

# JOSHUA STUDY

## CHAPTER 3:1-13

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### THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

## Standing at the Edge

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### THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

Joshua 1:6

"Be strong and of good courage"

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As a child I used to love jumping off the roof of our house with G.I Joe's in hand "shouting Go, Go, Go, Go... then our turn came to jump with the squadron of soldiers... One of the most exhilarating sensations for me is to stand as close as I can to the edge of a cliff or bridge. The Goldengate bridge in San Fransico is awesome to stand on. The edge of the grand canyon is another thrill.

## "Standing at the Edge"

### The Individual - Rahab's Faith

Hebrews 11:31

By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

### The Individual - Joshua's Faith

Hebrews 11:34-35

out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle,  
turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

### The Nation - Israel's Faith

Hebrews 11:30

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days.

Rahab, Joshua as Individuals exhibited faith.

But now an entire nation is on the edge of displaying great faith...

## Jesus' Stressed the Importance of Having Faith

Luke 18:8

...Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes back, will He really find faith on the earth?"

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

There is something about faith that either causes us to consider such actions as suicidal and totally impossible or a challenging exercise in what God has said He would do for those who trust in Him...

Exodus 14:13-16

13 And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. 14 "The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." 15 And the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. 16 "But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

## “Standing at the Edge”

Mark 4:35-40

35 On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us **cross over** to the other side."  
36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. 37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. 38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" 39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. 40 But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith? didn't I say back in verse 35 "Let us **cross over** to the other side. I did not say let us go under"

God was now desiring to put into action,  
what was learned in the wilderness - it was time to apply what you know.

The faithfulness of God was to be remembered.

Joshua had been encouraged by God Himself, then by the people, then the spies.

The people had professed to believe in God

they had even seen His divine hand of provision and protection. It was now time for them the act upon their faith.

For over forty years these people had heard

about this moment. They had talked about it all the while. They had thought often of this coming event and now it was before them

## Standing at the Edge

### 1.) The Officers Message to all the People

vv. 1-4

Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and **lodged** there before they crossed over. 2 So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp; 3 and they commanded the people, saying, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it. 4 "Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before.

### a.) A Call to the People, Let's Go

v.1

Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over.

There is a lot to be said about rising early to seek God personally, I do not think that a Christian can have a peaceful, faithful and fruitful existence without rising early...

Joshua 7:16 & 8:10  
say that Joshua arose early in the morning

Moses in Exodus 24:4 / David in Psalm 57:8 / Jesus Himself Mark 1:35

Psalm 63:1

O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.

## Verse 1

out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over

((About a 10 mile walk))

## Imagine the View from Jericho - The Fear that Surrounded Them

## Verse 2-3

So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp; 3 and they commanded the people, saying, "When you see **the ark of the covenant** of the LORD your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it

The Ark;

it was, by all intents and purposes, the earthly throne of God

Exodus 25:22

"And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.

It would have been an Awesome  
Sight to Behold

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the ark, having inside it  
the ten Commandments, the Manna, and Aarons staff that budded

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God is here saying,  
“I’ll go first”

The Ark Represented His Presence

God had told Moses

Exodus 33:14

"My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

The 12 Tribes, in their assigned positions,  
had Come to the place that they were now

“Standing at the Edge”

Verse 3

then you shall set out from your place and go after it

and why not

the ark was his throne, it was a place of forgiveness, mercy, worship  
the mercy seat was the place where each man’s failure at perfection was reconciled through  
the blood of a lamb that had been offered in the sinners place...

