



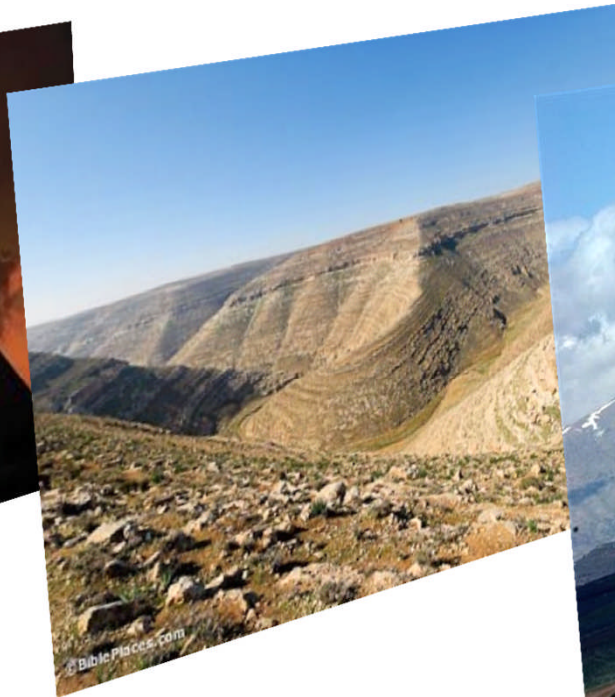
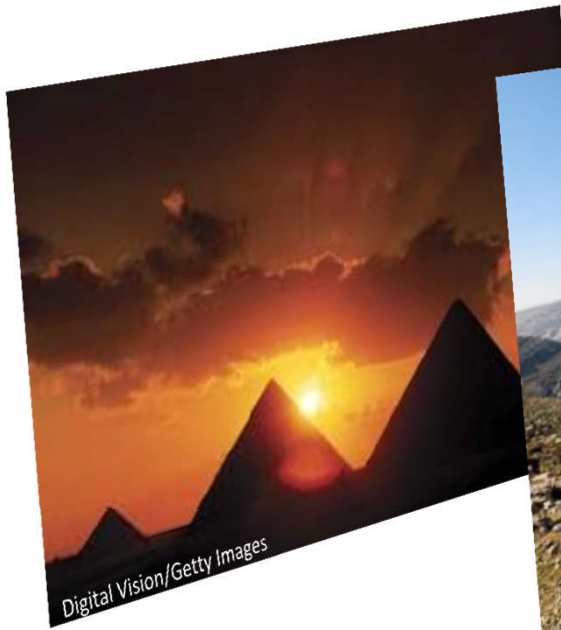
**The Jordan – risen with Christ**  
**Joshua 3**

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Bible Basics Conference  
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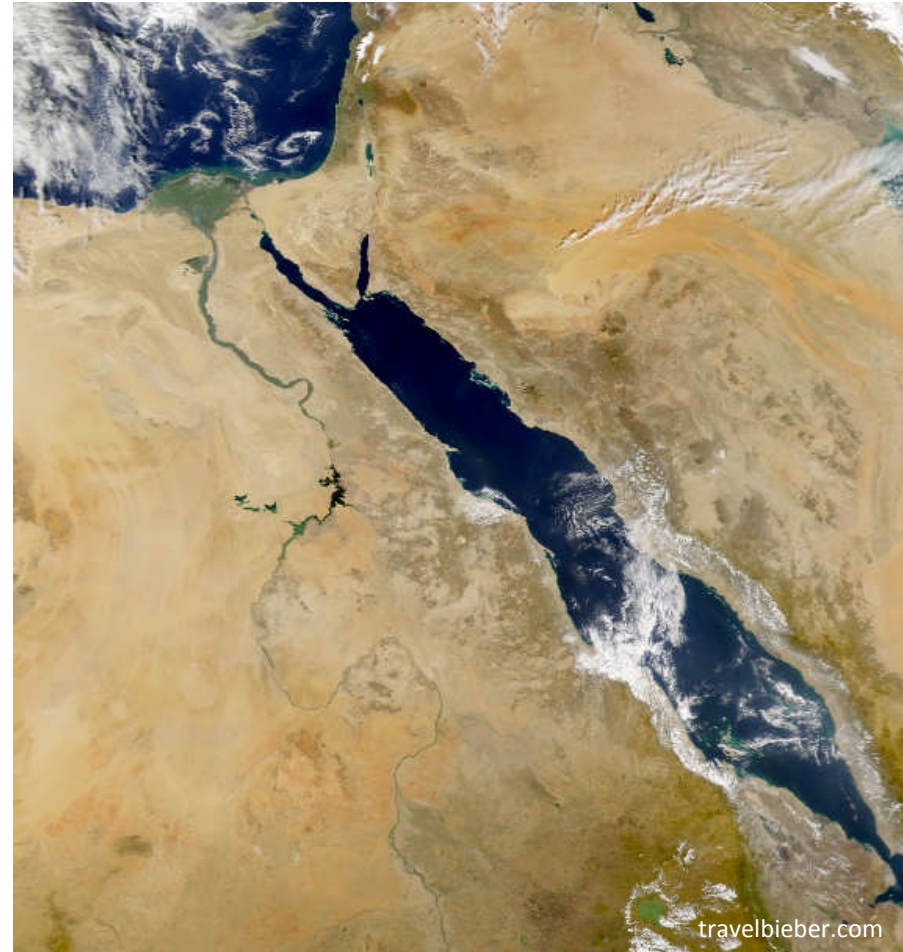
# Three very different places

