



Sunday, September 29, 2019
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Joshua 3 & 4

We live in such a visual culture that it can be difficult to picture in our mind's eye the great and glorious things that God has done (Josh. 3:5). When we read the pages of Scripture, we often skip over details that are quite remarkable. There are many things in these chapters that fit that description. In the immediate context of this story, it is amazing that God parts the waters of the Jordan River so that the people can walk across on dry land. But perhaps it is even more amazing that, in this passage, God begins the fulfillment of promises He made hundreds of years before.

In Genesis 12:7, after Abraham had settled in the land of Canaan, God told him, "To your offspring, I will give this land." Now, so many generations later, so many miles of travel from Canaan to Egypt and back, God is finally bringing His people into the Promised Land. This should put us in awe of God. He never left His people, He has been with them every step of the way during their wandering in the desert. Now He brings about the fulfillment of His promise. The memorial stones, then, serve to remind the nation of Israel (and us) that God does miraculous things and He fulfills His promises, even if not on our timetable. Surely, if God promises to be with us every step of our lives and bring us safely into His heavenly kingdom, then we can trust Him!

Context

As Pastor Don noted, Joshua chapters 3 and 4 go together. As is often the case in biblical narratives, there is repetition as the LORD gives instructions, the people follow, and then the action is recounted or explained. This is to demonstrate that when God's people obey God's word, things go well for us! This will become even more apparent as the people prepare for, then execute, the "assault" on Jericho. God explains, then the people obey exactly as He has commanded.

Read and Reflect (Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)

Read Joshua 3:1-4:24

“The Crossing”

The ARK

- The *presence* of God (3:2)
- The *guidance* of God (3:4)
- The *holiness* of God (3:4)

The RIVER

- Faith must follow (3:8)
- Faith is based on the word of God (3:9)
- The word is based on the character of God (3:4)

The STONES

- Stones of memorial—remember (4:6)
- Stones for us and for our children (4:6-7)
- Stones tell us God can do anything (4:24)
- Stones remind us to fear Him (4:24)

Discuss

- 1) What is an example of something that has happened in your life that has tested your faith?

- 2) In what ways has God reassured you of His presence?

- 3) In the absence of the Ark of the Covenant, how does God guide His people today? How have you seen this play out in your own life as you seek to follow Him?

- 4) When you think of the holiness of God, what comes to mind?

- 5) What kinds of memorials do you have in your life to remind you of God's faithfulness? How often do you "visit" them?