

“On the Way” 365 Bible Reading Plan

JOSHUA 3

Joshua 3

Joshua three opens with a geographical note that the children of Israel were in the “Acacia Grove” and that is where the center of activity was for the nation. The spies were sent out from there, they returned there. The reality is the children of Israel had been there since their encounter with Balaam as recorded in Numbers 22:1. It is named as the place mentioned in Numbers 22:1 as the Acacia Grove in Numbers 25:1. Acacia’s are a desert tree and many times can be spotted at a distance because of their rounded, canopy shape. They will at times grow in groves which is the reason many ancients would camp and live near them. They are great shade under the hot desert sun. This is where the camp of Israel found a bit of relief during the trek through the desert as they waited for the last of the rebellious nation to die before entering Canaan.

Joshua knew it was time to move, so the entire camp moved closer to the Jordan in preparation for the final crossing. Joshua’s officers went throughout the camp to alert the people as to when to move and it was all centered around when the “Ark of the Covenant” was moved, because the Ark represented the presence and

power of God. Joshua also told the people to keep their distance and not “bunch up” with a herd mentality. This was to be an orderly and organized crossing, not a mad rush. When God is leading, in the forefront there will be order and organization, because God is leading the way. Joshua separated the groups that would cross over by approximately 1,000 yards or three and one third American football fields apart.

“...and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest)” (v.15). The Jordan was in flood stage, so this means it would have been after the early and latter rains and time for the barley harvest. The Jordan could easily have been well over a mile or more wide.

Prayer and Action Steps

Joshua was following God and following God’s timing. Are you? Knowing God’s will is critical. Knowing God’s timing of His will is critical too. Dear God, teach me to wait on you.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions?

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible?
