



Lesson 67

Israel Enters the Promised Land

Story Elements

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Text: Joshua 3:1-5:15• Setting: circa 1404 B.C., between Shittim and Gikal.• Characters: God, Joshua, and an angel• Plot: Israel crosses the Jordan River on dry ground, and Joshua talks with an angel. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key word(s) “ _____ ” (3:4, 7, 10; 4:22, 24)• Climax Joshua 3:15 And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest). |
|---|--|

Crossing the Jordan

- (3:1-2) Leaving Shittim, the Hebrews set out for the Jordan River where they encamped for three days.
 - (3:2-4) Joshua ordered the people to take their make orders from the priests who carried the ark – they would know where to go by following the ark of the covenant (from a distance).
 - (3:5) Joshua told the people to prepare for possessing the Promised Land by _____ themselves.
- (3:7) God reminded Joshua, “This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, **as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee.**”

APPLICATION → Here we see the great spiritual qualities of Joshua: instead of grasping at his own elevation, he glorifies God and tells the people, “Hereby ye shall _____ that God is among you...” He points the people’s attention back to God’s promises and not to his own abilities.

- (3:8-17) The priests that bare the ark were directed to enter the Jordan River, and as their feet hit the water, the Jordan stopped flowing and piled up on the north side, allowing the people to cross on _____ ground.

Constructing a Memorial

- (4:1-8) After all the people of Israel passed over Jordan, one chosen man from each tribe took a large stone from the riverbed and took it to the nation’s campsite.
 - The stones were piled into an altar-like _____ as a reminder to succeeding generations of their God who keeps promises.
 - (4:9-10) Joshua also took twelve stones and made a memorial altar in the _____ of the Jordan River where the priests with the ark were standing.
- (4:11-18) After the entire nation (excepting the non-combatants from Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh) crossed over the Jordan, the priests followed with the ark.
 - As soon as their feet touched the _____, the Jordan river returned to its regular course.
 - (5:1) When the Canaanites heard that the LORD had dried up the Jordan, and that Israel had crossed over, “their heart _____.” The Amorites and Canaanites knew that the God who had brought plagues upon Egypt was about to bring wrath upon the Canaan – but this time through Joshua’s sword. (cf. Exo. 15:14)

Consecrating the People

- (5:2-8) Having crossed Jordan and entered the Promised Land, and before the conquest had begun, Joshua began to prepare the nation _____.
 - He commanded all the men to be circumcised (because only the older generation, now dead, had been

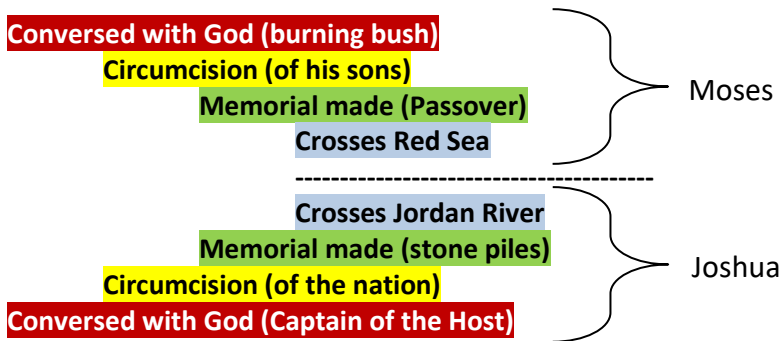
circumcised – the new generation had not.)

- b. (5:9) God said to Joshua, “*This day gave I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you.*” Matthew Henry explains, “Their coming safely to Canaan rolled away the reproach of Egypt, for it silenced that spiteful suggestion of the Egyptians, that for _____ they were brought out, the wilderness had shut them in, Ex. 14:3. Their wandering so long in the wilderness confirmed the reproach, but now that they had entered Canaan in triumph that reproach was done away. When God glorifies himself in perfecting the salvation of his people he not only silences the reproach of their enemies, but rolls it upon themselves.”¹
- c. (5:10) On the fourteenth of the first month, the Hebrews kept the _____.
- d. (5:11-12) The next day, _____ ceased to be miraculously provided. Instead, the Hebrews ate of the produce of Canaan.

Conversing with God

- 7. (5:13-15) An unusual (and seemingly abrupt) event happens near the chapter’s end: as Joshua reconnoiters Jericho, he is met by an armed warrior.
 - a. Joshua asked, “Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?” The mysterious man answered, “_____. But as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come.”
 - b. Joshua’s responded with _____. This signifies that this person was a Christophany – a preincarnate appearance of Christ.
 - c. The captain’s said: “Loose thy shoe from off they foot; for the place whereon thou standest is _____.” These words remind us of the words God spoke to Moses at the burning bush in Exo. 3:5.

NOTICE → By revealing the events of Joshua’s life before the conquest of Canaan, scripture shows how he is God’s chosen leader for Israel -a _____ Moses. Here is a chiasm of their lives:



Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): “know” • 1. b. consecrating • 2. → know • 3. dry • 4. a. memorial; b. middle • 5. a. shoreline; b. melted • 6. spiritually; b. mischief; c. Passover; d. manna • 7. a. No.; b. worship; c. holy • → second

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. (Note: some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

¹ Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 298.