

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

"Be Strong and Courageous!"

-Joshua in the Old Testament -Jesus in the New Testament

Date: 3-1-15 **Lesson:** 5

A. TEXT – Chapter 3



(1) Then Joshua rose early in the morning and they set out from Shittim. And they came to the Jordan, he and all the people of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. (2) At the end of three days the officers went through the camp (3) and commanded the people, "As soon as you see **the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God** being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it. (4) Yet there shall be a distance between you and it, about 2,000 cubits in length. Do not come near it, in order that you may know the way you shall go, for you have not passed this way before."

(5) Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for **tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you**." (6) And Joshua said to the priests, "Take up **the ark of the covenant** and pass on before the people." So they took up **the ark of the covenant** and went before the people. (7) **The Lord** said to Joshua, "Today **I will begin to exalt you** in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as **I was with Moses**, so **I will be** with you. (8) And as for you, command the priests who bear **the ark of the covenant**, 'When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.'"

(9) And Joshua said to the people of Israel, "Come here and listen **to the words of the Lord your God**." (10) And Joshua said, "Here is how you shall know that the living God is among you and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites. (11) Behold, **the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth** is passing over before you into the Jordan.

(12) Now therefore take twelve men from the tribes of Israel, from each tribe a man. (13) And when the soles of the feet of the priests bearing **the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth**, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap."

(14) So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing **the ark of the covenant** before the people, (15) and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing **the ark** were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), (16) the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho.

(17) Now the priests bearing **the ark of the covenant of the Lord** stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.

B. STUDY NOTES

- The Ark of the covenant of the Lord your God (**Ex 25:10-22; Nu 10:33-36; Heb 9:1-26; Rev 11:19**)
- The Living God is among you, the Lord of all the earth (**Ex 19:5; Dt. 5:26; 10:14; 1 Sa 17:26,36; 1 Ki 20:23; 2 Ki 18:32-35; 19:4,16; Job 9:10; 28:24; 41:11; Ps 18:46; 42:2; 50:12; 84:2; 97:5; Is 37:4,17; 44:6-28; Jer 10:10; 23:36; Dan 6:26; Hos 1:10; Zech 6:5; Mt 16:16**)
- The Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites (**Gen 9:25; 10:6,15,16; 13:7; 15:16; 23:3; Ex 3:8; Jdg 3:3; 6:10; 1 Cor 10:2**)
- When the soles of the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap. (**Ex 14:21; 15:8; Ps 78:13**) (-all the way back to the city of Adam-)

Note: the city Adam – this city on the east side of the Jordan where the Jabbok met the Jordan.

Jesus, the New Adam, is the only way across the river of death into the Promised land of heaven (**Jn 14:6**)

The Peoples of Canaan

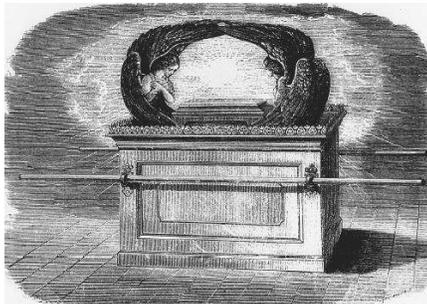
The Seven Nations. Jsh 3:10 names seven nations that the Lord will drive out. These seven nations are representative and stand for the complete number of Israel's enemies that are ripe for judgment. Similar lists are found in Gn 10:15–18; 13:7; 15:19–21; Ex 3:8; Nu 13:29; Dt 7:1; cf Ac 13:19.

Scripture offers the background needed to uncover the identities of the seven nations and the reason God desires their expulsion from Canaan. One commonality shared by these nations is their relationship to Noah (Gn 10:15–19). (Only the Perizzites fail to receive mention in Gn 10. Every other nation finds its origin in Canaan, the son of Ham and

the grandson of Noah.) As a result of Ham dishonoring his father, Noah, Ham's son Canaan was cursed (Gn 9:24–25). Thus, Gn 9:25 portends that the Canaanites would be "a servant of servants," for the Semitic root of his name means "to sink, be low."

The peoples occupying the land of Canaan likewise share a common rejection of God's grace and subsequent decadence. Dt 18:9–13 lists the detestable practices of the nations already in the land. Among these are child sacrifices, the practice of divination or sorcery, and occult activity. In addition, Lv 18 and 20 detail the rampant sexual depravity among the Canaanites.

