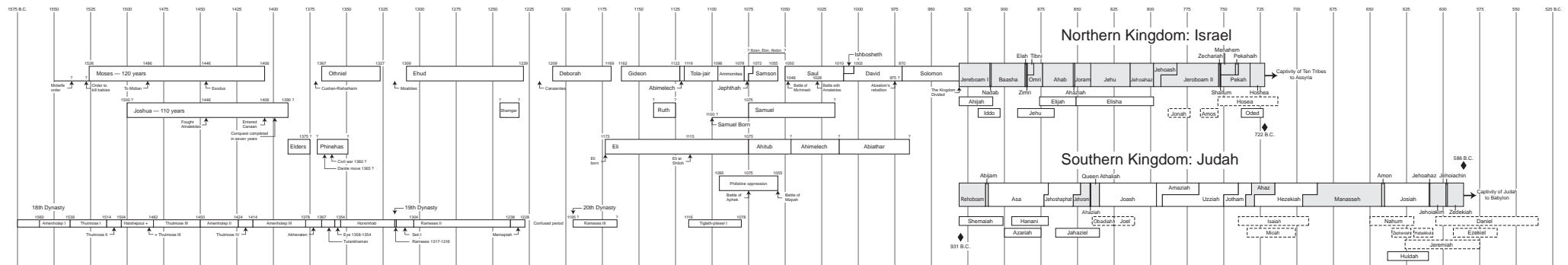


Crossing the Jordan

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
3. The Possession of the Land – Joshua 22-24

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
 - Moses – I AM WHO I AM – Exodus 3:14 – YHWH
 - 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

Crossing the Jordan

Joshua 3-5

- ▶ **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