

20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 45 (October 30-November 5, 2016)

This week, we will continue to study the life of Joshua as he leads the Israelites into the Promised Land.

Sunday, October 30 (read Joshua 3:1-8)

And the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses." (Joshua 3:7)

The spies who were sent out to explore the land of Canaan return with a glowing report (2:24), so Joshua prepares his people to move forward toward the Promised Land (v. 1-4). Don't miss the fact that they waited by the Jordan River for **three days**, another hidden reference to the distance from the cross to the empty tomb. The priests who have been anointed to lead the people in spiritual matters march out first, carrying the ark containing the Ten Commandments. It is a current reminder that we are to follow the Word of God and listen to those who have been called to teach it. Joshua will be exalted before the people and God will be with him in the same way He was with Moses (v. 7). In the devotions ahead, we will see the leadership skills the Lord has given Joshua.

Monday, October 31 (read Joshua 3:9-17)

So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. (Joshua 3:14)

Anyone who is chosen to lead God's people must be sure that the emphasis remains on the **Word of God**, not on the man of God. Joshua assures victory to the Israelites if they will believe and follow God's Word (v. 9-11). The same assurance is true for you today! God's chosen leader commands them to choose one man from each of the twelve tribes to march on ahead of them to the Jordan River. He confidently states that the waters of the flooded river will roll back just like the waters of the Red Sea had obeyed the voice of God earlier in their journey (v. 13-15). The entire nation of Israel passes through the dried up Jordan River and marches into the Promised Land while the priests stand in the middle of the river (v. 16-17). Even today, God promises to give us victory as we march in obedience to His Word (1:3).

Tuesday, November 1 (read Joshua 4:1-7)

"In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord." (Joshua 4:6b-7a)

I pray that you, like Joshua, are leaving a memorial for those who follow you. Personally, my devotions will live on after my body is placed in the ground. If the rapture occurs first, I will have left a roadmap to Heaven for those who are going through the tribulation. Your children are sure to ask about the markers you are leaving behind (v. 6). What are you prepared to tell them now? What evidence is there that you believe and follow the entire Word of God? Are you spending too much time trying to leave them a financial portfolio, which will be exhausted in no time? Pledge today to place a memorial before your children that will last forever. Make sure that those who follow know how much you trust the Word of God!

Wednesday, November 2 (Joshua 4:8-14)

That day the Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they revered him all the days of his life, just as they had revered Moses. (Joshua 4:14)

The Israelites obey the command that God gave to Joshua and set up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan as a permanent memorial to this crucial day (v. 8-9). Do you remember the day when you “crossed over the Jordan” into eternal life through Jesus Christ? Are you living in such a way that those who know you are aware of your life-changing decision? If so, you already know that there are still victories to be won on the other side of the Jordan. There is still much territory that you have not yet conquered. Like the men of Israel, go over to the other side prepared to do battle with the enemy (v. 10-13). As you follow God’s Word on your journey to the Promised Land, you will also have respect for those who lead you into battle (v. 14).

Thursday, November 3 (read Joshua 4:15-24)

He said to the Israelites, “In the future when your descendants ask their fathers, ‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’”

Following God’s command, Joshua tells the priests who are carrying the ark to come up out of the water. Immediately, the Jordan River returns to flood stage, just like it was before the Israelites marched through (v. 15-18). Joshua tells the Israelites that someday their children will ask about the significance of the memorials. When **your** children ask about the landmarks in your life, I pray that you are ready to tell them of your salvation experience as well as your continuing life lived out under the Lordship of Jesus Christ (v. 19-23). The whole world needs to know “that the hand of the Lord is powerful” (v. 24), because your kids are growing up in a society that has rejected the ways of God.

Friday, November 4 (read Joshua 5:1-12)

The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate of the produce of Canaan. (Joshua 5:12)

God has promised to supply all of our needs (Philippians 4:19), just as He did for the Israelites from the time they left Egypt until they arrived in the Promised Land. Once in the land of Canaan, they circumcise those who had been born in the desert during the past forty years (v. 3-9). This procedure pictures New Testament baptism, also an event to be done in obedience to God. They also celebrate Passover, an event that has been replaced by communion (v. 10; see 1 Corinthians 5:7). After that, they eat some of the produce in the land they just entered (v. 11). Because of this new supply of daily food, the manna they had eaten for forty years stops appearing on the ground (v. 12). The picture here is beautiful: 1) Repent, 2) Be baptized, and 3) Receive the Holy Spirit to supply your daily bread (see Acts 2:38). You can trust God completely! When He cuts off one source, He always adds another!

Saturday, November 5 (read Joshua 5:13-15)

The commander of the Lord’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so. (Joshua 5:15)

Today’s text tells of one of the Old Testament appearances of Jesus Christ. Joshua is nearing his destination (Jericho), when he encounters a man who has a drawn sword in His hand (v. 13). Joshua asks, “Are you for us or for our enemies?” The commander of the Lord’s army (Jesus) says, “Neither” (v. 14). Likewise, God is not on our side or on the side of our enemies. **He is a side all to Himself!** He invites us to be on His side, an act we accomplish by obedience and by worship (v. 14). The command to Joshua is the same as the command had been to Moses (Exodus 3:5), “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy” (v. 15). Never lose sight of the fact that the God of grace and mercy is also a holy God who hates sin! Come before Him in reverence and awe!