

Lesson 3

**October 11-17*

Memorials of Grace

John - at times we need to go to the end of our what we can do.

Jill - deliverance comes first (before the lesson)

John D - forgetting the Lord begins with ceasing to care

Shelley - Gods past miracles are personal promises - we have to cross over our Jordan's to find our new identity

Next week: The Conflict Behind
all Conflicts

SABBATH AFTERNOON

Read for This Week's Study: *Joshua 3, Num. 14:44, Luke*

18:18-27, Joshua 4, John 14:26, Heb. 4:8-11.

Memory Text: "For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we passed over, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever" (Joshua 4:23, 24, ESV).

**Study this week's lesson to prepare for Sabbath, October 18.*

SUNDAY

October 12

Crossing the Jordan

Read Joshua 3:1-5 and Numbers 14:41-44. Why did God ask the Israelites to specially prepare for what was about to happen?

This is the first time the ark of the covenant is mentioned in the book of Joshua. Until this point in the Old Testament narrative, the ark has appeared in the context of the sanctuary (Exod. 40:21); in Israel's journey from Sinai (Num. 10:33-36); and at the unsuccessful attempt to begin the conquest of Canaan (Num. 14:44). It was the most sacred object in the Israelite

sanctuary and held three objects, each expressing Israel's special relationship with God: (1) the tablets containing the Ten Commandments; (2) the rod of Aaron, the high priest; and (3) a jar of manna (Exod. 16:33; Heb. 9:4).

WHAT DID THESE OBJECTS REPRESENT?

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS CONTAINED GODS LAW OF LOVE (OT REF). THEY WERE A TRANSCRIPT OF GOD CHARACTER (EXODUS 32). GODS LAW EXPRESSED THE IMAGE OF MANKIND BEFORE WE DISOBEYED GOD AND STARTED LIVING FOR OURSELVES.

2. THE ROD OF AARON REPRESENTED GODS CHOSEN LEADERSHIP. WHEN MEN ROSE UP AGAINST MOSES AND AARON GOD VINDICATED HIS CHOSEN LEADERSHIP BY CAUSING AARONS ROD OF DEAD WOOD TO BLOSSOM AND BEAR FRUIT OVERNIGHT (ref).

3. JAR OF MANNA - THE MANNA WAS BREAD FROM HEAVEN. IT WAS CALLED ANGELS FOOD. IT REPRESENTED GODS CHOSEN DIET FOR HIS PEOPLE. GOD DESIRED THE HEBREWS TO BE HEALTHY.

GODS LAW OF LOVE, HIS CHOSEN LEADERSHIP, HIS HEALTH MESSAGE ARE ALL IN THE ARK AND THEREFORE THEY ARE ALL COVERED BY THE MERCY SEAT. TODAY THESE ARTICLES IN THE ARK OF GODS COVENANT SPEAK TO US. GOD NEW COVENANT PROMISE IS TO PUT HIS LAW INTO OUR HEART SO THAT WE REFLECT HIS CHARACTER OF LOVE. REGARDING THE HEALTH MESSAGE HE SAYS TO HIS PEOPLE TODAY:

2 BELOVED, I WISH ABOVE ALL THINGS THAT THOU MAYEST PROSPER AND
BE IN HEALTH, EVEN AS THY SOUL PROSPERETH.3 JOHN 2.

AND GOD HAS HIS CHOSEN LEADERS, WHO MAY ACT AT TIMES LIKE SAUL
AND AHAB, BUT GOD CALLS US TO RESPECT THEM WHILE AT THE SAME
TIME BEARING TO THEM A MESSAGE OF REBUKE FOR ANY VIOLATION OF
HEAVENS PRINCIPLES OF LOVE AND LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE.

IN THE NT BOOK OF HEBREWS, BEGINNING WITH CHAPTER 9 AND VERSE 3
WE ARE REMINDED OF THESE SAME ARTICLES AND THEREBY THESE SAME
PRINCIPLES OF GODS LAW, HEALTH MESSAGE AND LEADERSHIP:

HEBREWS 9:3, 4:

AND AFTER THE SECOND VEIL, THE TABERNACLE WHICH IS CALLED THE
HOLIEST OF ALL;

4 WHICH HAD THE GOLDEN CENSER, AND THE ARK OF THE COVENANT
OVERLAID ROUND ABOUT WITH GOLD, WHEREIN WAS THE GOLDEN POT THAT
HAD MANNA, AND AARON'S ROD THAT BUDDER, AND THE TABLES OF THE
COVENANT.

-- GODS LAW-HEBREWS 10:16:

16 THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE
DAYS, SAITH THE LORD, I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR HEARTS, AND
IN THEIR MINDS WILL I WRITE THEM.

—GODS HEALTH MESSAGE— HEBREWS 12:16

16 LEST THERE BE ANY FORNicator, OR PROFANE PERSON, AS ESAU, WHO FOR ONE MORSEL OF MEAT SOLD HIS BIRTHRIGHT.

—GODS ORDAINED LEADERSHIP— HEBREWS 13:17

17 OBEY THEM THAT HAVE THE RULE OVER YOU, AND SUBMIT YOURSELVES: FOR THEY WATCH FOR YOUR SOULS, AS THEY THAT MUST GIVE ACCOUNT, THAT THEY MAY DO IT WITH JOY, AND NOT WITH GRIEF: FOR THAT IS UNPROFITABLE FOR YOU.

The ark and the preparations to cross the Jordan reminded Israel that they were not entering Canaan in their own manner and time. The conquest would be successful only if they followed God's way and timing. God—who is described as enthroned above the cherubim that were covering the ark of the covenant (*Exod. 25:22, Num. 7:89*), and whose movements are identified with the ark's movements—enters Canaan in front of the Israelites as the One leading the conquest.

The term translated “sanctify” (*Josh 3:5*) or “consecrate” (*ESV*) refers to a purification process similar to what the

priests followed before beginning their service in the sanctuary (Exod. 28:41, Exod. 29:1) and what the people of Israel carried out prior to God's revelation at Sinai (Exod. 19:10, 14). This consecration involved the laying aside of sin and the removal of all ritual impurities. The same command appears in Numbers 11:18, relating to an impending miracle of God. Such a preparation was required also before battles were fought in a war (Deut. 23:14). Before God can fight for Israel in battle, they must show their allegiance to Him and trust in Him as their Commander.

GODS LAW IN OUR HEARTS, GODS HEALTH MESSAGE FOR HEALTHY BODIES,
SUBMISSION TO GODS ORDAINED LEADERSHIP.

JOSHUA 3:5

AND JOSHUA SAID UNTO THE PEOPLE, SANCTIFY YOURSELVES: FOR TO MORROW THE LORD WILL DO WONDERS AMONG YOU.

WE ARE IN A SPIRITUAL BATTLE TODAY FOR WHICH WE TOO MUST
SANCTIFY OR CONSECRATE OURSELVES TO GOD. AS WE PURPOSE TO FOLLOW
GOD IN OUR HEARTS INDIVIDUALLY LIKE DANIEL DID WE CAN EXPECT GOD
TO DO GREAT AND MARVELLOUS WONDERS THROUGH US FOR HIS GLORY AND
HONOR.

The miracle of crossing the Jordan was going to prove to the Israelites that the Lord's promise to drive out these people in the land could be trusted. He who could secure a dry passage through the Jordan could also grant them the gift of the land.

God does not always part the Jordan. His interventions are not always so obvious. How do you think we can develop the spiritual preparedness to experience and discern God's interventions on our behalf?