

Third Presbyterian Church
Midweek Bible Study
Miracle Series – Crossing the Jordan River
Lesson 32 – Keep on Moving

Joshua 3:1-17 (NIV) Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. [2] After three days the officers went throughout the camp, [3] giving orders to the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. [4] Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about a thousand yards between you and the ark; do not go near it." [5] Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you." [6] Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people." So they took it up and went ahead of them. [7] And the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. [8] Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: 'When you reach the edge of the Jordan's waters, go and stand in the river.' " [9] Joshua said to the Israelites, "Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God. [10] This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. [11] See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. [12] Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. [13] And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the Lord--the Lord of all the earth--set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap." [14] So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. [15] Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, [16] the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. [17] The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

1. Ever since Israel left Egypt, God has been preparing them for such a time as this, a great step of faith. What great steps of faith that you can recall God prepared you for and you took those steps accomplishing something great for the Lord and yourself.
2. What does it mean to consecrate yourself?
3. The sermon gave the formula for entering the miracle zone....what is it?
 - a. We are in the miracle zone or we are wandering. Agree or disagree and why?
4. How is this crossing different than the red sea crossing? Which one took more faith and why?
5. With the crossing of the Jordan, the priest could not cross until everyone was already across.
 - a. Explain how that is applied to today in regards to your pastor holding up the ark of the covenant, showing the way but can't cross until others move.
6. Why is it important to keep moving in the will of God?
 - a. What are the benefits to continuing to move in the will of God?
7. Respond to the fact that there will be some victories and losses in the promised land.
8. When I'm in my promised land, I have the understanding that to come at me is to come against God. How does this mindset change my response to people who attack/persecute me? What does God on my side really mean for you? How does God show us today that He is with us?
9. What is one amazing thing that God has done for you recently?
10. Share your main takeaway from the sermon and the lesson?

The Necessary, Long-awaited Crossing of the Jordan River: A Picture of Faith and of God's Great Power to Lead His People into the Promised Land (Spiritual Conquest and Rest), 3:1-4:24

(3:1-4:24) Introduction: picture the greatest inheritance imaginable sitting out before a person, the longing for the inheritance gnawing away at the person's heart. The inheritance is his; it has been promised and guaranteed. The person will receive the inheritance. But obstacles or barriers stand in the way, and they must be removed before he can receive the promised inheritance.

This is a picture of the inheritance the Israelites were to receive, the inheritance of the promised land. Ever since the birth of the Israelites that began with their forefather Abraham, God had promised the inheritance of the land to His people. For hundreds of years, the promise of the land had been taught to the children. The promised land and the great hope it offered were the major theme of the teaching of the Israelites. Most if not all Israelites were gripped by a deep-seated longing for the glorious inheritance promised them by God. Now, finally, the long-awaited crossing of the Jordan River was to take place. God's people were to enter the promised land. The inheritance for which they had so long hoped was finally to become their possession. Their faith in God was now to be rewarded. This is the subject of this great passage of Scripture: *The Necessary, Long-awaited Crossing of the Jordan River: A Picture of Faith and of God's Great Power to Lead His People into the Promised Land (Spiritual Conquest and Rest), 3:1-4:24*

1. The problem: a flooded Jordan (v.1).
2. The message of faith: the only way to cross and enter the promised land—the way of faith (v.2-13).
3. The walk of faith: the only way to experience the power of God (v.14-17).
4. The witness of faith: seen in the LORD's orders to build a memorial as a witness (v.4:1-9).
5. The obedience of faith: seen in the crossing of the Jordan (v.10-14).
6. The result of faith: camping, living in the promised land (v.15-19).
7. The purpose of faith: seen in Joshua building the memorial at Gilgal (v.20-24).

1. (3:1) Jordan River, Crossing of—Symbol, of Jordan River—Promised Land, Obstacles to: there was a serious problem confronting the Israelites. The Jordan River was flooded. Remember what had just happened. Joshua and his officers had spent three days mobilizing the people for the march into the promised land. At long last, their hope and yearning for the inheritance promised by God was finally to bear fruit. During the three days preparation, two men had been sent to spy out Jericho and the surrounding territory. They had returned and given a very positive, encouraging report. The heart of the enemy had melted in fear before the LORD God of the Israelites; consequently, the enemy would be easily defeated and the promised land would become the inheritance of God's people.

Now the three days had ended and the mobilization had been completed. The Israelites had broken camp and marched up to the shores of the Jordan River. But the Jordan River posed a serious, critical problem: it was flooded, impassable (Joshua 3:15). What were the people to do? How could they get across the Jordan? Was their hope for a new life in the promised land to be crushed upon the rocks of the Jordan River, crushed as they attempted to cross the swift, turbulent currents of the mad rushing waters? Unless they could cross over the Jordan River, they would never receive their inheritance. They would never experience the new life promised by God.