Canaanites	Not only do the Canaanites derive their name from the son of Ham, but they also lend that name to the land in which they settled, as well as to the peoples who settled along the Great Sea and along the Jordan River (Nu 13:29; Jsh 5:1; 11:3). Interestingly, some scholars attribute the creation of the Semitic alphabet, which developed into the Hebrew and Northwest Semitic languages, to the Canaanites. The Phoenicians carried this Semitic alphabet to Greece, where it was adapted and then carried by Etruscans to Italy. "God thus used the heathen Canaanites, by way of their alphabet, to help disseminate His word" (CC Jsh, p 177). What a wonderful example of how God uses all things for His benefit.
Amorites	Like the Canaanites, the Amorites were descendants of Canaan, the son of Ham. The Amorites settled the southern slopes of the Judean mountains (Dt 1:7, 19, 20) and were principally a farming culture. Sihon and Og were both Amorite kings defeated before the Israelites crossed the Jordan (Nu 21:21–35; Dt 1:4–7). Five Amorite kings found God's wrath through Joshua (Jsh 10:10) and suffered additional defeats (Jsh 11:8). The Amorites spoke a Semitic language and, like the Canaanites, often lent their name in a broad sense to all the area of Canaan (Gn 15:16; Jsh 24:15).
Jebusites	The Jebusites lived in the Canaanite hill country (Nu 13:29; Jsh 11:3). Their capital city was known as Jebus (Jerusalem) at the time of Joshua (Jsh 10; 15:63; 2Sm 5:5–9). Jebus was captured and burned by the men of Judah (cf Jgs 1:8), but the Jebusites regained possession and held it until the time of David, Israel's greatest king (2Sm 5:6–9; 1Ch 11:4–9). Not all of the Jebusites were destroyed, however, because David later purchased Araunah the Jebusite's threshing floor (2Sm 24:18–24), which later became the foundation for the Jerusalem temple. Under Solomon, the pre-Israelite peoples like the Jebusites were made slaves (1Ki 9:20–21).
Hittites	Gn 15 ties the Hittites to Canaan. They were of Indo-European origin. Some scholars speculate that the Hittites had physical features similar to the Mongols, while others believe the Hittites may have emigrated from Russia. In any case, the cave Abraham bought as a tomb for his beloved wife, Sarah, was purchased from Ephron the Hittite (Gn 23:3–20). Esau took a wife from among the Hittites (Gn 26:34). The Hittites are closely aligned with the Amorites and mentioned as living among the mountains of Canaan. They were found among the Amorites in the mountain region of Judah when Joshua and the spies entered the Promised Land (Nu 13:29). In addition, they took part with other Canaanites in campaigns against Israel (Jsh 9:1).
Hivites	Listed among the lineage of Canaan (Gn 10:15–19), scholars believe that the Hivites inhabited Gibeon (Jsh 9:7, 17), the area below Mount Hermon (Jsh 11:3), and the Lebanon mountains (Jgs 3:3). The Hivites remained in Canaan until the time of King David (2Sm 24:7). The Hivites were not a warlike people; they made a treaty with Joshua in Jsh 9. The Bible indicates that one reason why God allowed a few of these Canaanite peoples like the Hivites to remain was so that the Israelites might be trained in warfare and to test Israel to see if they would obey God's commands to remove them (cf Jgs 3:3–4).
Girgashites	The Girgashites comprised a nation west of the Jordan (Jsh 24:11). Like many other peoples in Canaan, the Girgashites were descendants of Ham through Canaan. Outside of Scripture, the words <i>grgs</i> and <i>bn grgs</i> ("son of Grgs") have been found in Ugaritic literature, suggesting that the name was familiar in Canaan. Along with the lands of other Canaanite nations, God promised the land of the Girgashites to Abraham and his descendants (cf Gn 15:17–21).
Perizzites	Very little is known about the Perizzites. Along with other pre-Israelite nations, the Perizzites are mentioned in several places outside of Joshua (Gn 15:20; 34:30; 1Ki 9:20). Some scholars believe the name Perizzite links them to occupants of rural areas or unwalled towns. However, the Bible places the Perizzites in the hill country of Canaan (Jsh 11:3), perhaps in the forest country between Judah and Ephraim (cf Gn 15:18–21; Jsh 17:15). In spite of their victory over this nation (Jsh 12:7–8), the Israelites intermarried with the Perizzites (Jgs 3:5–6) and never fully removed them from the land (Ezr 9:1).



C. LIFE APPLICATION

1. Why do we no longer need the old ark of the covenant, the tabernacle or the temple?
2. How do we know that the word of the Living God, who made the heavens and the earth, is among us today?
3. When was it in Jesus' life that his own body is our temple, our ark and our tabernacle?
4. Where do we have present with us now the body of Christ and the proof of his real presence with us?