Lesson 48 – Crossing the Jordan

based on Joshua 1 – 5:12

Moses had just walked the path alone up to the top of Pisgah and surrendered his life to the LORD. Shortly after his burial, Jesus came and claimed him to the resurrection showing the future of the redeemed at the end of time

1) How long did the camp mourn for Moses before moving on to the Promised Land?
   Deuteronomy 34:7-8 And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated. And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab _____ days: so the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.

The Israelites deeply mourned for their departed leader, and thirty days were devoted to special services in honor of his memory. Never till he was taken from them had they so fully realized the value of his wise counsel, his parental tenderness, and his unswerving faith. With a new and deeper appreciation, they recalled the precious lessons he had given while still with them.

2) What promise does God give to those who live Godly lives?
   Psalm 112:6 Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting _____.

As the glow of the descending sun lights up the mountain peaks long after the sun itself has sunk behind the hills, so the works of the pure, the holy, and the good, shed light upon the world long after the actors themselves have passed away. Their works, their words, their example, will forever live.

3) To whom did God speak to next?
   Joshua 1:1-2 Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto _____ the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now therefore _____, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

Courageous, resolute, and persevering, prompt, incorruptible, unmindful of selfish interests in his care for those committed to his charge, and, above all, inspired by a living faith in God, such was the character of the man divinely chosen to conduct the armies of Israel in their entrance upon the Promised Land. During the sojourn in the wilderness, he had acted as prime minister to Moses, and by his quiet, unpretending fidelity, his steadfastness when others wavered, his firmness to maintain the truth in the midst of danger, he had given evidence of his fitness to succeed Moses, even before he was called to the position by the voice of God.

4) What encouragement did God give to Joshua?
   Joshua 1:5-6 There shall not _____ man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not _____ thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.
5) What territory was for them to take?
   Joshua 1:4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river _____, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

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It was with great anxiety and self-distrust that Joshua had looked forward to the work before him; but his fears were removed by the assurance of God.

6) What was required of him?
Joshua 1:7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: _____ _____ from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.
Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not _____ out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.
7) What was Joshua's first command?
Joshua 1:11 Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, _____ you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to _____ the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.

No instruction was given as to the way in which they were to make the passage. Joshua knew, however, that whatever God should command, He would make a way for His people to perform, and in this faith the intrepid leader at once began his arrangements for an advance

8) What did he do in advance of their movement?
Joshua 2:1 And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go _____ the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there.

A few miles beyond the river, just opposite the place where the Israelites were encamped, was the large and strongly fortified city of Jericho. This city was virtually the key to the whole country, and it would present a formidable obstacle to the success of Israel. Joshua therefore sent two young men as spies to visit this city and ascertain something as to its population, its resources, and the strength of its fortifications. The inhabitants of the city, terrified and suspicious, were constantly on the alert, and the messengers were in great danger.

9) Did Rahab betray them when the soldiers came looking for them?
Joshua 2:4 And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I _____ _____ whence they were:
10) What did she tell the Israeli Spies?
Joshua 2:9 And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your _____ is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.
11) What covenant did she make with them?
Joshua 2:12-13 Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's _____, and give me a true token: And that ye will _____ alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.

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12) What did the spies tell her to do in order to be saved?
Joshua 2:18-19 Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of _____ _____ in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee. And it shall be, that whosoever shall go _____ of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him.

13) Did the spies give a good report?
Joshua 2:24 And they said unto Joshua, Truly the LORD hath _____ into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.

Orders were now issued to make ready for an advance. The people were to prepare a three days' supply of food, and the army was to be put in readiness for battle. All heartily acquiesced in the plans of their leader and assured him of their confidence and support.

14) Who was in charge of the invasion?
Joshua 3:6-7 And 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, and went before the people. And the _____ said unto Joshua, This day will _____ begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee.

15) They needed to cross the Jordan river, would that be easy?
Joshua 3:13 And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the _____ of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the _____ of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap.

At this time of the year—in the spring season—the melting snows of the mountains had so raised the Jordan that the river overflowed its banks, making it impossible to cross at the usual fording places. God willed that the passage of Israel over Jordan should be miraculous. Joshua, by divine direction, commanded the people to sanctify themselves; they must put away their sins and free themselves from all outward impurity; ***"for tomorrow,"*** he said, ***"the Lord will do wonders among you."***

The ***"ark of the covenant"*** was to lead the way before the host. When they should see the token of Jehovah's presence, borne by the priests, remove from its place in the center of the camp, and advance toward the river, then they were to remove from their place, ***"and go after it."***

At the divine command the priests advanced to the middle of the channel and stood there while the entire host descended and crossed to the farther side. Thus, was impressed upon the minds of all Israel the fact that the power that stayed the waters of Jordan was the same that had opened the Red Sea to their fathers forty years before.

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16) What did Joshua wish for future generations?
Joshua 4:24 That all the people of the earth might know the _____ of the LORD, that it is _____: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever.

The influence of this miracle, both upon the Hebrews and upon their enemies, was of great importance. It was an assurance to Israel of God's continued presence and protection, an evidence that He would work for them through Joshua as He had wrought through Moses.

17) Did the word get out?
Joshua 5:1 And it came to pass, when all the _____ of the Amorites, which were on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which were by the sea, heard that the LORD had _____ _____ the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we were passed over, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel.
18) What was the first order of business now they were in their inheritance?
Joshua 5:2 At that time the LORD said unto Joshua, Make thee sharp knives, and _____ again the children of Israel the second time.
Joshua 5:10 And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.

The suspension of the rite of circumcision since the rebellion at Kadesh had been a constant witness to Israel that their covenant with God, of which it was the appointed symbol, had been broken. And the discontinuance of the Passover, the memorial of their deliverance from Egypt, had been an evidence of the Lord's displeasure at their desire to return to the land of bondage. Now, however, the years of rejection were ended. Once more God acknowledged Israel as His people, and the sign of the covenant was restored.

19) What other notable thing happened with them?
Joshua 5:12 And the _____ ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of _____ that year.

The long years of their desert wanderings were ended. The feet of Israel were at last treading the Promised Land.

Can you see what a godly man can do?

Would you like to enter the final Promised Land?

When is it time to humbly seek God's will?

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