- Egypt – the house of bondage (Exo. 13:3)
- The wilderness – great and terrible (Deu. 8:15)
- Canaan – the promised land (Exo. 12:25)



## Two lots of water ...

- The Red Sea and the River Jordan (Jos. 4:23)
- Sometimes Scripture includes the Jordan in the Red Sea (Exo. 15:16, 17; Heb. 11:29, 30) showing the wilderness was in God's ways but not His purpose for them



# One crossing in two

- The people of Israel went into the Red Sea (Exo. 14:22) and came out of the Jordan (Jos. 4:18, 19)
- It's sad that their unbelief and disobedience led to such a long gap between the the two (5:6)



## Some similarities ...

- The people walked in *fives* (Exo. 13:18; Jos. 4:12): dependence
- God dismissed the water (Jos. 2:10; 5:1; Psa. 114:3, 5): His Word
- They crossed on dry ground (Exo. 14:29; Jos. 3:17): perfect deliverance



## ... but many differences

### Red Sea (Exo. 14)

- Moses
- Night
- Fear
- Cloud and fire
- From judgment
- Walls of water
- Exit from Egypt

### River Jordan (Jos. 3)

- Joshua
- Day
- Calm
- Ark and priests
- To conflict
- No water to be seen
- Entrance to Canaan

# So what about all this?

'When Mr Standfast had thus set things in order, and the time being come for him to haste him away, he also went down to the river ... And he said, This river has been a terror to many; yea, the thoughts of it have often frightened me; but now methinks I stand easy; my foot is fixed upon the stones that bare the ark of the covenant stood while I was here.'

'When I tread the verge  
Bid my anxious fears subside  
Death of death and hell's Deeds  
Land me safe on Canaan's side  
Songs of praises, songs of praise  
I will ever give to Thee:  
Guide Me, O Thou Great God

'For me, be it Christ, be it Christ, be it Christ  
Jordan above me shall roar  
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life  
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.'  
*When Peace Like a River*

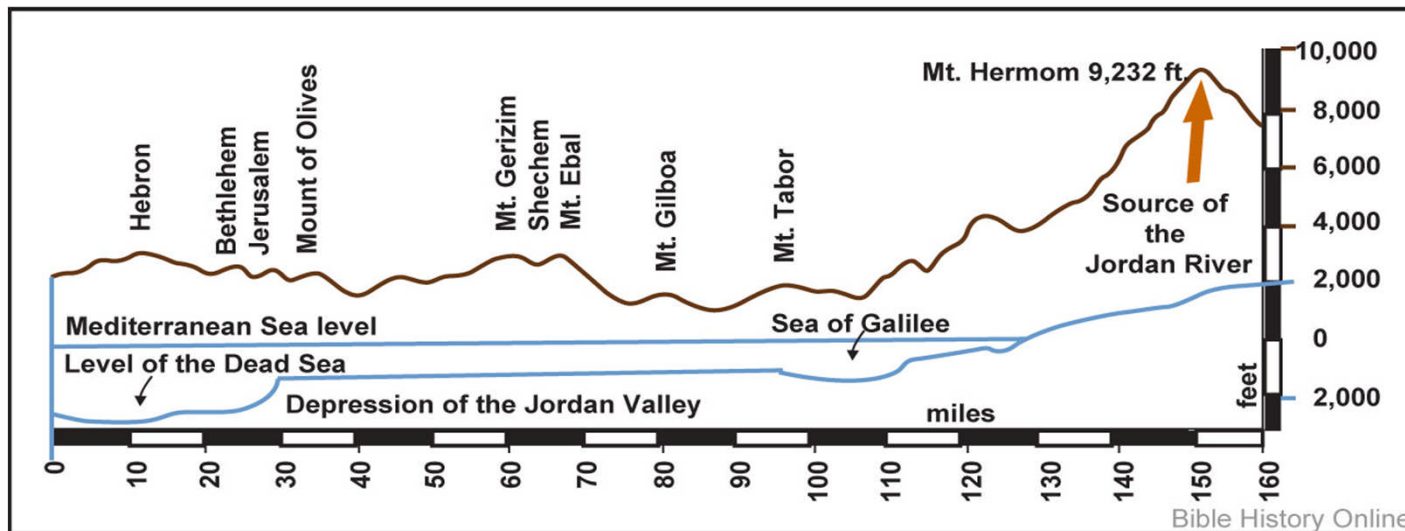
Jordan and what did I see  
To carry me home  
Angels coming after me  
To carry me home'  
*Sweet Chariot*

