

THE LIVING GOD OF WONDERS

Joshua 3:6-17 (NKJV) “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.’ ” (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.” (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.”

What does the miraculous crossing of the Jordan tell us about the nature of the God whom we serve?

The crossing of the Jordan River is described in **Joshua 3:5 by the Hebrew word *niphla’ot*, “miracles, wonders,”** that usually refers to the mighty, supernatural acts of

God demonstrate His uniqueness (*Ps. 72:18, Ps. 86:10*).

Psalm 72:18 (NKJV) “Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things!”

Psalm 86:10 (NKJV) “For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God.”

Later, the Israelites meditated on His acts and, **as a result, praised the Lord: Psalm 9:1 (NKJV) “I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.”**

The Israelites **proclaimed God among the nations** (*Ps. 96:3*).

Psalm 96:3 (NKJV) “Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.”

God revealed Himself in the plagues in Egypt (*Exod. 3:20, Mic.*

7:15): Exodus 3:20 (NKJV) “So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go.”

Micah 7:15 (NKJV) “As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders.”

God declared Himself at the crossing of the Red Sea, as well as God's guidance in the wilderness (Ps. 78:12–16) were recounted as such wonders.

Psalm 78:12-16 (NKJV) “(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 stand up like a heap. (14) In the daytime also He led them with the cloud, And all the night with a light of fire. (15) He split the rocks in the wilderness, And gave them drink in abundance like the depths. (16) He also brought streams out of the rock, And caused waters to run down like rivers.”

God is God all by Himself—He is unequal among the gods of earth:

Isaiah 46:9 (NKJV) “Remember the former things of old, For *I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me*”

Job 36:22 (NKJV) “Behold, God is exalted by His power; Who teaches like Him?”

The authors of the Bible knew and testified to the fact that the God who created the world was never limited or constrained by His creation.

- God decided **what to include** and **what not to include** in His creation.
- He did not have a list from which to select that limited His choices.

Job 9:10 (NKJV) “He does great things past finding out, Yes, wonders without number.”

Nothing is impossible (Heb. “too wonderful”) for Him to accomplish:

Jeremiah 32:17 (NKJV) “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.”

His name and His nature are wonderful and He is beyond our comprehension:

Judges 13:18 (NKJV) “And the Angel of the LORD said to him, “Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?”

God’s abilities are limitless and His consideration of us is incalculable:

Psalms 8:1-4 (NKJV) “(1) O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens! (2) Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger. (3) When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, (4) What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?”

In contrast with the gods of the other nations, who cannot save:

Psalms 96:5 (NKJV) “For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens.”

Isaiah 44:8 (NKJV) “Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.”

the God of the Bible is a “living God,” active and alive, whose followers can trust Him in anticipation of His interventions on their behalf.

Don’t trust your life to the hands of man:

Psalm 146:3 (NKJV) “Do not put your trust in princes, nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help.”

How does Jesus’ answer to His disciples encourage you to trust God with what seems impossible?

The Requirements of serving god often seem prohibitive to human ability:

Luke 18:18-27 (NKJV) “Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” (19) So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. (20) You know the commandments: “Do not commit adultery,’ “Do not murder,’ “Do not steal,’ “Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’ ” (21) And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.” (22) So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” (23) But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. (24) And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! (25) For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” (26) And those who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?” (27) But He said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.””