

REMEMBERING THE LORD THAT BROUGHT YOU THROUGH **Joshua 3:1-4:24**

What will you choose to do when you are faced with new challenges in the days to come? Will you move forward in faithful obedience, or choose to focus on the impossibilities that stand in your way? Will you properly choose what to remember and what to forget, so that you can move forward in faith?

I. EVERY NEW DAY (NOT JUST NEW YEAR!) MAY BEGIN A JOURNEY TO PLACES YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN BEFORE. KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE LORD JESUS AND FOLLOW HIM WHEREVER HE LEADS YOU. (Joshua 3:1-6)

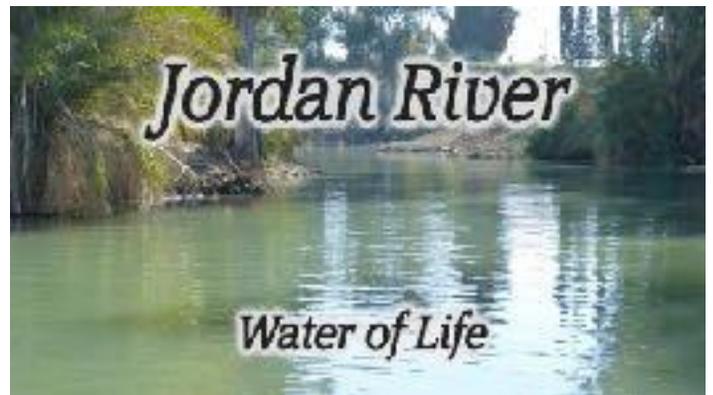
- A.** Moving forward often involves time of sitting still and getting prepared for the next steps. Discipline yourself to be ready to move whenever the Lord shows the way.
- B.** The Ark of the Covenant represented God's presence and words to obey and follow. The distance was to allow the people to see where they were to go. Stay focused in 2018!
- C.** Sanctification is a non-negotiable part of our lives with Christ, and without it we will miss seeing what God really wants to do in our lives. Commitment comes before clarity. You have to be in the right places to see the right things!

II. LEADERS HAVE TO BE THE FIRST ONES TO TAKE THE RISKS. ARE YOU WILLING TO HAVE "WET FEET" WHEN OTHERS HAVE "COLD FEET"? (Joshua 3:7-17)

A. The same Lord that was with Moses reminded Joshua that He would likewise be with him to equip him for his God-given assignment. Do you believe He will do the same for you? (*Joshua 3:7*)

B. Leaders have to discern God's voice, model obedience, and guide others as they follow the Lord. God may lead you into difficult situations, in order to show Himself strong and break you of self-reliance. Are you standing by the water when He has told you to step into it?? (*Joshua 3:8-13*)

C. The Lord has already prepared to "part the waters" whenever we are ready to move forward in faithful obedience. The waters were being blocked off far upstream, beyond where the Israelites could see what was happening. There are many ways God could have done it (earthquake, landslides) but what matters is only He could have done it! (*Joshua 3:14-17*)



III. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE TANGIBLE WAYS OF REMEMBERING WHAT THE LORD HAS BROUGHT YOU THROUGH. DO NOT FORGET HIS POWER WHEN CONFRONTED WITH PROBLEMS. (Joshua 4:1-24)

A. Remind yourself of what the Lord has brought you through, what needs to be buried and forgotten, and that you must never go back to your old lifestyle! (*Joshua 4:1-9*)

B. There will often be what seems like an impossibility between you and the “Promised Land” you want to reach. Keep your eyes on the Lord, and you will arrive at every place He has prepared for you. (*Joshua 4:10-14*)

C. The priests had to stay in the riverbed until all the miracles and memorials were completed. We can stand by faith on dry ground when we should be sinking in mud if we are willing to trust the God of the impossible. (*Joshua 4:15-24*)

“NOT THAT I HAVE ALREADY ATTAINED, OR AM ALREADY PERFECTED; BUT I PRESS ON, THAT I MAY LAY HOLD OF THAT FOR WHICH CHRIST JESUS HAS ALSO LAID HOLD OF ME. BRETHREN, I DO NOT COUNT MYSELF TO HAVE APPREHENDED; BUT ONE THING I DO, FORGETTING THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND AND REACHING FORWARD TO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE AHEAD, I PRESS TOWARD THE GOAL FOR THE PRIZE OF THE UPWARD CALL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS.” (*Philippians 3:12-14*)

WILL YOU KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE LORD JESUS THIS YEAR, AND FOLLOW HIM WHEREVER HE LEADS YOU?

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BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

- 1. What was the greatest spiritual lesson you learned in 2017? What “tests” did you pass or ace, and which ones do you know you should have handled better?**
- 2. Share something with the class that you believe the Lord wants you to do in the days to come during this year. Are you willing to be held accountable by your brothers and sisters in Christ?**