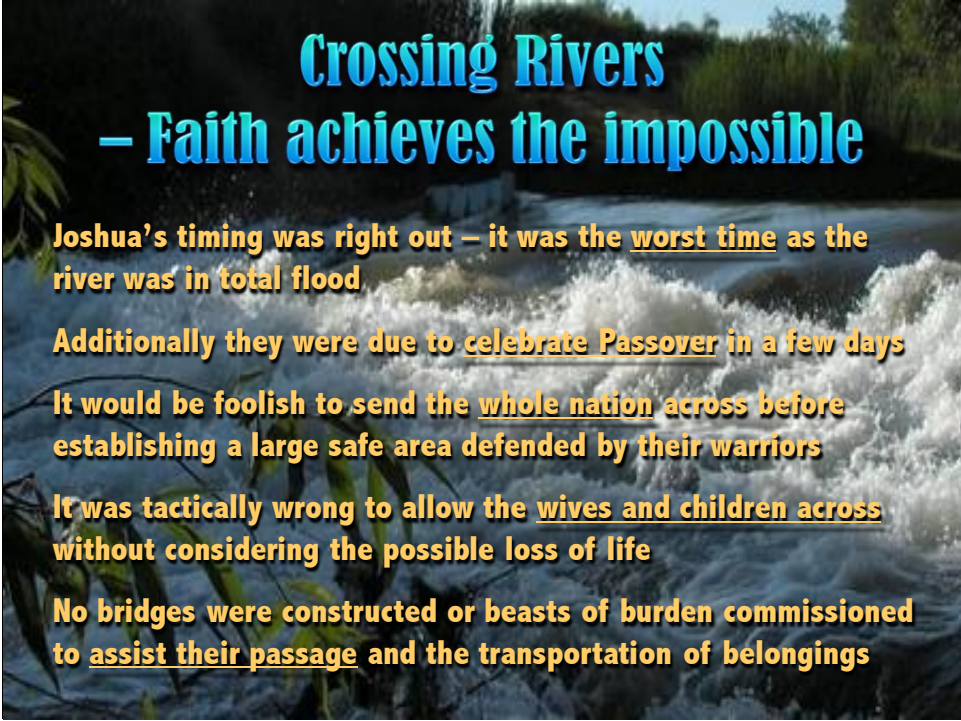


## Go forward in Faith! The 1<sup>st</sup> Battle – Crossing the Jordan

- (1) The event came to pass exactly as predicted (3:13, 15)
- (2) The timing was precise and exact (v15)
- (3) It took place when the river was at full flood stage (v15)
- (4) The water was held in place for possibly an entire day (v16)
- (5) The river actually reversed and flowed backwards (v16)
- (6) The soft, wet river base became instantly dry (v17)
- (7) The water returned immediately when the priests came up out of the river (4:18)

*By this great miracle, the Jordan River was crossed during a flood by a nation of about 2 million people, in which God was glorified, Joshua was exalted, Israel was encouraged, and the Canaanites were terrified!*





## Crossing Rivers – Faith achieves the impossible

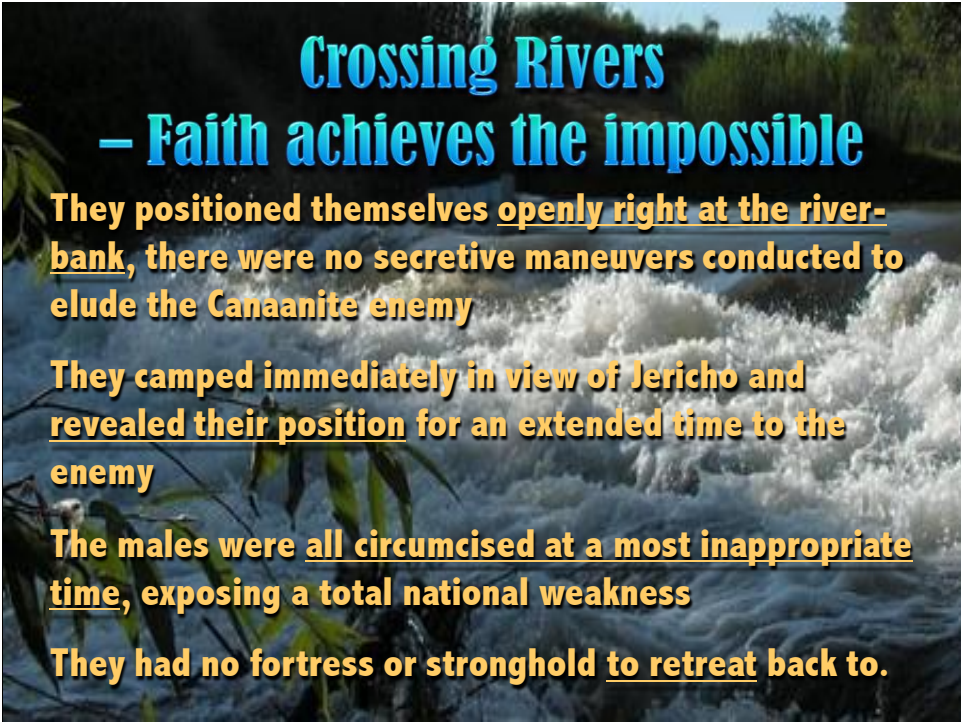
Joshua's timing was right out – it was the worst time as the river was in total flood

