

THE HAND OF THE LORD ... IT IS MIGHTY JOSHUA 3-4

Text: Joshua 4:24

(Joshua 4:24) "That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever."

Introduction:

Moses had died and now Joshua has been placed in the leadership position by God. They find themselves on the brim of the Jordan River which at this time was running over its banks. But God was about to show forth His mighty hand.

God specializes in the impossible.

(Matthew 19:26) "But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."

(Mark 10:27) "And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible."

(Luke 18:27) "And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

So God gives the instructions to Joshua about crossing over, and then Joshua relays them the children of Israel.

Notice:

1. THE MESSAGE

(Joshua 3:3) "And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it."

- A. Follow the Lord
- B. Stay in His presence.

2. THE MIRACULOUS

(Joshua 3:14-17) "And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people; {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,) {16} That the waters which came down from

above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho. {17} And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan."

- A. This was not a small miracle
- B. God's promise was kept
- C. Not only did they cross over Jordan, they crossed over on dry ground.
- D. Crossing the Jordan is not a reference to physical death, but rather death to self.

1. All God wants is for us to be obedient to His Word, and Will

Illustration:

People say that they are not certain that they could surrender 100% to the Lord. However that is what the Lord desires.

(Hebrews 11:6) "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

3. THE MEMORIAL

(Joshua 4:4-9) "Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man: {5} And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take you up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel: {6} That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones? {7} Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever. {8} And the children of Israel did so as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones out of the midst of Jordan, as the LORD spake unto Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them unto the place where they lodged, and laid them down there. {9} And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood: and they are there unto this day."

A. Too many times the miracles of God of too soon forgotten.

1. Salvation

B. We should make them known especially to our children.

Illustration:

We are living in a day where this generation has never seen a real revival. Sad but true, not many would recognize one if were to ever come, because those who did experience them failed to make it know to the younger generation.

1. Our children need to see and hear about the miracles of God.

4. THE MAGNIFIED

(Joshua 4:10-18) "For the priests which bare the ark stood in the midst of Jordan, until every thing was finished that the LORD commanded Joshua to speak unto the people, according to all that Moses commanded Joshua: and the people hasted and passed over. {11} And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over, that the ark of the LORD passed over, and the priests, in the presence of the

people. {12} And the children of Reuben, and the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh, passed over armed before the children of Israel, as Moses spake unto them: {13} About forty thousand prepared for war passed over before the LORD unto battle, to the plains of Jericho. {14} On that day the LORD magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they feared Moses, all the days of his life. {15} And the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying, {16} Command the priests that bear the ark of the testimony, that they come up out of Jordan. {17} Joshua therefore commanded the priests, saying, Come ye up out of Jordan. {18} And it came to pass, when the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD were come up out of the midst of Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up unto the dry land, that the waters of Jordan returned unto their place, and flowed over all his banks, as they did before."

A. Obedience has its rewards.

B. Too many are trying to make a name for themselves instead of allowing God to magnify them.

(Proverbs 16:18) "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

(Luke 14:11) "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

(Luke 18:14) "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

C. Our attitude should be that of John's

(John 3:30) "He must increase, but I must decrease."

5. THE MIGHTY

(Joshua 4:19-24) "And the people came up out of Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and encamped in Gilgal, in the east border of Jericho. {20} And those twelve stones, which they took out of Jordan, did Joshua pitch in Gilgal. {21} And he spake unto the children of Israel, saying, When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these stones? {22} Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land. {23} For the LORD your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over: {24} That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the

LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever."

A. Mighty to save

(Romans 10:13) "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

B. Mighty to satisfy

(Isaiah 58:11) "And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not."

C. Mighty to strengthen

(Psalms 27:14) "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."

(Psalms 31:24) "Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD."

(Exodus 15:2) "The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him."

(Psalms 28:7) "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him."

(Psalms 118:14) "The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation."

D. Mighty to supply

(Philippians 4:19) "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

(Psalms 68:19) "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah."

Close:

What a mighty God we serve. Let's let the world know.