The Jordan River represented and stood as an obstacle to the promised land. The promised land represented a new life for the people of God, a victorious life...

- of conquest and triumph
- of peace and rest
- of fellowship and communion
- of joy and rejoicing
- of security and protection
- of care and provision
- of abundance and fruitfulness
- of fulfillment and satisfaction

- of purpose, meaning, and significance

The Jordan River stood as an obstacle, a barrier to the believers hope of a *new life* in the promised land. The Jordan River had to be crossed if the people were going to claim their inheritance promised by God. But how?

- ⇒ Would God's people go back where it was safe, or by faith would they seek a solution from God?
- ⇒ Would God's people trust Him to provide a way to conquer the difficulty or question if God had the power to handle the problem?
- ⇒ Would they become victims of circumstance, or by faith would they become victors?
- ⇒ Would they be conquered by this trial, or by faith would they be conquerors?

2. (3:2-13) Faith, Necessity of— Jordan, Crossing over— Promised Land, How to Secure— New Life, How to Secure, Illustrated— Miracles, Purpose of— Miracles, Crossing of Jordan River— Faith, Importance of: there is the message of faith. The only way to cross the Jordan River and enter the promised land is by faith. Faith was and is the way to conquer the problems of life, the obstacles that stand between us and the promised land. The promised land is the inheritance of every genuine believer. But the only way to secure our inheritance is *by faith*.

How were the Israelites to cross over the flooding Jordan River? Standing there by the river, the people were bound to be questioning what Joshua and their leaders would do. Building enough rafts to transport three million people—their livestock, tents, furnishings, and supplies—was a total impossibility. Down deep within their hearts, many of the people were bound to be praying for God to make a way for them to cross the river. What happened next shows the importance of faith in God when problems are faced throughout life.

In this passage, five different instructions are given by Joshua, his officers, and God—five different instructions challenging everyone to have faith, to trust God. *By faith*, God would provide the way to cross over the Jordan. *By faith*, God would show how to overcome the problem and obstacle of the Jordan. *By faith*, God would make sure His people would receive the promised inheritance, the victorious life of the promised land. Note the five different sets of instructions challenging everyone to have faith, to trust God:

1. There were the instructions of the officers to the people (Joshua 3:3-4). They instructed the people to follow the Ark. Remember, the Ark was a symbol of God's presence, a symbol of His holy throne. Whenever the people saw the priest pick up the Ark and begin to courageously march forth into the Jordan River, the people were to move out and follow the Ark into the riverbed. They were to believe and trust the power of God. However, the officers commanded the people to keep a distance of about 1000 yards from the Ark. This was a picture of their showing reverence for God. Note that the officers emphasized this command: they warned the people not to go anywhere near the Ark.

2. There were the instructions of Joshua to the people (Joshua 3:5). Joshua ordered the people to sanctify, consecrate, purify themselves. This meant that the people were to prepare their hearts before the LORD. They were to pray, confess, repent, rededicate, and recommit their lives to God. This was to be symbolized by the outward acts of bathing and changing clothes, and also by abstaining from sexual relations so that they could devote their full attention to the LORD (Exodus 19:10, 14-15; 1 Cor. 7:1-6).

3. There were the instructions of Joshua to the priests (ministers) (Joshua 3:6). This was a challenge for the priests to be strong in faith, to believe enough to take up the Ark and move out ahead of the people. They were to courageously lead the people into the swift, dangerous currents of the flooding river.

4. There were the instructions of God to Joshua (Joshua 3:7-8). Joshua needed to learn that God was with him even as God had been with Moses. Through the miraculous event about to take place, Joshua would be exalted in the eyes of all the Israelites. The people would know that he was truly chosen by God and that he truly followed and trusted God. They would know that God was with him even as He had been with Moses. As a result of the miracle about to take place, the people would highly esteem Joshua and follow his leadership.

God also instructed Joshua to command the priests to march the Ark into the swift and dangerous currents of the flooding river (Joshua 3:8). Just picture the swift and perilous currents of a flooding river and imagine what God was asking Joshua to do. Strong, strong faith was needed to give such a command. Picture the drama!

What were the thoughts flashing through Joshua's mind? Was his faith weak or strong? The drama of this entire event is climactic.

5. There were the instructions of Joshua to the people (Joshua 3:9-13). Joshua declared the Word of the LORD, the assurance of His promise. God would provide the way to cross over the surging, raging currents of the flooding Jordan. God would enable His people to conquer the problem and cross over to secure their inheritance.

