

jenaministries – Part 5 Bible Stories

10. Crossing the Jordan on Dry Land

We have all heard the story of the parting of the Red Sea when God used Moses to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. But the crossing of the Jordan River is not quite as well known, though just as miraculous.

Even though the Israelites experienced the parting of the Red Sea, they still didn't completely trust God. They complained and worshiped other Gods. So God made them wander in the wilderness for one generation (about 40 years).

After Moses died, there was a new generation of Israelites who were more trusting in God and ready to venture into the promised land. Joshua was their new leader.

They had a lot of obstacles to fight through, but they knew God would get them through it all. One of the first obstacles was crossing the Jordan River which was huge and flooded. The priests were carrying the Ark of the Covenant and leading the way.

They had to have complete faith in God to make that first step. When their feet touched the water's edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing (**Scriptures 1 - Joshua 3:14-17**). It piled up in a heap a great distance away.

The water was completely cut off and all the people crossed over the Jordan River on dry land. The priests carrying the Ark stopped in the middle of the river until all the millions of people had passed through.

Joshua appointed twelve men (one from each tribe) to pick up a rock and carry it on their shoulder (**Scriptures 2 - Joshua 4:4-7**). They made a monument to serve as a memorial of how God allowed them to cross the Jordan on dry land.

It was to serve as a sign. So when their children ask, what is that stack of rocks? They can tell them the story of how God stopped the Jordan River so they were able to walk through it on dry land.

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Scriptures 1: Joshua 3:14-17

So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them.

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, 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 (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

Scriptures 2: Joshua 4:4-7

So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe,

and said to them, "Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites,

to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?'

tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."