

THE WAY TO BLESSINGS

Joshua 3:1-17

Introduction: Are you living the quality of Christian life you want? Is there a barrier of some type keeping you from that special kind of life you know Jesus Christ wants you to live?

Let's make a comparison between that barrier in your life and the barrier Israel faced in moving into their promised land.

I. GOD HAD PROMISED ISRAEL A LAND

1. God had a purpose for that land:
 - A babe, Bethlehem, Calvary, an upper room, Pentecost, judgment of sin.
 - God's master plan for the salvation of mankind was in that promised land.
2. God has a purpose and plan for your life, too:
 - It is Bethlehem, Calvary, Pentecost and Salvation.

II. THE JORDAN RIVER WAS AN OBSTACLE

1. The Jordan river was at flood stage and it was beyond human power to be able to cross it.
2. What is the river's name in your life that is a barrier between you and that Christian life style you need to be living?
 - Is it an unloving spirit? Judgmental attitude? Hurt feelings? Jealousy? Vengeful?
3. May God help us every one see what is lurking deep within our hearts that has created a river of barrier.

III. THE PRESENCE OF GOD REMOVED THE RIVER BARRIER

1. The Ark of the Covenant was carried into the flooding river first.
2. Upon entering the flooded river by the Priests carrying the Ark, the waters parted an dry land appeared.
3. Jesus Christ is our Ark. His presence at our river of barrier will cause the impossible to become possible.
4. Israel was told to keep their eyes upon the Ark the Priests were holding as they crossed the river.
5. The Christian must have a clear, unobstructed view of Jesus Christ if he/she is to cross over into the Christ-style life.

6. As Israel had no other way to cross the river except passing by the Ark, the Christian has no other way of crossing his/her river of barrier to the Christian life style than through the works of Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

1. Israel saw the promised land but a flooded river prevented their entrance.
- God led the way and made the crossing on dry land possible.
2. For those whose lives have come to the edge of a flooded river of some sort, keeping them from living the kind of life Jesus wants, there is a way across - ONLY ONE WAY across.
- One must get his/her eyes upon the Lord Jesus Christ, trusting and obeying His very word and then WADE IN.
3. All human effort must cease. All resistance must be surrendered. Total, complete faith must be placed in the Lord Jesus Christ and unquestioning obedience to the Lord's Word and looking to Jesus for deliverance is the ONLY way to live that Godly, Christ like life.
4. Christian, look around. See that flooded river in your life that is keeping you from living as Jesus wants you to, now do you see Jesus? Keep your eyes on Jesus, trusting Him to get you across, and step in.