- a. Joshua explained the purpose of God's miracle, gave the reasons why God was going to make a way to cross over the Jordan (Joshua 3:10).

First, the miracle would prove that God is "the living God." As "the living God," He is the only true God who can actually save and deliver His people through all the trials of life, even the terrible trial of death. Because He is "the living God," He alone is to be worshipped and served by people.

Second, the miracle would prove that God will always give the power to defeat the enemies of His people. God will work through His people, infusing His very own power within them. He will enable them to drive out all the enemies of the promised land.

- b. Joshua declared the assurance of God: the Ark of God's presence would lead the way through the raging currents of the Jordan River. The people were to believe God, trust His miraculous power. In fact, they were to demonstrate, prove their trust. How? By making preparations to build a memorial to God's power after they had crossed over the Jordan.
- c. Joshua explained the miracle. As soon as the priests set foot in the Jordan, the waters of the river would be cut off upstream. The waters would actually be stopped and begin to pile up in a heap (Joshua 3:13).

Thought 1. The Jordan River is a picture of the problems and difficulties, the trials and temptations that confront us throughout life. Faith in God is the only way to conquer the obstacles of life. Faith in God is the only way to conquer...

- fear
- addictions
- weaknesses
- death
- obsessions
- sufferings
- discouragement

God loves and cares for us. He cares about every problem that confronts us, and He wants to strengthen us to overcome all problems. He wants to show us the way to triumph over the obstacles that stand in our way. Believing God, trusting God, having faith in God—this is the only way to become a conqueror throughout life. Faith in God is the victory that overcomes the world with all of its obstacles.

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God" (1 John 5:4-5).

"Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness" (Galatians 3:6).

3. (3:14-17) Faith, Walk of— Power, Source of— Walk, Spiritual, Duty— Jordan, Crossing of: there is the walk of faith, the walk of those who truly trust God. Walking by faith is the only way to experience the power of God.

1. The people crossed over the Jordan River because they obeyed God and walked forth into the water (Joshua 3:14). The river was swollen with raging, violent currents; yet, the people walked forth, trusting God to provide the way through the obstacle. Note that the priests courageously led the way with the Ark, a symbol of the very presence of God.

2. The people crossed over the Jordan because of the mighty power of God (Joshua 3:15-16). Note the reference to the Jordan being flooded during all the harvest season. The entire length of the river's banks was flooded. There was no place to cross. But then it happened: as soon as the priests came to the water's brink and touched the water's edge, the Jordan River suddenly stopped flowing from upstream. Observe exactly what happened: the river piled up in a great heap, far back in the city of "Adam." This city was about 18 miles upstream. The river was completely cut off, cut off from all the branches and tributaries that ran into the river.

3. The people crossed over the Jordan because they believed in the power of God (Joshua 3:16). Their faith in God's power was proven by what they did: they began to move out and step into the water. But as they waded out, the flooding water soon began to lower and eventually stopped. Miraculously the riverbed was dry and hard enough to keep the people and animals from bogging down in mud. What a glorious demonstration of the power of God to overcome the obstacles that confront His people. The Israelites believed that God would hold back the raging flood waters. And He did. He did just what was needed to take His people across the obstacle of the Jordan River. Note that they crossed opposite the great city of Jericho.

4. The people crossed over the Jordan because the priests or ministers of God believed in the power of God (Joshua 3:17). Through faith, the priests believed that God would hold the raging flood waters back. Through faith, they stood in the middle of the river until all the people had crossed over the Jordan.

Thought 1. We must learn to walk by faith, not by sight. If we walk by sight—by what we see—then every obstacle that confronts us will stop us dead in our tracks. Problems and difficulties, temptations and trials that we see lying out ahead will defeat us. We must learn to walk by faith, trusting God to give us the power to conquer. If we truly trust God, He will show us the way to overcome obstacles and barriers, the way to conquer temptations and trials. No matter what confronts us—no matter how terrible or threatening or fearful—God will give us the power and strength to overcome. We are more than conquerors through Him who loves us. But there is a condition: we must walk by faith and not by sight.

"For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7).

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword.... Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our LORD" (Romans 8:35, 37-39).

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh" (Galatians 5:16).

4. (4:1-9) Faith, Witness of— Memorials, Purpose of— Memorial, Identified, As a Witness to the Crossing of the Jordan River— Witness, of Memorials— Witness, of Faith: there is the witness of faith. Great acts of faith stand as a strong witness to the LORD and His power. Because of this, great acts of faith should be remembered. The crossing of the Jordan River was a great witness to the power of faith in God. For this reason, God ordered Joshua to build a memorial as a witness to faith in Him.

