

Thursday Beyond the Jordan: Journey into God's Promised Rest

- **Red Sea / Jordan River** crossings = each mark monumental shifts in Israel's history / status
- **Exodus 14:21–22** Red Sea crossing freed Israel
 - Separated from slavery/powerlessness = to freedom
- **Joshua 3:14–17** Jordan crossing transitioned them from homeless wandering = to homeland possession / dignity
- **Psalms 114** ties 2 events together = not because author did not see chronological difference between them
 - Because theological significance = both crossings share
- **Psalms 114:1–3** "When Israel went out of **Egypt**... the sea saw it and fled, the **Jordan** turned back"
- Both crossings symbolize = **TRANSFORMATION**
 - from slavery to freedom / from wandering to inheritance
- Every believer's story involves / **Red Sea experience**
 - deliverance from bondage
- And—and a Jordan crossing
 - Stepping into God's promises
- Psalm 66 ties both crossings to personal redemption
 - **Psalm 66:6** "He turned the sea into dry land; they went through the river on foot. There we will rejoice in Him"
- Psalmist references these miracles = describe his own
 - salvation journey—from oppression to celebration
- God invites us to see His past miracles
 - Not just as historical facts = but as personal promises
- His mighty acts then / are His mighty acts now = for you, today
- Just as Israel gained dignity after long humiliation
 - God lifts us from lowliness = to glory of His calling

- You are not forgotten = you are destined for His kingdom
- **2 Kings 2:8-11** similar miracle = prophet **Elijah** / rolled up his mantle [cloak] / struck waters of Jordan = divided
 - He / assistant **Elisha** = crossed on dry ground
 - **EliJAH** = translated to heaven
 - Vs. 13-15 Elisha crossed back/clothed in authority
 - New role as prophet / confirmed when he, too, struck waters and they parted.
- Crossings often precede promotion in God's kingdom
 - On the other side of your Jordan lies
 - new identity = higher calling
- Earthly ministry of Jesus = as representative of Israel
 - Follows pattern of history of ancient Israel
- **Mt. 2:14-16** "Red Sea" = called out of Egypt after death decree
- **Mt 4:21** spends 40 days in wilderness
- Jesus /our perfect Rep. = experienced Jordan moment
- **Mark 1:9** "It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan"
- His baptism marked transition = private life / to public ministry
- **Matthew 3:16** "When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him..."
- **Matthew 3:15** Perfect sinless Savior = submitted to waters of /Jordan = to fulfill righteousness
- Baptism for us = powerful Jordan experience
 - Death to the old self = rising to new life in Christ
- **ABSG** Hebrews 3–4 recognizes the symbolic significance of the crossing of the Jordan and presents the entrance into Canaan as foreshadowing/ "rest of grace" Christians enter thru faith

Hebrews 4:1–10 ¹Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. ²For indeed the **gospel was preached to us as well as to them;** but **the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.** ³For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: “So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest,’ ” although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁴For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all His works”; ⁵and again in this place: “They shall not enter My rest.” ⁶Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, ⁷again He designates a certain day, saying in David, “Today,” after such a long time, as it has been said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.” ⁸For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day.

Hebrews 4:9 There remains therefore a **rest** for the people of God

- Different Greek word for “rest” = only time used in NT
- **sabbatismos** = “a Sabbath-keeping”
 - RV, “a sabbath rest,” KJV marg., “a keeping of a sabbath”
 - drawing attention back to “seventh day” of vs. 4

¹⁰For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.

- Crossing your Jordan is not just about outward success
 - It’s about entering = soul-rest / that only Jesus offers
- Not merely / destination = it’s relationship of trust
- God still parts waters = sometimes, He waits for you to step out
- Step into your Jordan = Step into your promised
 - spiritual rest of Sabbath

- Step into your new beginning
- He who delivered you from Egypt
 - will surely lead you safely into His promised land