Because Jesus was Our Offering

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help  
in time of need.

go after Him

Perhaps in Your Life you’ve suffered from disappointment even disillusionment.  
Questioning and wondering why...

the Lord has gone before you and is waiting even now  
the Lord has gone before you and is waiting even now  
the Lord has gone before you and is waiting even now  
the Lord has gone before you and is waiting even now

## Verse 4

"Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure.  
Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, **for you have not passed this way before.**

A distance of separation of about 3,000 ft. Was to be maintained  
so that all could keep it in their sights and not get lost

**(you can get lost in a crowd - easy!)**

it's the easiest to get lost in a crowd  
when things are moving fast. when things are noisy and loud. when  
things are all around you

## Jesus Warned

Mark 4:19

"watch out for the cares of this world, like the misleading promises of riches, and the desire for things  
which entering in to the heart and choke the word of God,  
so that that person has no eternal fruit and their lives become meaningless

**(you can get lost without reverence too)**

## Verse 4

for you have not passed this way before

the people didn't have a clue  
as to *where they were going*

## All Covert

God is Going to Tell Joshua in Verse 8  
Joshua is Going to Tell the People

Verse 3 + Verse 11 = We're Crossing !

### Example of This in Our Lives...

Matthew 28:19-20

19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;

### ??? Great! - I'd Love to Do It, But How ???

Acts 1:8

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

### An Example in Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3

1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

### But God, Where are we Going ?

Hebrews 11:8

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

## Standing at the Edge

2.) Joshua's Message to all the People

vv. 5

"And Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you."

# An 'Order' and A 'Promise'

Verse 5a

"Sanctify yourselves

- \* "Sanctify heb. 6942 qadash (kaw-dash');  
to dedicate ones self, to decide to separate. To be set  
apart personally.

## sanctification

### To Wash or Be Washed

to be bathed fully, to be completely emersed

Water was rare and precious in the lands of the Bible  
water was reserved for special events

### Washing Symbolized

a new beginning, to start again

#### God Had Jacob take a Bath

Genesis 35:1-3

1 Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother." 2 And Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments. 3 "Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way which I have gone."

#### God Had David take a Bath

2 Samuel 12:20

20 So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate.



## The Bible Teaches that:

- a.) we **have been** sanctified by God according to His perspective
- b.) we **are currently being** sanctified as we mature in Christ Jesus
- c.) we **shall be ultimately** sanctified in the moment of our death

## Standing at the Edge

Hebrews 10:22

let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Revelation 1:5

...It is Jesus "who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

## A Stern Warning

Hebrews 3:7-12

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My works forty years. 10 Therefore I was angry with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways.' 11 So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.' " 12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

Hebrews 12:12-15

12 Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. 13 "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. 14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows

### Verse 5b

for **tomorrow** the LORD will do wonders among you."

### Verse 2

**So it was, after three days**

# The Fourth Day came after the Third...

Notice, It was on the Third Day  
that the people entered in Spiritually...

Jesus' Birth was Fantastic and Necessary  
Jesus' Life was Prophetic and Apocalyptic  
Jesus' Death was Required and essential

**But Jesus's Resurrection on the third day  
is What Guaranteed Our Salvation forever**

- Many Men had Died on the Cross of Rome
- Many Men had Died Proclaiming to be a Messiah
- But Only Jesus has the Bible written about Him
  - Only Jesus rose again from the dead  
...and it was on the third day!!!

Jude 1:1

Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and **preserved in** Jesus Christ:

Hebrews 10:10-13

10 By that will **we have been sanctified** through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

# On the Third Day, *We were Justified Forever*

Luke 24:45-46

And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. 46 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead **the third day,**

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again **the third day** according to the Scriptures,

Acts 10:40

Him God raised up **the third day**, and shewed him openly;

## The People were Commanded to be **Expectant** - God is about to do something awesome !

Hebrews 6:1-2

1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, 2 instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

## The God above all others

Daniel 4:3

How great are His signs, and how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion is from generation to generation.

## Standing at the Edge

3.) Joshua's Message to all the Priest

vv. 6

6 Then Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, "Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.

# The Office of a Priest

- they were to speak for God to the people
- they were to represent the people back to God
- they were to be examples of faith

We Can proclaim and witness about God's grace and holiness.

We can worship and praise Him for all His mighty works.

We can even preach the necessity of man to come to the cross,  
but until a man puts his faith in God alone, he's lost!

