Crossing the Jordan
Joshua 3-5

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
September 13, 2009
Purpose and Outline of Joshua

- Possession of the Promised Land

- Outline
  1. The Conquest of the Land – Joshua 1-12
  2. The Division of the Land – Joshua 13-21
Lesson 2: Crossing the Jordan
Joshua 3-5

- The plan (3:1-13)
- The crossing (3:14-17)
- The memorial stones (4:1-5:1)
- The Covenant ritual (8:30-35)
- Circumcision (5:2-9)
- Passover (5:10-12)
- The Commander of the Army of the LORD (5:13-15)
The Plan (3:1-13)

The Ark of the Covenant of the LORD your God

• Contents
  – 10 Commandments – righteousness; condemnation
  – Manna – “What is it” – life by God’s Word, Deut. 8:3
  – Aaron’s rod that budded – Numbers 16; 17:1-8

• Dwelling place of God
  – Glory of God – two cherubim – Ezekiel 10
  – Mercy seat

• Ark: where does it fit in the Mosaic Covenant?
  – Hope
  – Not accessible.

• Ark of the Covenant of the LORD of all the earth (3:11)
The Plan (3:1-13)

- The Ark of the Covenant will lead into the Land

  - The unapproachable God is leading
    - 2000 cubits – 0.68 miles around
  - Sanctification
  - 12 men – role not defined (3:12)
The Plan (3:1-13)

- Purpose (3:7-11)
  - Exaltation of Joshua (3:7)
  - God’s Presence displayed
    - The Living God is among you
  - God’s Promise affirmed
    - A display of His power
    - God will “drive out before you . . .”
The Crossing (3:14-17)

- Jordan River at flood stage in harvest season
- Priests entered the Jordan
- Waters cut off – 2000 cubits on either side
- Dry ground – not mud of river bed
- All Israel crossed over
The Memorial Stones (4:1-5:1)

- The memorial
  - 12 men – 12 stones – one for each tribe
  - Carry to lodging place

- A sign for your children

- Setting up the memorial
  - 12 stones in the middle of the Jordan

- The crossing – all passed over
  - Reuben, Gad, half-Manasseh - 40,000
  - Joshua exalted
  - Priests leave the Jordan by the command of the LORD
  - Jordan returned to flood stage
The Memorial Stones (4:1-5:1)

- A sign for future generations
  - The sign – Israel crossed on dry land
  - The LORD dried up the waters of the Jordan
  - Similar to crossing the Red Sea

- A sign for all peoples of the earth
  - You may fear God
  - The immediate response to this event – 5:1

- Where is the memorial today?
Circumcision (5:2-9)

- A requirement in the Law of Moses
- A symbol of the Covenant with Abraham
- A display of rebellion
- Emphasis upon the Abrahamic Covenant
- History lesson – Shechem - Genesis 34
- Gilgal – Rolling away the shame of Egypt
Passover (5:10-12)

- 14th day of first month
- Manna replaced by the food of the land
Commander of the army of the LORD
(5:13-15)

- **Commander of the army of the LORD**
  - SAR (Hebrew)
  - Translated: commander; captain (130), prince (208), official, leader, overseer, officer, ruler (33), chief (33), governor (6), quartermaster, keeper (3), taskmaster, head, ruler, chieftain

- Genesis 47:6 – Israel was “charge” of livestock
- Michael – Daniel 12:1
- Refers to Christ three times:
  - Isaiah 9:6 – Sar Shalom – Prince of Peace
  - Daniel 8:11 – Prince of the host
  - Daniel 8:25 – Prince of princes – SAR of SARS – Ruler of rulers
Commander of the army of the LORD
(5:13-15)

- **Commander of the army of the LORD**
  - SABA (Hebrew)
  - Translated: host (393), army (29), company
  - Host of heaven – stars (Genesis 2:1; Deut. 4:19; Psalm 33:6; Isaiah 45:12)
  - Refers to fighting force
  - YHWH of hosts – 1 Samuel 1:3, 11
  - Israel called the host of the LORD – Exodus 12:41
  - With YHWH, refers to His rule over the entire universe
Commander of the army of the LORD (5:13-15)

- This is the pre-incarnate Christ
- New revelation of the Seed of the woman
  - Abraham – Exceedingly Great Reward – Genesis 15:1
  - Joshua – Commander of the army of the LORD
Commander of the army of the LORD
(5:13-15)

› “Are you for us or for our adversaries?”
› “What does my Lord say to His servant?”
› A spiritual warfare against the powers of hell
  – Be holy
  – The victory requires the Sar of hosts – the Sar of sars
  – Joshua is given an enlarged view of the battle
  – Hebrews 2:5-11
The Divine Purpose Revealed
  • God’s Promise to Abraham is firm
    – Israel is the core of the final blessing
    – It is a universal blessing

The Commander of the army of the LORD

The Covenant delayed
  – Captain made perfect through suffering
  – First priority: holiness