

## *crossed*

The night over Jericho still hung heavy as the spies slipped into camp. They had returned under cover of darkness, breathless, recounting a tale that defied logic: a brothel on the wall, armed guards at every turn, and a single scarlet cord dangling from a harlot's window. Rahab had staked everything on the testimony of Israel's God. Her house stood marked for mercy, a solitary ember refusing to be snuffed out by the judgment rolling closer.

Now, miles east, beyond the thunder of the Jordan, dawn broke.

Light sliced across the Israelite camp, painting the wilderness gold, yet the air crackled with anticipation. Stomachs knotted. Breaths came shallow and quick. This was no routine march through familiar dust. Four decades of circling had ended. The Promised Land lay just across the water, and the water itself was raging.

Spring floods had turned the Jordan into a beast: brown, swollen, merciless. Currents tore at the banks. No ford invited crossing. No bridge arched over the chaos. No boats rocked at the edge. Only the river, wide and wild, stood between God's people and the land sworn to their fathers.

The same God who had seen one trembling woman's scarlet thread now locked eyes on those churning waters. The mercy that had reached into enemy territory to spare a single life was about to unleash itself on an impossible barrier for an entire nation.

The priests hoisted the Ark of the Covenant onto their shoulders. The people fell silent and fell in line behind. Every step toward the bank tightened the coil in their chests. Hearts hammered against ribs. The river snarled louder with every approach.

No one spoke the question aloud, but it burned in every mind: How are we getting across this?

The priests reached the edge. The current lashed at their feet. They lifted the ark higher—and stepped forward into the flood.

In that suspended, pounding instant, the crossing began.

# crossed

## remember

Rahab's story mirrors ours in many ways, and its truth reaches far beyond the walls of Jericho.



## answer the question

What was the covenant sign utilized in Joshua 2

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## homework

The spies returned from Jericho with staggering news: “Truly the LORD has given all the land into our hands; the inhabitants’ hearts melt in fear before us.” Rahab’s own words confirmed it—the terror of God had already crumbled enemy courage. The time to claim the Promise had come at last. Yet one final barrier roared defiance: the Jordan in spring flood—half a mile of churning, impassable fury. Israel stood on the brink, commanded to cross the impossible.

## decode the text

Read | Joshua 3:1-2

Where did the people lodge and how long were they stopped? \_\_\_\_\_

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The Jordan River was normally about one hundred feet wide and only three feet deep. But at harvest time, it became a violent, swollen current—twelve feet deep and stretching up to half a mile wide. Describe the physical obstacle that stood before Israel. Why might God have chosen this moment, at flood stage, to command the crossing?

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Read | Joshua 3:3-6

Anticipation swelled with the early dawn on the banks of the Jordan River. Today was the day. Today, they would cross into the Promised Land. The officers wove through the multitude, shouting instructions in three rules.

R u l e # 1 | v s . 3

What was the signal to cross and what were they supposed to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

R u l e # 2 | v s . 4

What were the rules to follow and for what reason? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

R u l e # 3 | v s . 5

When were the people to consecrate themselves and why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

wield the sword

By application, our Commander-in-Chief sets before us the same list. What does the abundant life in Christ look like? What are the rules of engagement as we step into a life of faith before sight?

» —> B e P e r c e p t i v e

The Ark of the Covenant represented the place of God's presence. Until now, when the Ark was at rest, it stood at the center of the camp—easy to locate and essentially stationary. That was about to change. Describe what this shift would have meant for the Israelites.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Write | Galatians 5:25

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## word well

word	Strong's #	definition
keep in step	G4748	----- -----

Consider the verse, and record your thoughts. What must a soldier be doing to keep in step with the General?

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## consider

Isaiah 30:21

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Psalm 32:8

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### »→ Be Patient

Give the Lord room to work. Because... “you have not passed this way before.” This was profoundly true for the Israelites who had been circling the same patch of dirt for four decades. Consider the definition to “way” below. Describe this shift for the Israelites.

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## word well

word	Strong's #	definition
way	H1870	-----

# consider

Jeremiah 10:23

Psalms 130:5-6

Proverbs 3:5-6

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Waiting is not inactivity. It is trust.

## »→ Be Prepared

God told them to consecrate today for what He would do tomorrow. For Israel, Jericho was on the horizon of a new day, and they had to be prepared for battle. Considering the definition of “sanctify” below, what spiritual preparations might the Israelites make?

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# word well

word

Strong's #

definition

consecrate

H6942

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# consider

1 Peter 1:13-16

Psalms 51:10-12

Philippians 1:27

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## decode the text

Read | Joshua 3:7-8

The next morning, the Lord confirmed Joshua's calling, promising to be with him just as He was with Moses. With the mantle now fully on his shoulders, Joshua stepped into his role with confidence. Strengthened by God's assurance, he mobilized the people, ready to lead them across the Jordan that very day.

The Lord had a specific command for the priests. Consider verse 8 carefully. As the priests stood before the raging Jordan, knowing God was asking them to step into the flood rather than wait for it to part, what thoughts or emotions might have filled their minds?

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Read | Joshua 3:10-13

Israel reached the brink of raging waters. But this time—unlike the Red Sea—God did not part the river first.

When would the waters part? \_\_\_\_\_

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When did the waters part? \_\_\_\_\_

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## word well

word

Strong's #

definition

rest

H5117

\_\_\_\_\_

There was no "rest" until they moved in faith.

This brings us to the final rule...

## Be Persistent

What restrains us from moving forward in what the Lord has so clearly commanded us to do? What keeps us from lifting our foot off the shore and plunging into the dark waters of the unknown?

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Did the Lord tell the priests to move? To step? To trust? To go?

If the answer is yes, then their decision is not uncertain.

His lead. Our move. The step of faith.

## stepping forward



Hebrews 11 declares it plainly: Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we cannot see, cannot know, cannot feel. You cannot prove genuine faith when you are still planted on the safe bank, gazing across the Jordan, weighing risks and waiting for guarantees. Genuine faith doesn't prove itself when your foot finally touches dry ground on the other side, the miracle already complete. No—faith is alive in the terrifying, exhilarating instant when your foot leaves solid earth and dangles in empty air.

That suspended second, that split moment of free fall when the familiar ground drops away beneath you... that is where faith resides. It's the persistent, obstinate STAY of faith: the refusal to pull back, the fierce commitment to keep moving forward even when every instinct screams retreat.

Leap. Trust the Lord enough to let the soles of your feet abandon what you've always known, without a single glimpse of the landing zone on the far shore.

Make no mistake: this step is hard. Brutally hard. There will come moments when fear surges like floodwaters, when the current roars and the wilderness behind you suddenly looks inviting, controllable, safe. You'll feel the pull to tuck-tail, to scramble back to the dry, familiar side of the river where nothing demands this kind of reckless trust. Don't.

Stay no matter what. Step into the raging water. Plant your foot in the flood and stay put. God is not waiting for the river to part before you move. He moves when your obedience breaks the surface.

Oh, give us a faith like that, Lord! A faith that refuses to flinch, that leaps because You are King and we will follow. No more hovering on the bank. No more excuses. The time for standing still is over.

leap BEFORE YOU land