

PRAYER STUDY 4
"Crossing the Jordan: A New Beginning"
JOSHUA 3

The Jordan River types a division between the Carnal Christian Life and the Spirit-filled Christian Life, between wandering with murmuring and complaining in the Wilderness (where we are so vulnerable to the temptations of the enemy) to entering in to a new way of living in a land *flowing* with milk (foundational truths of God's Word-1st Corinthians 3:2-) and honey (sweet Word of God-Psalms 119:7-11, Revelations 10:9-10). As you recall, it is with the Word of God (the Rhema of Ephesians 6:17, i.e. the individual scripture which the Spirit brings to our remembrance for use in time of need) that we defeat the power of the enemy and thus live in victory over the kingdom of darkness. That's not to say there are lesser attacks. In fact, we are called to slay the Giants. It becomes a subtle shift between living in defeat because of bondage to sin to becoming a threat to the Kingdom of Darkness and thus being on the enemy hit list.

What does all this have to do with Prayer? The desire to pray and the power in prayer is greatly accelerated when we pray under the leadership and in the power of the Holy Spirit, when we have crossed Jordan and begin to pray His Word and His Will. Previously, as carnal Christians, we figuratively fought the enemy with muskets and bayonets. When we have a "Crossing the Jordan" experience, we fight him with atomic bombs.

HOW DO WE GET FROM ONE SIDE OF THE JORDAN TO THE OTHER OR HOW DO WE SURRENDER ALL TO JESUS AND DIE TO SELF?

- A. **Lay down your idols**-And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore, come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. 2ND CORINTHIANS 6:16-18
- B. **Forgive**-Put on, therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye, and above all these things put on love which is the bond of perfection. COLOSSIANS 3:12-14
- C. **Walk humbly**-He hath shown thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? MICAH 6:8
And if any man think that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. 1ST CORINTHIANS 8:2

- D. **Submit to spiritual authority or overthrow the Absalom Spirit-**
For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. 1 SAMUEL 15:23
- E. **Strive for Holiness**(set apart to the service of God, spiritually pure, cleansed from defilement, godlikeness)-Give unto the Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. PSALM 29:2
- F. **Receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit-** ...Be filled with the Holy Spirit.
ACTS 9:17

So the question becomes: *Do you want to stay on the wilderness side of Jordan at SHITTIM(acacia wood-humanity) or do you want to cross over to GILGAL(rolling or a wheel)?*

- A. Those who stayed on the other side of Jordan and did not cross-
 1. GAD-a troop, always fighting and striving
 2. Reuben-1st born but committed adultery with his father's concubine
 3. ½ of Manasseh tribe-1/2 Hebrew and 1/2 Egyptian

B. Those who crossed the Jordan found a land flowing with milk and honey

CAUTION!!!

What can you expect after a great move of God in your life, after the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, after a spiritual renewal or victory such as we anticipate at Epworth 2004?

Consider the following:

- A. The bitter waters of Marah that the children of Israel drank after crossing the Red Sea(EXODUS 15:22-24)
- B. The coalition of enemies against Joshua after the Battle of Jericho(JOSHUA 9:1-2)
- C. Jezebel's vow to murder Elijah after the Mount Carmel experience(1st Kings 19:2-4)

There will most likely be an attack against you individually and against the ministry as a whole, but remember that the bitter waters became sweet when the wood(which types the Cross of Jesus and teaches us to turn our focus from the attack or trial to Jesus) was thrown in the water; the enemies of Israel were ultimately defeated by Joshua; and Elijah was encouraged and fed by the Angel of the Lord while Jezebel was thrown out of the window and her dead body eaten by dogs, leaving only her skull, feet, and palms of her hand for Jehu to bury.