1. God ordered Joshua to appoint twelve men to help with the memorial, one from each tribe. The twelve men were to secure twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan where the priests stood (Joshua 4:1-3). The men were to carry the stones to the place where the Israelites set up camp for the night.

2. Joshua immediately obeyed the LORD (Joshua 4:4-5). He called the twelve men who had earlier been appointed for this very purpose (Joshua 3:12). He sent them out to the middle of the Jordan where the Ark was being held, and they secured twelve stones that represented the twelve tribes of Israel.

3. The purpose of the memorial was to be a witness to the power of God (Joshua 4:6-7). In the future, when the children saw the memorial, they would ask what the memorial meant. The Israelites were then to give a

strong witness to the power of God, that the flow of the Jordan River had been cut off before the Ark of the LORD's presence.

4. The men did just as Joshua commanded (Joshua 4:8). They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan and carried the stones with them to their campsite.

5. Joshua then gave a strong personal witness to God's presence and power (Joshua 4:9). He personally erected a memorial of stones in the middle of the Jordan as his own personal witness. Note, the stones were still there when the book of Joshua was written.

Thought 1. We are to bear strong testimony to our faith. If we have a genuine faith in God, then God has worked in our hearts and lives. We know what it is to trust God, to have faith in His power and help. We have experienced the conquering power of Christ in overcoming trials and temptations, problems and obstacles. By faith in Christ, we have conquered the passions of the flesh, the lust for the bright lights, indulgences, delicacies, and stimulating pleasures of the world.

The power to overcome all this has come from God. God has given us the power to become more than conquerors because we have trusted Him. His power works in us to conquer because of our faith. Faith brings the power of God into our lives. Faith causes the power of God to work in us and through us. Faith conquers and triumphs over all. This is the witness of faith. Faith in God works because it focuses upon God. And when a person's faith focuses upon God, God honors the person. God does for the person what the person believes, just so the person bases his belief upon the Word of God.

We are to bear strong witness to our faith in God. We are to be strong witnesses for God. We are to arouse people to trust God, to have faith in Him.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Thought 2. We must bear strong testimony to our children. We must teach them the way of faith, teach them to trust the LORD, to have faith in Him.

"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, LORD; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs" (John 21:15).

"Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons" (Deut. 4:9).

5. (4:10-14) Obedience, Example of— Faith, Obedience of— Works, Source of, Faith— Jordan River, Crossing of: there is the obedience of faith. A person who truly believes God will obey God. The Israelites believed God; therefore, they obeyed God. They did exactly what God said. Their obedience is the stress of this point.

1. The priests or ministers had an obedient faith (Joshua 4:10). When they were ordered to be the first to march into the water, no doubt, they were stunned, apprehensive. But they obeyed. And they courageously stood in the middle of the river until all the people had crossed.

2. The people had an obedient faith (Joshua 4:11). They did exactly what they had been instructed to do: they hurried and crossed over the Jordan and stood along the bank watching, amazed and astounded.

3. The two and a half East Jordan tribes had an obedient faith (Joshua 4:12-13). They did exactly what they had been instructed to do: they crossed over in front of the other tribes, taking the lead just as they had been directed by Moses long before. Note that the East Jordan tribes had sent forty thousand soldiers, armed for war. Keep in mind that the warfare in the promised land was to take several long years. Therefore, a large number of

the men and soldiers of these East Jordan tribes had to remain behind to maintain and protect their homes, families, and land.

4. Joshua had an obedient faith (Joshua 4:14). As the leader, Joshua had to set the example of faith and trust in God. He had been obedient, faithful; therefore, God fulfilled His promise to Joshua. Joshua was honored by the LORD in the eyes of the people. Because of this miracle—the crossing of the Jordan River—the people revered Joshua just as highly as they had Moses. Note that they esteemed and followed Joshua throughout all his life.

Thought 1. The person who believes God obeys God. Belief equals obedience. Think about the fact for a moment: if you believe a person, you act upon what he says. You accept what the person says as being true. If what a person says calls for some act on your part, and you believe what he says, you act. If you do not believe the person, then you do not act.

The same is true with faith in God. Faith in God acts, does exactly what God says. The Israelites believed God, believed that He would show them how to cross over the Jordan. When God showed them the way, they obeyed God. They began to walk, and they crossed the Jordan River. This is the obedience of faith. If we have faith in God, we must obey God. We must do exactly what God says. It is our obedience, our obeying Him, that proves our faith. A faith that does not act or work is no faith at all. True faith is an obedient faith. Genuine faith follows God and obeys Him.