... to cross Jordan alone  
... my sins to atone  
... I see  
... waiting for me  
... have to cross Jordan alone'  
*I't have to cross Jordan alone*

# The Jordan *is* a picture of death ...

‘Jordan’ means ‘descender’ – it starts 1,700 feet high on Mount Hermon in north Israel and ends 1,300 feet below sea level in the Dead Sea 124 miles to the south

MAP OF THE PROFILE OF THE JORDAN RIVER





## ... but crossing it is *spiritual* resurrection

- The people of Israel left the wilderness and went over the Jordan into Canaan *with* the ark
- We've been quickened, *raised* and made to sit down together in the heavenlies *in* Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:5–6)
- We're in the wilderness of this world (e.g. 1 Peter) *and* in our Canaan at the same time (e.g. Ephesians)
- So: '*If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God*' (Col. 3:1)

# What are the heavenlies? (1)

- The spiritual realm where God has blessed believers ‘all-spiritual-blessing-wise’ in Christ (Eph. 1:3)
- He’s there – in heaven – following His bodily resurrection and ascension (1:20)
- We’re there spiritually because the power that raised Him has raised us from spiritual death (2:5–6)

## What are the heavenlies? (2)

- The realm where spiritual beings learn through the assembly the all-various wisdom of God (Eph. 3:10)
- We can possess and enjoy it together in the power of the Holy Spirit (3:14–21)
- But we also face spiritual conflict there as Satan and his powers try to deprive us of our blessings (6:10–12)

# Canaan – a picture of the heavenlies

***'a good land'* – Deuteronomy 8:7–10**



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# Let's go back to the Jordan in Joshua 3

- Joshua (vs. 1 & 7)
- Day (vs. 1 & 7)
- Calm and order (vs. 1–6)
- The ark and the priests (vs. 3–6; 11–17)
- Conflict in Canaan (vs. 9–10)
- No water to be seen for 50 miles (vs. 15–16)
- A wide entrance into Canaan (vs. 16–17)

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# Joshua

- God magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel: *'as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee'* (Jos. 1:7; 4:14)
- Moses led Israel out of Egypt; Joshua (Jesus) brought them into Canaan (Act. 7:36, 45; Heb. 4:8)
- Our Canaan becomes real to us as we get to know the Lord Jesus where He is now (Jos. 23 & 24)
- This is full Christian blessing (Eph. 3:19)