Additionally they were due to celebrate Passover in a few days

It would be foolish to send the whole nation across before establishing a large safe area defended by their warriors

It was tactically wrong to allow the wives and children across without considering the possible loss of life

No bridges were constructed or beasts of burden commissioned to assist their passage and the transportation of belongings



## Crossing Rivers – Faith achieves the impossible

They positioned themselves openly right at the river-bank, there were no secretive maneuvers conducted to elude the Canaanite enemy

They camped immediately in view of Jericho and revealed their position for an extended time to the enemy

The males were all circumcised at a most inappropriate time, exposing a total national weakness

They had no fortress or stronghold to retreat back to.



Go forward in Faith! - The 1st Battle – Crossing the Jordan

## A leader has 3 important characteristics

1/ He must know where he is going

2/ He must have the capacity to influence people to go with him

3/ He must leave behind a trail so others can follow his example at a later stage

## Full involvement of ALL the people

3:12 Now therefore take you twelve men out of the tribes of Israel, out of every tribe a man.

4:2 Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man,

4:4 Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man:

4:5 And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel:

4:8 The children of Israel did so as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones out of the midst of Jordan, as Yahweh spake unto Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them unto the place where they lodged, and laid them down there.

# The importance of lasting memorials

**Jos 4:3** Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones.

**v5** take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder

**v6** What mean ye by these stones?

**v7** and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever.

**v8** and took up twelve stones out of the midst of Jordan

**v9** And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan,

**v20** And those twelve stones, which they took out of Jordan, did Joshua pitch in Gilgal.

**v21** And he spake unto the children of Israel, saying, When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these stones?

# The importance of lasting memorials

**Jos 7:26** And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day.

**Remember** Achan,  
**Remember** defeat Ai,  
**Remember** law Moses  
**Remember** Beth-horon 5 Kings  
**Remember** your promise

**Jos 8:29** And the king of Ai he hanged on a tree ... and raise thereon a great heap of stones, that remaineth unto this day.

**Jos 8:30, 32** Then Joshua built an altar unto the LORD God of Israel in mount Ebal, And he wrote there upon the stones a copy of the law of Moses

**Jos 10:27** They cast them into the cave wherein they had been hid, and laid great stones in the cave's mouth, which remain until this very day.

**Jos 24:26,27** And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that was by the sanctuary of the LORD. And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold, this stone shall be a witness unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the LORD which he spake unto us.





## The “plains of Jericho”

“The city was broken up, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between two walls, which is by the king’s garden: and the king went the way toward the plain. And the army of the Chaldees pursued after the king, and overtook him in the plains of Jericho: and all his army were scattered from him **2Kings 25:5**”



# The New Life

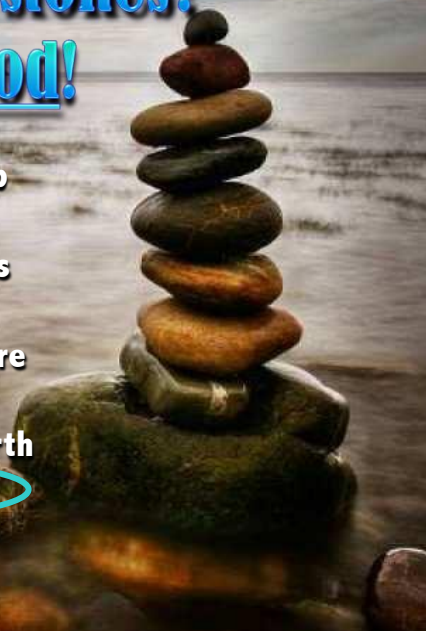
There's a considerable emphasis on "**passing over**" and "**coming up out**" to indicate the complete change of attitude in the nation.  
*"We are buried with him by baptism into death; that **like as Christ was raised up** from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should **walk in newness of life.**" Rom 6:4*