## Verse 6

Then Joshua spoke to the priests, saying,  
"Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people."

## Verse 6

So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people

No More Manna, No More Cloud, No More Pillar of Fire  
it was now the ark - Jesus

Exodus 33:8-10

8 So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle. 9 And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses. 10 All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door.

## 4.) The Lord's Message to all of Joshua

vv. 7-8

7 And the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. 8 "You shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, saying, "When you have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan, you shall stand in the Jordan."

a.) It is the Lord who Establishes the Authority & Calling v.7

And the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to **exalt** you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.

## This was Necessary

for what laid ahead of Israel was tremendous opposition and obstacles

### The People Had to Know that They had a Leader Called by God

Psalm 78:12-13

12 Marvelous things **He did** in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan. 13 **He** divided the sea and caused them to pass through; and **He** made the waters to stand high like a wall...

b.) It's the Lord who Led His People to the Promise v.8

"You shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, saying, "When you have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan, you shall stand in the Jordan."

### **JOSHUA IS CALLED TO COMMAND THE PEOPLE PUBLICLY WHAT GOD HAS DECREED TO HIM PRIVATELY**

## Standing at the Edge

Matthew 14:23-30

23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. 24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. 25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. 26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." 28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

# I'm blessed by "How Peter Identified" the Lord.

If you ask me to come to you, then I'll know it's you  
cuz that's something you would say...

Mark 10:27

..."With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."

## 5.) Again, Joshua's Message to all the People

vv. 9-13

9 So Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Come here, and hear the words of **the LORD your God.**" 10 And Joshua said, "By this you shall know that **the living God** is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites: 11 "Behold, the ark of the covenant of **the Lord of all the earth** is crossing over before you into the Jordan. 12 "Now therefore, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man from every tribe. 13 "And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, **the Lord of all the earth**, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap."

### a.) The Greatness of God

v.9-10

So Joshua said to the children of Israel,  
"Come here, and hear the words of **the LORD your God.**" 10 And Joshua said, "By this you shall know that **the living God is among you**, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites:

#### Verse 9

"Come here, and hear the words of **the LORD your God**

**The LORD your God**  
because He had Created Them

\* LORD heb 3068 **Yehovah** (yeh-ho-vaw');  
(the) self-Existent or Eternal one ; Jehovah, Jewish  
national name of God:

## it is the title ascribed to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6 / Micah 5:2

John 8:58

Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

John 8:24

"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die  
in your sins."

John 13:19

"Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He.

### Verse 10

By this you shall know that **the living God is among you**

**The Living God**  
because He's Alive

**EI (ale) - Chay (khah'-ee);**  
**God of the Living**

\* God heb 410 'el (ale);  
Mighty; or the Almighty (it can be used also of any deity):

\* Living 2416 heb. chay (khah'-ee);  
that which is alive; fresh, those having an appetite, a  
group, a congregation alive

**and wants nothing to do with Death**

## Verse 11

the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan

**The Lord of all the earth,**

He can do what He wants and He can go wherever He wants

**and so God wants to Cross the River...**

\* Lord heb 136 'Adonay (ad-o-noy);  
the proper name of the only God. The lord, master, owner.  
Controller, creator

Bill Gates Receives \$150,000  
an hour in just interest alone from his bank accounts

**He Owns The Earth**

## Verse 11

**"Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth  
is crossing over before you into the Jordan**

John 10:4

4 "And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

## Verse 12-13

12 "Now therefore, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man from every tribe. 13 "And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap."

## Verse 13

"And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap."



# The Priest, The Ark (The Lord) was to enter the water ahead of the people,

proceed to the middle of the river and stand still there until all the people had crossed over safely. Then the Priest, The Ark (The Lord) was to continue on behind the people

## The Coming Scene of Deliverance

Paints a Picture for Us

Matthew 20:18-19

"Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, 19 "and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And **the third day** He will rise again."

John 19:17-18

17 And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, 18 where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, **and Jesus in the middle.**

The End