

CROSSING THE JORDAN JOSHUA CHAPTER 3

Israel has come to another barrier that must be crossed before they can come into the land. The day comes to move out from Acacia Grove, where they have camped while God finished the old order and made ready for the new.

Joshua has been exalted into leadership in place of Moses. A new way of moving forward with Yahveh is now going to be revealed. To cross over the river the people must listen to the command coming forth through the ones chosen to bring the latest word from the Lord. "The officers went through the camp and commanded the people."

The word that comes instructs them," When you see the ark of the covenant of Yahveh your God, and the priests bearing it, you shall set out from your place and go after it. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before." Not only were they going into unknown territory, but the way they were to proceed was different from the order God had commanded at Sinai. Always before the cloud or pillar would lift off the tabernacle, then the three tribes under the standard of Judah would set out, then the priests carrying the tabernacle would set out, then the three tribes under the standard of Reuben would set out, then the Kohathites carrying the holy things would set out, followed by the standards of the tribe of Ephraim and Dan. This time all eyes were to be on the ark of the covenant born on the shoulders of the priests.

Joshua now speaks to the priests, "Take up the ark and cross over before the people." So they took up the ark and went before the people. And Yahveh said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to magnify you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you." In this crossing Joshua, who is a type of Messiah, is exalted and recognized as Yahveh's leader. The Israel of God in this last day move will with one accord recognize Yeshua as the one head over the people of God.

The priests are commanded to move forward to the edge of the water carrying the ark of Yahveh, the Lord of the whole earth. Every time God begins something new he introduces Himself by a new name. As Lord of all the earth he will open the way for His people to cross over.

"As those who bore the ark came to the Jordan and the feet of the priests dipped in the edge of the water(for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), 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. Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of Yahveh stood firm on the dry ground in the midst of Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan."

The new way of God moving the people over Jordan was for a company of chosen priests to bear the ark into the barrier that was between the people and the land. These priests had to step by faith into the river that was rushing like a flood. When they touched the edge of the water all this flow was cut off all the way back to the city of Adam.

The city of Adam is a revelation of the corporate life in its many forms that flows from the Adamic nature. This is the final barrier we must cross to enter the land. When we come out of Egypt, God parts the Red Sea. This barrier opens and we cross over into the wilderness. The scriptures say "Our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea." Here in type is the death of the Adamic nature that holds the individual in bondage to sin. The old man is buried in baptism and the new man is raised to walk on with God as He reveals Himself in the wilderness. But when we come to the end of the wilderness, Adam confronts us one more time in an unsuspected way. The Jordan river(which means desender) is flowing at flood tide. Everything that desends from the city of Adam must be cut off. A city is a corporate expression. When Cain went out from the presence of God the first thing he did was build a city. When the children of Noah began to repopulate the earth, as soon as they found a suitable place, they began to build a city. There is something in the nature of man that is busy trying to build something corporate to replace the individual relationship and responsibility to obey the command of God which from the beginning has been , "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth..." Most of the scattering of today's corporate attempts are from the same One who scattered the people when they would, "Build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the earth."

In God's new economy this barrier is cut off when the priests, bearing on their shoulders the ark of the covenant of the Lord, step boldly into that overflowing river and stand firm until the miracle of God takes place. The bible says that the waters stood piled up like an embankment. In this promise of His faithfulness, we hope to be an expression of what God has shown us concerning His end time purpose.

One of the greatest truths involves our coming out of the old and pressing into the new. It is easy to get stuck in forms of doctrine and systems of religion, that with time, harden us to the possibility that , "we don't know yet, as we ought to know."

In order to participate, we must have a heart condition that readily responds to the initial proclamation of the gospel: "Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand." As these are placed in the context of the Dead Sea they speak of dead works that have nothing to do with the life of God available to those who personally walk with the Lord. Arabah (sea of the plain; in KJV) means (in the sense of sterility) a desert ; coming from a word meaning to be darkened; which comes from a root word meaning to braid, intermix; to traffic; to give or be security:--- engage, intermeddle with, mingle self, mortgage, occupy, give pledges, become or put in surety, undertake. Certainly all these thoughts could be enlarged upon to give a fuller revelation of the collective reality that is represented by the Sea of Arabah.

The miracle of God was to stop this flow so the people of God could cross over to the Promised Land.

Today we must allow the Lord to cut off in us the corporate life, in all its forms, that come as a result of the Adamic nature. Only when we repent of the old can God bring into the new. Yahveh has a corporate life that exists in His Son. This life is free from Adamic contaminations such as; traditions of men, control of men, doctrines of men, systems of men, strength of men ect. Most of what we see today is nothing more than the Jordan River overflowing its banks.

God has a body, and under his sovereign design and headship that body is doing fine. Let us forsake the man-made counterfeit and cross over to the Land of milk and honey.