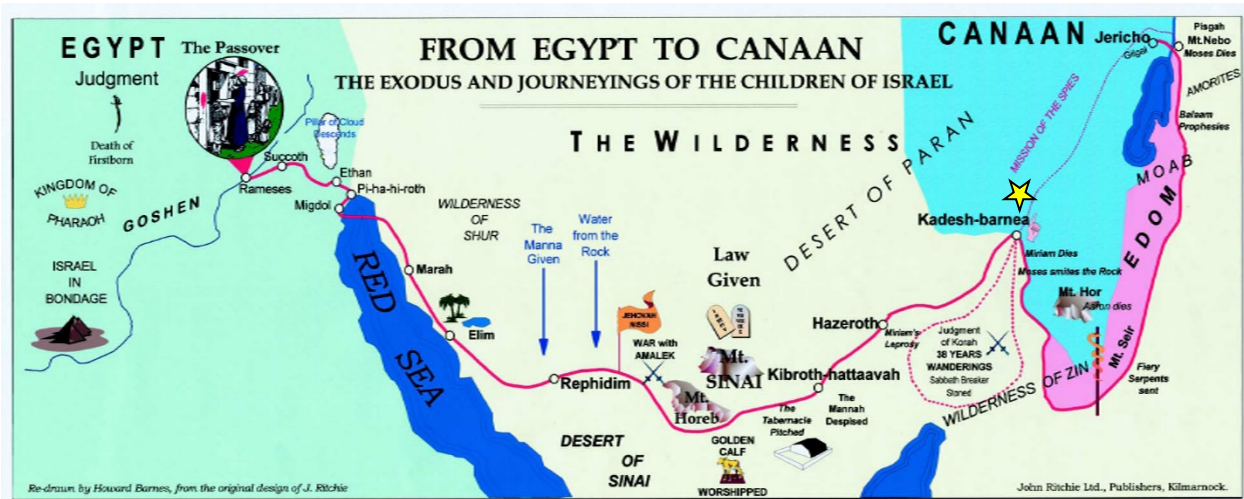


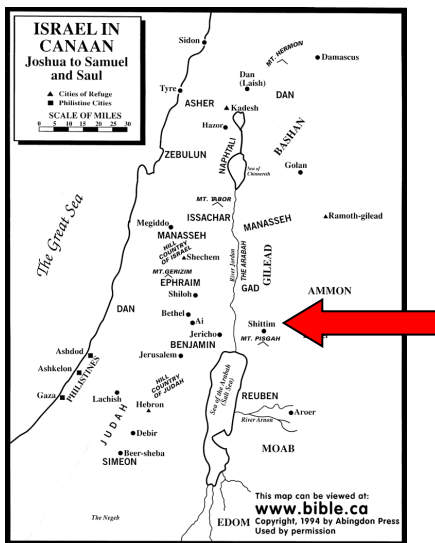
Joshua 3 – 5:12

Entering the Promised Land: Miracles, Memorials, and Observances

Introduction



1. Preparing to Cross



a. Consecration

b. The Ark and the priests

*“[T]he ark of the covenant of the **Lord of all the earth** is crossing over before you into the Jordan.”* Joshua 3:11

2. The Crossing

a. The Jordan River itself

b. The command

c. The MIRACLE – it was, indeed, supernatural.

3. Reaching the Promised Land

a. Memorial stones

b. Gilgal

4. Exaltation of Joshua

And the Lord said to Joshua, “This day 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.” Joshua 3:7

a. Joshua is a Christ figure.

b. His name means _____.

On that day the Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they had feared Moses, all the days of his life. Joshua 4:14

5. Reinstating Sacred Trust

a. Circumcision

b. Passover at harvest time

6. Lessons for Today

- a. The LORD (symbolized by the Ark) went into the dangerous river first as Israel's protector. That same God is with us today.
Isaiah 43:2a - *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.*
- b. Although we may not see what God is doing, it does not mean he isn't working.
- c. Step out in faith. Sometimes you need to get your feet wet.
James 2:26 - *As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.*
- d. God is always leading. The question is – are we ready to follow?
- e. Crossing your Jordan is moving to a higher relationship with the living God – a life centered in faith and obedience.

Questions to consider:

1. Since we don't practice ritual washings today, what would the command to "consecrate yourselves" mean for Christians in our time?
2. What kinds of things can we use in families and churches as "memorial stones" upon which to build our own and our children's understanding of God?
3. What is the connection between faith and obedience? What is the connection between faith and works?