

Joshua 3-4 - Crossing the Jordan

“For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over...so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever.”

Following God's Direction (3:1-4)

“As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God...follow it.” - Joshua 3:3

- The Ark represented God's presence and contained His word. - Deut 10:5; Ex 25:21-22
- Israel needs the LORD to lead for they “have not passed this way before.”
- Is your current season or situation one that feels overwhelming or daunting because you “have not passed this way before?”

Preparing for God's Work (3:5-6)

“Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” - Joshua 3:5

- Consecrate (sanctify) - devote or set apart in worship or service to God.
- We have seen this pattern before when God is about to move in a mighty way - Ex 19:10
- How often do we overlook God's work or are underwhelmed by it because we have not prepared, expected, or anticipated his working?

Receiving God's Promises (3:7-13)

“The Lord said to Joshua...And Joshua said to the people of Israel” - Joshua 3:7,10

- The LORD promised ...
 - to exalt Joshua and authenticate him as his chosen servant (new Moses).
 - to be with them (“the living God is among you”)
 - to drive out the nations before them.
 - the waters will be cut off from flowing when the priests stand still in the Jordan

Standing on God's Promises (3:14-17)

“Now the priests...stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan...” - Joshua 4:17

- Crossing the Jordan was no small feat (overflows it's banks during harvest)
- The waters were cutoff after the priests stepped into the river.
- Do not grow weary of persisting in God's promise.

Remembering God's Promises (4:1-10)

“So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever.” - Joshua 4:9

- Israel was prone to forget (Ex 16). We are prone to forget.
- We are instructed to remember and proclaim to others the mighty works of the LORD.
- “Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children.” - Deut 4:9

Words of the LORD Prove True (4:11-24)

For the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over...” - Joshua 4:23

- “On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel, and they stood in awe of him just as they had stood in awe of Moses.”
- The LORD brought Israel out of Egypt with the parting of the Red Sea, and he brought Israel into the promised land with the crossing of the Jordan.
- “God has the same power to finish the salvation of his people as to begin it.” - Matthew Henry

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

Samuel Stennett (1792)

1 On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,
and cast a wishful eye
to Canaan's fair and happy land,
where my possessions lie.

Refrain:

*I am bound for the promised land,
I am bound for the promised land;
oh, who will come and go with me?
I am bound for the promised land.*

2 O'er all those wide extended plains
shines one eternal day;
there God the Son forever reigns,
and scatters night away. [Refrain]

3 No chilling winds or poisonous breath
can reach that healthful shore;
sickness and sorrow, pain and death,
are felt and feared no more. [Refrain]

4 When I shall reach that happy place,
I'll be forever blest,
for I shall see my Father's face,
and in his bosom rest. [Refrain]

Every Promise

Stuart Townend (2005)

From the breaking of the dawn
To the setting of the sun,
I will stand on every promise of Your word.

Words of power, strong to save,
That will never pass away,
I will stand on every promise of Your word.

For Your covenant is sure,
And on this I am secure,
I can stand on every promise of Your word.

When I stumble and I sin,
Condemnation pressing in,
I will stand on every promise of Your word.

You are faithful to forgive,
That in freedom I might live,
So I stand on every promise of Your word.

Guilt to innocence restored:
You remember sins no more!
So I'll stand on every promise of Your word.

When I'm faced with anguished choice,
I will listen for Your voice,
And I'll stand on every promise of Your word.

Through this dark and troubled land
You will guide me with your hand
As I stand on every promise of Your word.

And you've promised to complete
Every work begun in me,
So I'll stand on every promise of Your word.

Hope that lifts me from despair,
Love that casts out every fear,
As I stand on every promise of Your word.

Not forsaken, not alone,
For the Comforter has come,
And I stand on every promise of Your word.

Grace sufficient, grace for me,
Grace for all who will believe,
We will stand on every promise of Your word.