

Joshua 3&4
The Crossing

Ch.3&4 The event of crossing the Jordan - entering the promised land

- He brought them *out* in order that He might bring them *in* ([Deu 6:23 NKJV] 'Then He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in, to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers.)
- The Jordan river presents the boundary by which they are brought in
- Ch.1 - Command & Encouragements
- Ch.2 - Spies and Rahab's faith

Ch.3&4 The event of crossing the Jordan - entering the promised land

- [2Pe 1:2-4 NKJV] 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that [pertain] to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption [that is] in the world through lust.
- **Wilderness - barren, hard, unsatisfying...**
- **Promised land - fruitful, abundance, rest...**

Joshua 3

¹ Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from Acacia Grove^[fn] 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.”

⁵ And Joshua said to the people, “Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.” 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.

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.’”

Joshua 3

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.”

Joshua 3

¹⁴ So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, ¹⁵ and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), ¹⁶ that the waters which came down from upstream stood *still, and* rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that *is* beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, *and* were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷ Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.

Joshua 4

¹ And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying: ² “Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe, ³ and command them, saying, ‘Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests’ feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.’”

⁴ Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe; ⁵ and Joshua said to them: “Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, ⁶ that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, ‘What do these stones *mean* to you?’ ⁷ Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.”

Joshua 4

8 And the children of Israel did so, just as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the LORD had spoken to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them to the place where they lodged, and laid them down there. 9 Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day.

10 So the priests who bore the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the LORD had commanded Joshua to speak to the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua; and the people hurried and crossed over. 11 Then it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over, that the ark of the LORD and the priests crossed over in the presence of the people. 12 And the men of Reuben, the men of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh crossed over armed before the children of Israel, as Moses had spoken to them. 13 About forty thousand prepared for war crossed over before the LORD for battle, to the plains of Jericho. 14 On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they had feared Moses, all the days of his life.

Joshua 4

¹⁵ Then the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying, ¹⁶ “Command the priests who bear the ark of the Testimony to come up from the Jordan.” ¹⁷ Joshua therefore commanded the priests, saying, “Come up from the Jordan.” ¹⁸ And it came to pass, when the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD had come from the midst of the Jordan, *and* the soles of the priests’ feet touched the dry land, that the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks as before.

¹⁹ Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth *day* of the first month, and they camped in Gilgal on the east border of Jericho. ²⁰ And those twelve stones which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal. ²¹ Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: “When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, ‘What *are* these stones?’ ²² then you shall let your children know, saying, ‘Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land’; ²³ for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, ²⁴ that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it *is* mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever.”

Crossing Over

- Deut. 27:3, 4, 12. “When you have crossed over...”
- Joshua 3:1
- Joshua 4:1
- Joshua 5:1
 - 3:16,17
 - 4:7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 22, 23

Massive event — moving the nation

— FROM —

- One place (**wilderness, tents, mana, no homeland**)

— INTO —

- a new place (**Fruitful land, abundance, home, blessing**)

How did God bring them in?

Joshua 3:5, 7, 10

- *The same way He brought them OUT!*

Joshua 4:23-24

- The power and way by which we have been saved, is the same power and way by which we live and continue to walk!

How did God bring them in?

Joshua 3:5, 7, 10

- *The same way He brought them OUT!*

Joshua 4:23-24

- for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever.”

What was totally central in their crossing?



[Jos 3:11 NKJV] "Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan."

The ark of the covenant

Joshua 3:3, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14,
15, 17

Joshua 4:5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 16, 18

Do rivers flow
backwards? Really?

Yes

Yeshua!

River ↕	Original outlet ↕	Current outlet ↕	Continent ↕	Date of reversal ↕	Cause of reversal ↕	References
Amazon River	Pacific Ocean	Atlantic Ocean	South America	Cretaceous period	Formation of Andes Mountains	[1]
Chicago River	Lake Michigan	Mississippi River	North America	1900	Construction of Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal	[1]

Temporary reversals [edit]

Intermittent temporary reversals [edit]

[Hurricane storm surges](#) often cause temporary reversals of coastal rivers.^[1]



The [Reversing Falls](#) of the [Saint John River](#), flowing upriver

River ↕	Outlet ↕	Continent ↕	Date of reversal ↕	Cause of reversal ↕	References
Chicago River ^[a]	Mississippi River	North America	2017 ^[b]	Storm surge	[2]
Mississippi River	Gulf of Mexico	North America	1812	Tectonic uplift caused by New Madrid earthquakes	[3]
			2005	Storm surge from Hurricane Katrina	[1]
			2012	Storm surge from Hurricane Isaac	[1][4]

a. [^] These reversals represent a return to the Chicago River's original natural outlet in Lake Michigan.

b. [^] Reversals of the Chicago River have been increasing in frequency in association with [global warming](#), and may soon occur at least once each year.^[2]

Regular temporary reversals [edit]

Rivers which act as [tidal estuaries](#) may exhibit flow reversal with the tidal cycle.^[5]

			Frequency		

Yikes! A river just changed direction. Here's what's blamed.

Matthew Diebel USATODAY

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One week the river was there -- and the next it was not. And scientists blame global warming.



A shrinking glacier in Canada made a river disappear

This is the first event of its kind in thousands, if not millions, of years. Video provided by Newsy Newslook

The event occurred after the vast Kaskawulsh Glacier in Yukon Territory retreated about a mile up its valley -- and the water gushing from it reversed course and started draining into another river.

Rivers changing direction is relatively common, [according to the scientists](#), but is usually caused by tectonic forces, landslides or erosion.

Psalm 114

1 When Israel went out of Egypt, The house of Jacob from a people of strange language,

2 Judah became His sanctuary, *And* Israel His dominion.

3 The sea saw *it* and fled; Jordan turned back.

4 The mountains skipped like rams, The little hills like lambs.

5 What ails you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan, *that* you turned back?

6 O mountains, *that* you skipped like rams? O little hills, like lambs?

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, At the presence of the God of Jacob,

8 Who turned the rock *into* a pool of water, The flint into a fountain of waters.



Crossing from death to life

John 5:24

Truly, truly, I say to you, He that hears my word, and believes on Him that send me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into death (condemnation); but is passed from death unto life
“Crossed from death to life” - NIV

