

"Taking Those First Steps"

Joshua 3

_____:

"¹Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and he and all the sons of Israel set out from Shittim and came to the Jordan, and they lodged there before they crossed." (Numbers 25:1-3)

The people of Israel saw the ever-present _____ of the Jordan River.

"²At the end of three days the officers went through the midst of the camp; ³and they commanded the people, saying, 'When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God with the Levitical priests carrying it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it.'"

1) The people of Israel were instructed to let the Lord _____ them. (Exodus 25:10-22; Matthew 16:24)

"⁴However, there shall be between you and it a distance of about 2,000 cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you shall go, for you have not passed this way before."

2) The people of Israel were instructed to _____ the Lord.

"⁵Then Joshua said to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.'"

3) The people of Israel were instructed to _____ themselves.
(Exodus 19:10-13)

"⁶And Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, 'Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over ahead of the people.'..."

4) The priests were instructed to take the _____ and step foot into the _____ of the Jordan River.

"⁶...So they took up the ark of the covenant and went ahead of the people."

The priests _____!

"⁷Now the LORD said to Joshua, 'This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you.'"

The Lord told Joshua He was about to do a _____, so that the people of Israel would know that the _____ was with him.

"⁸You shall, moreover, command the priests who are carrying the ark of the covenant, saying, 'When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.'"

5) The priests were instructed to _____ the Lord and _____.

"⁹Then Joshua said to the sons of Israel, 'Come here, and hear the words of the LORD your God.'"

6) The people of Israel were instructed to _____ the word of God.

“¹⁰Joshua said, ‘By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will assuredly dispossess from before you the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Hivite, the Perizzite, the Girgashite, the Amorite, and the Jebusite. ¹¹Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over ahead of you into the Jordan.’”

Joshua stood on God’s promise that the people of Israel would defeat their _____ in the Promise Land because _____ was with them.
(Jeremiah 10:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)

“¹²Now then, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man for each tribe.”

One man from each tribe of Israel was going to be instructed to get a _____ from the Jordan as a _____.

“¹³It shall come about when the soles of the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan will be cut off, and the waters which are flowing down from above will stand in one heap.’ ¹⁴So when the people set out from their tents to cross the Jordan with the priests carrying the ark of the covenant before the people, ¹⁵and when those who carried the ark came into the Jordan, and the feet of the priests carrying the ark were dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks all the days of harvest), ¹⁶the waters which were flowing down from above stood and rose up in one heap, a great distance away at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan; and those which were flowing down toward the sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. ...”

As the people of Israel obeyed the Lord’s _____, the _____ took place.

“¹⁶...So the people crossed opposite Jericho. ¹⁷And the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan while all Israel crossed on dry ground, until all the nation had finished crossing the Jordan.”

What Do You Do?

_____ in the _____!