

## **A The Crossing of the Jordan (Joshua 3):**

### ❖ **Need for holiness**

- For 40 years, the cloud had signaled the time to break camp and set out, and the ark guided Israel to its new destination (Num. 9:17; 10:33).
- The time had come to move. They broke camp at Shittim and encamped for three days across the Jordan. Then they received the order to follow the ark into the Promised Land (Josh. 3:1-3).
- Following the ark involved
  - (1) Obey God (The 10 Commandments)
  - (2) Trusting in God's care (the vessel with manna)
  - (3) Respect the leaders appointed by God (Aaron's rod)
- But there was a prerequisite: they had to be sanctified (Josh. 3:5). This consecration involved ceremonial purification (washing clothes and body), forsaking sin, and having a receptive attitude toward obeying God's commands.

### ❖ **The wonders of God**

- God is “Who only does wondrous things” (Ps. 72:18). Therefore, we recognize him as the One God (Ps. 86:10); we remember his wonders (Ps. 77:11); and we recount his amazing deeds (Ps. 96:3).
- Nothing is too difficult or too wonderful for Him, who created all things (Jer. 32:17; Luke 1:37). So we can trust that He can also work wonders in our lives (Ps. 107:8).
- The crossing of the Jordan is one of God's wonders, which prophetically points to another of the great wonders that God has promised to perform in us: entry into the heavenly Canaan (Zech. 8:6-8).

## **B Remember and forget (Joshua 4):**

### ❖ **Signs for remembrance**

- In the Bible, a sign can have several meanings: a miraculous act (1 Kings 13:3); a symbol of something (Gen. 9:13); a warning mark (Ex. 12:13); a distinguishing mark (Ezek. 20:20); a memorial (Gen. 28:18).
- The 12 stones taken from the Jordan that Joshua set up as a sign belong to the latter type: a memorial.
- Beyond the memory itself, what was the objective that God had in mind when asking for these stones to be erected (Josh. 4:6-7)?
- The new generations had to know what God had done. Their faith had to be based on the wonders of God. It was the responsibility of parents to pass this knowledge on to their children (Deut. 4:9). With this knowledge, each of us must live by our own faith.

### ❖ **The dangers of forgetting**

- In setting up the 12 memorial stones at Gilgal, Joshua emphasized two points (Josh. 4:23):
  - (1) God dried up the Red Sea before us (Joshua, Caleb, and the few who were still alive from the generation that came out of Egypt)
  - (2) God dried up the Jordan River before you (the new generation born in the desert, and destined to conquer Canaan)
- The new generation was in danger of making the same mistake as their parents: forgetting God's mighty deeds. Unfortunately, they forgot, and they paid the consequences (Judg. 3:7-8).
- How important it is, then, that we keep fresh in our minds how God has cared for our ancestors, and the moments when we have seen with our own eyes the mighty hand of God!

## **C Jordan River Milestones**

- ❖ The crossing of the Red Sea and the Jordan are two historical events that have become intertwined as milestones in the history of redemption (Ps. 66:6; Ps. 114). Together, they mark our liberation from sin and our access to eternal life.
- ❖ Miraculously crossing the Jordan River and being brought into the very presence of God was a reality for Elijah (2 Kings 2:1, 7, 8, 11).
- ❖ For Elisha, however, the same event was a sign of the reception of the Holy Spirit, which enabled him to fulfill his mission (2 Kings 2:14-15).
- ❖ Entering the waters of the Jordan had the same effect on Jesus, who was empowered by the Holy Spirit to fulfill his mission: to free us from sin and give us eternal life (Mark 1:9-11; John 1:29; 3:16).