

In our last lesson we talked about the 2 spies Joshua sent to look over the land of Canaan. The spies stayed with a woman named Rahab. Rahab helped the spies escape by climbing down a rope she put out of her window.

God was ready for Joshua to lead the people into the land He had for them. Joshua got up early in the morning and the children of Israel started towards the new land. They camped on the banks of the Jordan River.

Joshua told the people that when they saw the priests carrying the ark of the covenant, they would know it was time to cross over into the new land. (Joshua 3:3) God spoke to Joshua and told him all he needed to do. Then Joshua told the people, “Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” (Joshua 3:5)

Then it was time. Joshua spoke to the priests and said, “Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people.” The Lord wanted the people to know that He was going to be with Joshua just like He had been with Moses. The Lord told Joshua to command the priests to stand in the water when they reached the river. (Joshua 3:8)

Joshua called the people to come together. (Joshua 3:9) He told them to choose a leader from each tribe. Joshua told the people there would be a sign from God that would show them God would be with them to take the land of Canaan. Joshua told the Israelites the words of God. He told them that when the priests carrying the ark stepped into the Jordan River, the water would be cut off and stand still. (Joshua 3:13) The people followed the priests carrying the ark of the covenant. (Joshua 3:14)

The priests walked toward the Jordan River. They did not stop walking when they got to the river. As soon as the priests stepped into the waters of the river, the flow of the water stopped. The waters rolled back and the priests were on dry land. (Joshua 3:16) While the priests stood in the middle of the riverbed, all the people crossed over on dry land. God had instructed Joshua to have the 12 men chosen from each tribe to bring a stone out of the river. Each man chose a stone from the place where the priests stood. They carried the stones out of the river and placed them in a pile where they were going to camp.

The priests stood in the river while all the people walked through. After every person had crossed through the Jordan River, the priests walked out. When the priests stepped on the dry land, the Jordan River began to flow again. (Joshua 4:18) The Israelites were finally in the land promised by God.

The people made their camp at Gilgal. Joshua took the 12 stones and placed them to be a memorial for the Israelites. (Joshua 4:20) Joshua told the people that later in time their children would ask about the stones. Joshua said they could tell them how God stopped the waters of the Jordan River so the Israelites could cross on dry land. (Joshua 4:22) The Israelites saw what God did for them. They saw how mighty God was.

The people in the land of Canaan heard about God stopping the water of the Jordan River for the Israelites to walk through. They were afraid when they heard how God helped the Israelites.

The city of Jericho was the closest city to the Israelite camp at Gilgal. Jericho had a wall all the way around it. All the people stayed inside the walls. Jericho was the first city the Israelites would have to take over in the new land. They would have to capture Jericho before they could go on through the land of Canaan.

As Joshua got closer to the city of Jericho, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him. The Angel spoke and said, “I am the commander of the Lord’s army.” (Joshua 5:14) The Angel of the Lord told Joshua to take off his sandals because where he stood was holy. The Angel told Joshua the instructions for taking over the city of Jericho. God had a special plan of attack.

The Israelites followed the instructions exactly. This is what they did. Seven priests with seven trumpets made of ram’s horns marched before the ark of God. The ark of the covenant was carried by other priests. Ahead and behind them were men who were armed and ready to fight. No one said a word. The only sound heard was made by the priests with the trumpets.

The Israelites marched around the city of Jericho one time and went back to their camp. The next day they did the same thing again. They marched around Jericho one time a day for six days. On the seventh day, the Israelites marched around Jericho seven times. (Joshua 6:15)

After the seventh time around, the priests blew the trumpets. All the people gave a great shout. The walls of Jericho fell down. All the men ran into the city and captured it. (Joshua 6:20)

The Israelite people had been told not to take anything out of the city for their own. All things made of silver, gold, brass, or iron were to be given to the treasure of the Lord.

Joshua told the two spies to go back to Rahab’s house. She had marked her house with the red rope. They brought Rahab and her family out safely. Then the city was burned with fire. Rahab went to live with the Israelites for the rest of her life.

The Israelites had faith in God. Their faith was what made them follow the instructions of God. That is how they captured the city of Jericho.

Joshua warned them that any man who tried to rebuild the city of Jericho would be cursed by God. (Joshua 6:26) God was with Joshua and all the Israelites.