

2

The report of the 2 spies:

“Surely the LORD has given all the land into our hands; moreover, all the inhabitants of the land have melted away before us.” Joshua 2:24

3

Joshua 3:5 “Consecrate yourselves”

Ex 19:10-10 “...Go to the people and **consecrate them**...let them wash their garments; and let them be ready for the third day, for on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.”

4

The Lord’s encouragement to Joshua:

Joshua 3:7 “This day I will begin to *exalt you* in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you.”

5

Joshua’s message to the people:

Joshua 3:10 “...By this you shall know that the living God is among you....”

6

Joshua 3:11 “Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over ahead of you into the Jordan.”

“Behold” = a strong word to call attention

Literal translation:

v.11: “the ark of the covenant, the Lord....”

v.14 “the ark, the covenant”

v.17 “the ark, the covenant of the Lord”

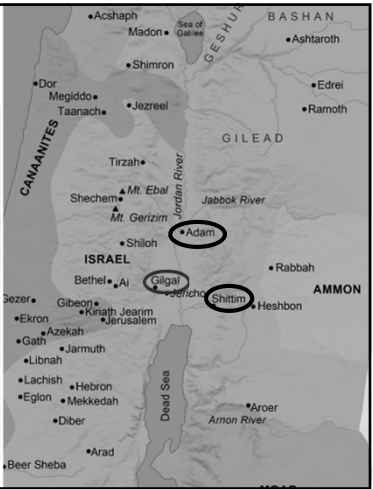
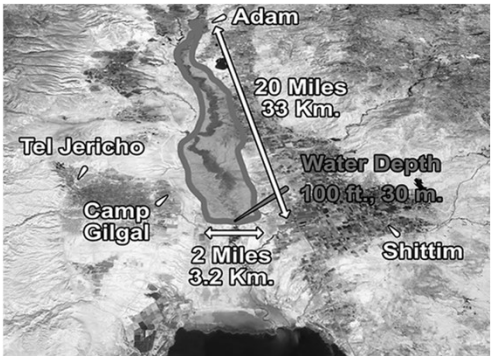
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Joshua 3:14-16 = one sentence

- V.14-15 = all subordinate clauses beginning with “when”
 - “when the people set out...,”
 - “when those who carried the ark came...,”
- V.16 = subject and verbs of the sentence
 - “the waters...stood *and* rose....”
- Similar descriptions of the Red Sea:
 - Ex 14:22 “the waters like a wall”
 - Ex 15:8 “the waters were piled up...stood up in a heap...were congealed....”
 - Ps 78:13 “the waters stand up like a heap.”

8

The Jordan at Flood Stage:



9

The Jordan at Flood Stage:

Psalm 114:3 “The sea looked and fled; the Jordan turned back....What ails you, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?”



10

Joshua 4:1-3: the twelve chosen men

- He could have just selected Caleb and Joshua do this; or the two recent spies
- 12 men represented all of Israel, all 12 tribes.
- Would have brought healing & closure to the incident of the 12 spies
- Would be both a national and spiritual victory

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Joshua 4:6 “What do these stones mean to you?”

- conveys a *personal emphasis*, not just a knowledge of history.
- would not only teach the children but *would be a reminder to the parents* when they were asked!

12

Why would Joshua set up a 2nd memorial in the river?

1. Even though it would not be visible at flood stage, it would be visible when the river was low. Other examples of underwater memorials:
 - a. Stones in rivers in Europe to signal a drought, engraved: “When you read this weep.”
 - b. John Pennekamp Park in the Florida Keys
 - c. Memorial at Pearl Harbor (USS Arizona)

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Why would Joshua set up a 2nd memorial in the river?

1. Even though it would not be visible at flood stage, it would be visible when the river was low.
2. Even if God had not commanded it, He did not forbid it. Others did the same:
 - a. Jacob at Bethel, Gen 28:18-22b.
 - b. Joshua's stone under the oak by the sanctuary, Josh 24:26-27
 - c. Samuel's memorial stone named Ebenezer, I Sam 7:12

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Why would Joshua set up a 2nd memorial in the river?

3. Cohen: "The memorial in Gilgal necessitated this other. The former raised the questions which the latter answered....When the children heard the wondrous story, they naturally asked where the crossing was made, and here was the answer which showed them the very spot on which the feet of those who carried the ark stood."

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Why would Joshua set up a 2nd memorial in the river?

4. It was a personal expression of both worship and victory for Joshua himself.
 - a. Joshua had suffered for 40 years along with the others.
 - b. The Lord had given Joshua personal assurance through the 2 spies that they would be victorious. Now God was giving him the same position of esteem that Moses had.
5. It was "for the priests" (v.10), to commemorate their role in "standing [firm] in the middle of the Jordan until everything was completed that the Lord commanded..."

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Ex 14:31 "When Israel saw the great power which the LORD had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses."

Josh 4:14 "On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; so that they revered him, just as they had revered Moses all the days of his life."

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Josh 4:20-24 = the purpose for the memorials:

- V.22-23 to teach their children how the Lord had worked in their history
- V.24 to show all the people of the earth the power of the Lord, and so that they would fear the Lord forever.
- Joshua 5:1 “all the kings of the Amorites...and all the kings of the Canaanites...heard...their hearts melted...there was no spirit in them any longer....”
- Fulfilled Ex 23:27 “I will send My terror ahead of you, and throw into confusion all the people among whom you come....”

18

Lessons from Joshua 3-4:

1. God will sometimes bring us to a place where, humanly speaking, the barriers seem impossible. We still need to trust Him and obey.
2. The way the Israelites were to treat the Ark (the symbol of God's presence) should teach us something about the holiness of God.
3. The instruction for Israel to consecrate themselves teaches me that my heart needs to be right with the Lord before He will work on my behalf.

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Lessons from Joshua 3-4:

4. The memorial stones should cause us to ask:
 - a. What memorials have I set up as a testimony of God's working in my life?
 - b. Am I taking advantage of teachable moments with my children?
 - c. Does the world see anything in my life that would cause them to want to know more about God?

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