- 10 ...and the people hastened and **passed over**.
- 11 the people were clean **passed over**, that the ark of the LORD **passed over**,
- 12 and half the tribe of Manasseh, **passed over** armed
- 13 About forty thousand prepared for war **passed over** before the LORD
  
- 16 Command the priests that they **come up out of Jordan**.
- 17 Come ye **up out of Jordan**.
- 18 when the priests... were **come up out of the midst of Jordan**, and the soles of the priests' feet were **lifted up** unto the dry land
- 19 And the people **came up out of Jordan** on the tenth day of the first month
- 20 twelve stones, which they took **out of Jordan**, did Joshua pitch in Gilgal.

## What mean these stones? Victory through God!

- 23 For **Yahweh your God dried** up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were **passed over**, as **Yahweh your God did** to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over:
- 24 That all the people of the earth might know **the hand of Yahweh**, that it is mighty: that ye might **fear Yahweh your God** for ever.

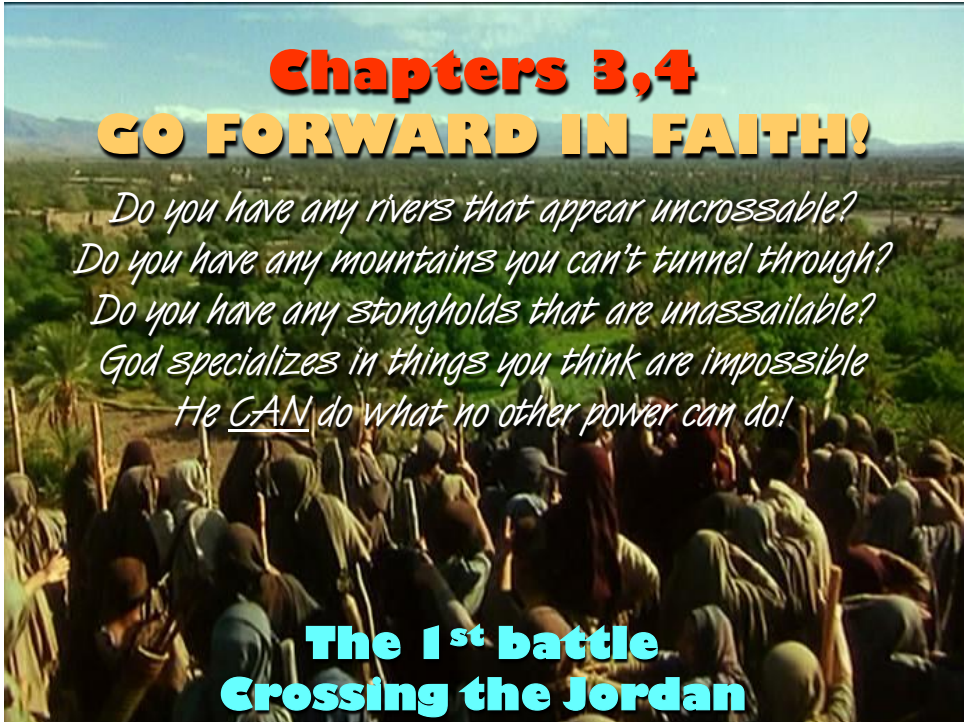


# What mean these stones? Victory through God!

- 
- 1:11 go in to possess the land, **which Yahweh your God gives you to possess it.**
- 1:13 Remember the word Moses commanded you, saying, **Yahweh your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land.**
- 1:15 **Until Yahweh have given your brethren rest, as he hath given you, and they also have possessed the land which Yahweh your God giveth them:**
- 2:9 She said unto the men, I know that **Yahweh hath given you the land,**
- 2:10 We have heard **how Yahweh dried up the water of the Red sea for you**
- 2:14 When **Yahweh hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly**
- 2:24 **Truly Yahweh hath delivered into our hands all the land**
- 3:5 Tomorrow **Yahweh will do wonders among you.**

## Chapters 3,4 GO FORWARD IN FAITH!

*Do you have any rivers that appear uncrossable?  
Do you have any mountains you can't tunnel through?  
Do you have any strongholds that are unassailable?  
God specializes in things you think are impossible  
He CAN do what no other power can do!*



**The 1<sup>st</sup> battle  
Crossing the Jordan**