

Crossing the Jordan

1 Then Joshua rose early in the morning and departed from Acacia Grove; and he came to the Jordan and lodged there before crossing over. **2** After three days, it came to pass that the scribes went through the camp **3** and commanded the people, saying, “When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord our God, and our priests and Levites who carry it, then you shall depart from your places; and you shall go after it; **4** but there shall be a distance between you and it. You shall stand as much as two thousand cubits from it, and do not come near it, that you may understand the way you are to go; for you have not gone this way before.” **5** Joshua then said to the people, “Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” **6** Joshua also said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and go before the people.” So the priests took up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and went before the people. **7** Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I shall begin to exalt you in the sight of all the children of Israel, so they will know that I shall be with you as I was with Moses. **8** Therefore now, command the priests who carry the ark of the covenant, saying, ‘As soon as you enter a part of the water of the Jordan, then you shall stand in the Jordan.’” **9** Joshua then said to the children of Israel, “Come here and hear the word of the Lord our God. **10** Hereby you shall know that the living God is among you and will utterly destroy before our face the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, the Amorites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites. **11** Behold the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing the Jordan. **12** Choose for yourselves twelve men from the sons of Israel, one from each tribe. **13** Then it shall come to pass that when the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth rest in the water of the Jordan, the water of the Jordan will cease to flow, for the upstream water will stand still.” **14** So the people left their tents to cross over the Jordan, and the priests carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord before the people. **15** Now when the priests who carried the ark of the covenant came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord dipped in part of the water of the Jordan (now the Jordan overflowed all its banks about the time of wheat harvest), **16** then the upstream waters stopped flowing downstream, and a solid wall of water formed over a very great distance, as far as the region of Adam. The lower part came down to the Sea of Araba, the Salt Sea, until it came to a complete stop; and the people stood opposite Jericho. **17** So the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all the children of Israel crossed on dry ground, until all the people crossed the Jordan.

Joshua 4

Memorial Stones

1 Now when all the people finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying, **2** “Take men from the people, one from each tribe, **3** and command them, saying, ‘Take twelve prepared stones from the midst of the Jordan and carry these together camp tonight.’” **4** So among the sons of Israel, Joshua called twelve men of high repute, one from each tribe. **5** He said to them, “Draw near in front of me in the Lord’s presence into the midst of the Jordan, and let each take up a stone and carry it on his shoulders, according to the number of the twelve tribes of Israel, **6** so these might be an appointed sign for you continually, that when your son asks you tomorrow, saying, ‘What are these stones to you?’ **7** then you will declare to your son, saying, ‘The Jordan River

dried up before the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth when it crossed over'; and these stones shall be a memorial for you, for the sons of Israel forever." **8** So the sons of Israel did as the Lord commanded Joshua; and they took twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the Lord directed Joshua, when the children of Israel had completely crossed over, and carried these stones with them into the encampment and set them there. **9** Then Joshua also set another twelve stones in the Jordan itself, in the place walked on by the feet of the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord. They are there to this day. **10** The priests who carried the ark of the covenant stood in the Jordan until Joshua had completed all the Lord commanded him to proclaim to the people; and the people hastened and crossed over. **11** Then it came to pass, when all the people finished crossing over, that the ark of the covenant of the Lord crossed over, and the stones before them. **12** The sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh also crossed over, well-armed before the sons of Israel, as Moses commanded them. **13** Forty thousand men armed for war crossed before the Lord for battle against the city of Jericho. **14** On that day, the Lord magnified Joshua before all the nation of Israel, and they feared him as long as he lived, as they did Moses. **15** Then the Lord spoke to Joshua saying, **16** "Command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant of the testimony of the Lord to come up from the Jordan." **17** So Joshua commanded the priests, saying, "Go out from the Jordan." **18** Then it came to pass, when the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stepped out from the Jordan and set their feet on land, the water of the Jordan returned to its place, and went as before over all its banks. **19** Now the people went up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and the children of Israel camped at Gilgal in the region eastward from Jericho. **20** Then Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones he took from the Jordan, **21** saying, "When your children ask you, 'What are these stones?' **22** then tell your children that Israel crossed the Jordan on dry land; **23** that the Lord our God dried up the water of the Jordan from before them until they all crossed over, as the Lord our God did to the Red Sea, which the Lord our God dried up before us until we crossed over; **24** that all the nations of the land might know that the power of the Lord is mighty; and that you might worship the Lord your God in every age."