"Not every one that saith unto me, LORD, LORD, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it" (Matthew 7:24-27).

6. (4:15-19) Faith, Result of— Jordan River, Crossing of— Gilgal— Israel, History, First day in the Promised Land: there is the result of faith. At long last, the results of the Israelites' hope and longing was experienced. They were in the promised land, actually standing on the ground that was part of their inheritance. Excitement, joy and rejoicing filled the air.

1. The LORD ordered Joshua to command the priests to come up out of the Jordan River (Joshua 4:16-18). Joshua gave the command and the priests, no doubt rejoicing, came up out of the river carrying the Ark.

2. The waters were immediately released by God—just as the priests' feet touched dry ground—and the swift and dangerous waters of the Jordan quickly returned to its flood level (Joshua 4:18).

3. The wonderful result of faith was then realized (Joshua 4:19). The people were spending their very *first night* in the promised land. On the tenth day of the first month, the Israelites camped and spent their first night in the promised land. They camped at Gilgal just east of Jericho.

For so many years the people had been longing, anticipating, looking for this day to come. Now—at long last—the day had finally come. Excitement, joy, and rejoicing filled the air. As they set up camp, pockets of people could be seen singing, talking excitedly, praying, sharing their hopes and dreams with each other, and praising God. Little children could be seen running all about playing their games with a new excitement, for this was the land they had heard their parents talk about so much for so long. What a day of rejoicing this must have been for these dear people of God. Their faith in God's promise had borne fruit. They were now standing in the promised land of God.

Thought 1. Faith in God bears fruit. If we trust God, God will work in our hearts and lives. God will honor our faith. God has made promises to us just as He made promises to the Israelites. Just as He fulfilled His promises to them, God will fulfill His promises to us. There is only one condition: we must believe God, have faith in His promises. God will do exactly what He promises us—if we will just believe Him.

"Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this *which is done* to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done" (Matthew 21:21).

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also" (John 14:2-3).

"Let your conversation [conduct, behavior] *be* without covetousness; and *be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The LORD *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Hebrews 13:5-6).

7. (4:20-24) Faith, Purpose of— Witness, Duty— Testimony, Duty— Memorials, Purpose of: there is the purpose of faith. This is seen in Joshua's building the memorial at Gilgal.

1. One of the purposes of faith is to teach the power of God to children, that they might always fear Him (Joshua 4:21-23). Once the memorial had been constructed, Joshua obviously called all the Israelites together in a memorial service of thanksgiving. He challenged the people to be witnesses to their children and to all future descendants. He challenged them to bear testimony to the fact...

- that God had dried up the Jordan so that His people could cross over into the promised land
- that God did to the Jordan just what He had done to the Red Sea

2. A second purpose of faith is to teach the power of God to all the peoples of the earth (Joshua 4:24). This is the dear, straight forward purpose declared by Joshua. God had worked the miracle for all the peoples of the earth. The miracle was to be a strong testimony to God's power so that all people might fear God. All the earth was to know the power of God's mighty hand. Every person—both Israelite and Gentile—is to fear the LORD God. Every person is to acknowledge...

- that He alone is the living God
- that He alone is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe who possesses all power
- that He alone has all the power to cut off the flow of rivers
- that He alone has the power to cause rivers to flow
- that He alone has the power to split asunder the seas of the world
- that He alone has the power to cause the waters of the seas to flow back together again.

All people are to know that the LORD God is living and is to be feared. He alone is the living and true God, the Omni pant LORD of the Universe. He and He alone is to be feared.

Thought 1. The power and fear of God are to be taught. We must know the power of God. He is the living God, which means that He is omnipotent, possessing all power, the power to do any thing and all things. The power of God is awesome, incomprehensible, beyond anything people can think or imagine. Because of His power, we must heed the warning: fear God. By fear is meant to hold Him in the highest esteem, honor, and reverence. It also means to acknowledge His awesome justice and judgment and to shrink from what can happen to us if we fail to fear Him as we should.

- 1) God is living, possessing all power. He is omnipotent, able to do all things. Therefore, we must acknowledge and teach the omnipotent power of God to all children and generations of people.

"And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm" (Matthew 8:26).

"But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house" (Matthew 9:6).

- 2) God is to be revered and feared. We must teach the reverence and fear of God to all children and all generations of people.

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28).

"And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation" (Luke 1:50).

"But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (Acts 10:35).

"And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear" (1 Peter 1:17).

Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible - Commentary - The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible – Joshua.