

BOOK OF JOSHUA  
GETTING OUR FEET WET  
JOSHUA 3:1-17

**Introduction**

***Read: vs 1-6***

The time had come for the **ISRAELITES** to cross over into the **PROMISED LAND**. As they made ready for the crossing, it was necessary for them to have a reminder of the **LORD'S PRESENCE** and **PROMISES** to look toward! They needed something to occupy their thoughts as they crossed over into a new land.

**If not:**

**Some might fix their sight on the PAST and want to REMAIN right where they were.**

**Others might FIX THEIR EYES on the RIVER and be AFRAID to cross over.**

**Still others might LOOK AT the UNKNOWN LAND on the other side and because of FEAR, turn back.**

**JOSHUA** told the people in *verse 3*, "*When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it.*"

We know there is a certain amount of **SECURITY** in the **PAST!** We know what has happened and we can cope with it because we've been there and done that!

However, when it comes to the **FUTURE**, **FEAR** can grip the heart because of the **UNKNOWN** and so some determine to live in the **PAST!**

But we aren't suppose to live life in the **PAST**, the **LORD** wants us to **PRESS FORWARD** in **OBEDIENCE** to **HIM!**

Joshua told the people there in *verse 5*, "*...To morrow the LORD will do wonders among you.*"

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The **LORD** has so much more for us in our today and in our tomorrows, than **HE** had for us in our yesterdays!

As **CHILDREN OF GOD**, our **PAST**, no matter how wonderful or blessed, cannot compare with our **FUTURE** in the **LORD!**

So the time had come for them to cross over, but it was humanly impossible for them to do it! They needed the **LORD GOD** to intervene!

The same is true for our lives as **BELIEVERS**. We must push forward to **VICTORY** in **CHRIST**, but as we do so **GOD** must intervene!

Let's consider and learn from this experience in the life of **GOD'S PEOPLE!**

Some **PREPARATION** was necessary for them to cross over into **VICTORY!**

**I. THE PEOPLE WERE FIRST SANCTIFIED! (Vs 1-6)**

**A. Sanctification = Holiness (Vs 5)**

1. Both of these words mean *to be set apart from something to something.*

Understand the **LORD** sanctified **HIS PEOPLE** first! **Leviticus 20:7-8**—*"7 Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God. 8 And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the LORD which sanctify you."*

2. In fact, they both carry a two-fold application. **To be set apart from sin and self purposes, and to be set apart unto the LORD GOD and HIS PURPOSES!**

It consists of **TURNING** our **HEARTS** to **GOD** in **FAITH** and **TRUSTING** in **HIS PROMISES**, and being **WILLINGLY OBEDIENT** to **HIS COMMANDMENTS!**

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The **CHILDREN OF ISRAEL** were to lay aside whatever else they had in mind to do and focus on the **LORD** and what **HE** was about to do both with them and through them.

3. So, understand that to be **SANCTIFIED** is to be **SET APART FROM SIN AND SELF FOR GOD'S SPECIAL PURPOSES!**

**B. JOSHUA Needed To Be SANCTIFIED!**

1. He rose up early in the morning. *(Vs 1)*
2. No doubt he took time to get alone with the **LORD** and talk with **HIM!**
3. It wasn't up to **JOSHUA** to try to figure out how they were going to get across the **JORDAN**.
4. The **LORD GOD** had commanded what they were to do and **HE** would provide a means for **ISRAEL** to accomplish **HIS WILL!**

**C. The CHILDREN OF ISRAEL Needed To Be SANCTIFIED!**

1. They were **COMMANDED** to keep their eyes upon the **ARK OF THE COVENANT!**
2. The **ARK OF THE COVENANT** was a reminder of **GOD'S PROMISES** and a symbol of **HIS MANIFEST PRESENCE!**

**D. WE Need To Be SANCTIFIED!**

We need to **SANCTIFY** ourselves to be used of **GOD!**

We need **TO BE SET APART FROM SIN AND SELFISH PURPOSES** and unto **GOD AND HIS PURPOSES!**

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We also need to fix our eyes upon the **LORD** as we do what **HE** has called us to do as **HIS CHILDREN** and remember **HIS PROMISES TO US! HE WILL NOT FAIL US!**

*THE PEOPLE WERE FIRST SANCTIFIED!*

**II. THE LORD WAS THEN GLORIFIED! (Vs 7-13)**

**A. The LORD Was IN CHARGE! (Vs 7)**

1. **GOD** gets the **GLORY** because **HE** alone is **ABLE** to accomplish anything, but **HE** uses individuals to carry out **HIS WILL**.
2. **GOD** has always had a **LEADER** whenever there was a job to do. **JOSHUA** was the **LEADER** that day.

