

"YE HAVE NOT PASSED THIS WAY HERETOFORE." Josh, 3:4

INTRODUCTION:

Before the statement, "Ye have not passed this way heretofore," was made God said to Joshua:

1. "Moses my servnat is dead; (Joshua 1:2)
2. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan,
3. Thou, and all this people,
4. Unto the land which I do give to them.

Josh 1

God's promise to Moses renewed to Joshua:

1. "Every place that the soul of your feet shall tread upon...
2. That have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. Joshua 1:3
 1. The two spies said, "The Lord hath delivered into our hands all the land. Joshua 2:24
 2. To Abraham the Lord said, "I will give you this land."
 3. Rahab said, "I know that the Lord hath given you the land." Joshua 2:9

3. NOTE:

1. The Lord speaks in the past tense as if he had already given them the land.
 1. Men cannot speak of the purpose as accomplished until the thing is done.
 2. Men may and do, lay many plans but they cannot ensure the success of the means had in mind through which to accomplish those plans.
2. It is in the province of God alone to speak of that which he wills to do as already done.
 1. No human general can so speak. He must await the outcome of the battle.

GOD'S DIRECTION FOR PASSAGE OF THE JORDAN

1. God's directions to man are always plain. Consider
 1. When ye see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God...
 2. And the priests the Levites bearing it...
 3. Then ye shall remove from your place and go after it...
 4. Yet there shall be a space between you and it..
 5. Two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it,
 6. That ye may know the way by which ye must go...

"For ye have not passed this way heretofore."

Joshua 3:3,4

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1. WHAT WAY?

1. The crossing of Jordan. You have not crossed Jordan before.

2. IDEAS ABOUT THE CROSSING OF JORDAN.

1. We sing, "I will not have to cross jordan alone

1. Thinking of our death...exit from this world
"When I come to the river at the ending
of day,

When the last winds of sorrow have blown;
There'll be somebody waiting to show me the
way,

I won't have to cross Jordan alone." (P.460)

2. It seems to me that this crossing of Jordan
does not represent the passing of a soul from
time to eternity.

1. On the other side of ~~the~~ the Jordan of
death the righteous will not encounter
Jerichos, Ais and Achans. Battles and
struggles will be over. We will lay our
armour aside to rest forever in the shade
of the tree of life.

3. What does it represent?

1. It seems to me to represent the passing
of a soul from a lower to a higher,
richer experience in the things of God.

2. This crossing of Jordan must represent
that which separates between the SELF-LIFE
and the God-Christ-Life.

3. This crossing of Jordan seems to say to
the people:

1. That the mighty flood of difficulties
that would hinder them on the other side
would be rolled back before the
feet of faith,

4. It may be, must surely be, significant that
near this very spot, Bethabara: the house of
passage: (John 1:28)

1. The feet of the Son of God rested

2. It was here that Jesus was baptized...

3. It was here that he stood while the clouds
rolled back: The...

4. It was here that the Spirit of God de-
scended upon him in the form of a dove...

5. It was here that God said, "This is my be-
loved son in whom I am well pleased.

Their baptism, the crossing of Jordan, opened a pass-
age from the wilderness experience to the milk and
honey land.

The crossing of Jordan. You have not crossed
the river in the same way.
I was here when the Lord came to the Jordan
and I was here when he stood with the
disciples.
It was here that the Spirit of God
descended upon him in the form of a dove.
I have seen that with my own eyes.
It was here that Jesus was baptized.
I was here when John was baptizing.
The Jordan is a holy river.
It was here that the Lord came to the Jordan
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