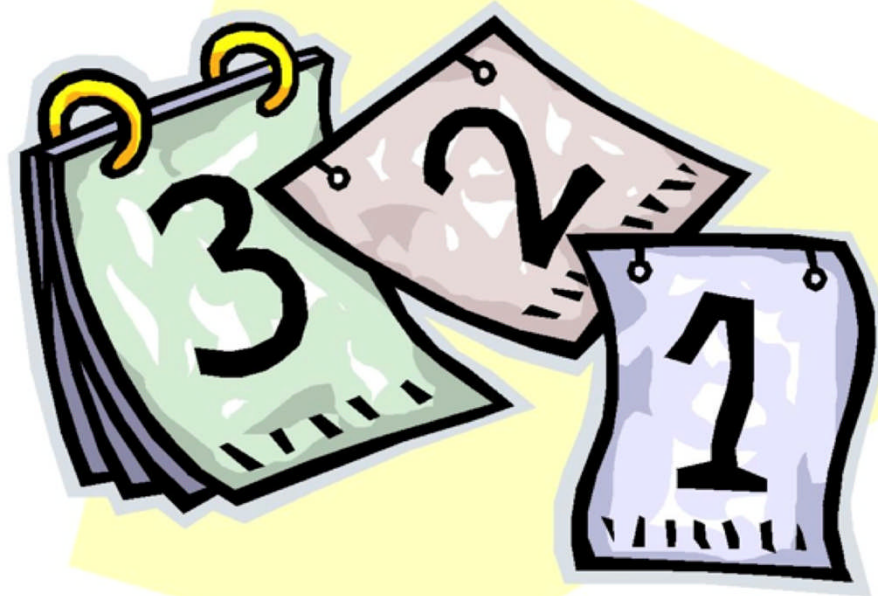


## ***'early in the morning'* (Jos. 3:1)**

There's vigour and holy desire throughout, reminding us of our Lord's words to Mary Magdalene on the morning He rose again: *'Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God'* (Joh. 20:17). Are we like her?

# Calm and order

- Joshua and the people lodged at the Jordan (Jos. 3:1)
- The '*three days*' they were there (v. 2) speak of death and resurrection, and also show that they were well aware the river was flowing wide and strong (v. 15)
- But they went across in calm and order as their officers had instructed them – a good example to follow (Heb. 13:17)





# The ark ...

- *'the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God'* (Jos. 3:3) symbolises the deity and humanity of the Lord Jesus – the centre of God's will and our blessing
- The people had to go after it at a distance of about 2,000 cubits so that *all* of them could see where to go *'for ye have not passed this way heretofore'* (v. 4)
- It was a new beginning for the nation and there was a visceral link between the ark and each person present – we all need to focus on Christ like this

## ... and ...

- It was in God's heart to do these wonders among His people (Exo. 3:8; Eph. 1:15–23)
- He did not want them to miss out through lack of personal purity (Jos. 3:5)
- This is an important for us too – we cannot enjoy the heavenlies if we're not living holy lives (Eph. 5:1–21)



## ... the priests



- This is one of the few times the priests carry the ark – as Levites e.g. instructors (Jos. 3:3; Deu. 33:10)
- How good to have devoted believers who can do this for God's glory and our blessing (Jos. 3:6; Eph. 4:11–16)
- The priests touched the waters which speak of death in its full force (Jos. 3:8, 15)

# Conflict in Canaan

- *‘Come hither, and hear the words of the LORD your God’* – intimacy and intimation (Jos. 3:9)
- God wanted His people to know that He was going to dispossess their varied enemies (Eph. 6:13)
- *‘Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth passeth over before you into’* (Jos. 3:11) – the supreme one has gone before us (Eph. 1:20–23)



# No water to be seen for 50 miles



- As soon as the ark entered the Jordan the overflowing waters '*stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam*' (Jos. 3:15–16; 1 Co. 15:22)
- The harvest of blessings is God's answer to all sin's distress (Zaretan) – death is rendered powerless (Eph. 1:20; 2:5–6; see also 1 Co. 15:55; Mat. 16:18)

# A wide entrance into Canaan

- *'the people passed over right against Jericho'* (Jos. 3:16)
- The priests *'stood firm on dry ground'* and *'all the Israelites passed over on dry ground'* (v. 17)
- *'they went clean over (or completely over) Jordan'*, then *'the ark ... passed over'* in their presence (4:11)
- So each and every person was **with the ark** in the Jordan and in Canaan

# What about us?

- We've been **quickened, raised and seated together in the heavenlies *in Christ*** (Eph. 2:5, 6)
- Spiritual blessings and heavenly things are for '***all the saints***' to enjoy and explore **now** (1:3; 3:18, 19)
- This glorifies the Lord Jesus, and is what we're going to be doing for **eternity** when we're ***with Him***
- We can be like the officers and priests and **help one another** realise our blessings in the heavenlies
- Are we too engaged with Satan's world to appreciate these things?

# These hymn writers got it right

Canaan has for thee been won,  
Christ triumphant led the way;  
In His might possess thine own!  
Watch and pray, Watch and pray.

In the heavenlies see that land,  
Satan would thine entrance stay;  
Thou against his wiles must stand:  
Watch and pray, Watch and pray.

Principalities and powers,  
Mustering their unseen array,  
Wait for thine unguarded hours:  
Watch and pray, Watch and pray.

*Spiritual Songs 282*