**B. The LORD Laid Out The PLAN! (Vs 8)**

1. The **PRIESTS** were to bear the **ARK** to the edge of the **JORDAN RIVER!**
2. Then they were to **STEP INTO THE WATER** and **WAIT FOR GOD** to work a **MIRACLE!**
3. They had to **STEP OUT BY FAITH** before **GOD** would work the **MIRACLE!**
4. Every now and then we might hear of someone doing something big like giving millions of dollars to a **CHURCH** ministry with no strings attached.
5. But normally man gets the **GLORY** there.
6. **GOD** usually chooses to supply the needed finances by **HIS PEOPLE** simply **WALKING BY FAITH!**
7. Then **HE** gets **ALL THE GLORY!**

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C. **JOSHUA Delivered The MESSAGE! (Vs 9-13)**

1. **In verse 9, JOSHUA** didn't say, *"Listen to me because I am your leader."*
2. **GOD** had promised him that soon there would be no doubt in **ISRAEL'S** minds that **JOSHUA** was indeed **GOD'S MAN**.
3. **JOSHUA** simply said there in *verse 9, "Hear the words of the LORD your God."*
  - a. **It was a message of ENCOURAGEMENT!**  
*(Vs 10) "Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you..."*
  - b. **It was a message of CONFIDENCE!**  
*(Vs 10) "...that He will without fail drive out from before you..."*
  - c. **It was a message of VICTORY! (Vs 10)**  
*"...the Canaanites, and Hittites, and..."*
  - d. **It was a message of MIRACLES! (Vs 13)**  
*"...they (the waters) shall stand upon a heap."*

*THE PEOPLE WERE FIRST SANCTIFIED...  
THE LORD WAS THEN GLORIFIED.*

III. **THE WORD WAS THEN VERIFIED! (Vs 14-17)**

- A. **JOSHUA** was **OBEDIENT!**  
He delivered the **LORD'S MESSAGE!**
- B. **The PEOPLE** were **OBEDIENT! (Vs 14)**
- C. **The PRIESTS** were **OBEDIENT! (Vs 15)**
- D. **The LORD GOD** was **TRUE to HIS WORD! (Vs 16-17)**

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As the soles of their feet dipped into the water **GOD** stopped the flow of water and caused it to heap up and the **PRIESTS** stood on dry ground! Their feet touched the water, but by the time they touched the bottom they were on dry ground! All of the **ISRAELITES** passed over on dry ground!

**Conclusion**

Listen, we will never **WALK IN VICTORY** until we are **WILLING TO STEP OUT BY FAITH and get our feet wet!** We must be **WILLING TO STEP OUT BY FAITH and TRUST GOD TO DO THE REST!**

If we **HESITATE** or **BALK** at the **MESSAGE OF GOD...**if we **REFUSE** to **STEP OUT IN OBEDIENCE...**then we are **LIMITING THE BLESSINGS THAT GOD HAS FOR US!**

*James 1:22—"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."*

**GOD'S MAN** delivered **GOD'S MESSAGE** to **GOD'S PEOPLE!**

They **HEARD** and **OBEYED!** As a result they passed over into **VICTORY!**

Do we want **VICTORY** in our lives?

If so, then we must **SANCTIFY OURSELVES FROM SIN AND SELF AND UNTO GOD!**

Then, we must **LISTEN TO HIS WORD** and **BE OBEDIENT TO HIM!**

When we do that, not only is **GOD GLORIFIED**, but **HIS WORD** is **VERIFIED** in our lives. (*Romans 12:2— "...proving what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."*)