

## Seeing God at Work—Moving Ahead in Faith

### Joshua 3-4

Joshua 3 and 4 illustrates **four essentials** for seeing God at work and moving ahead by faith.

- **Essential #1: TO SEE GOD AT WORK, PREPARE YOUR HEART.**

*Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. <sup>2</sup>After three days the officers went throughout the camp, <sup>3</sup>giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. <sup>4</sup>Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about a thousand yards between you and the ark; do not go near it.” <sup>5</sup>Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.” <sup>6</sup>Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people.” So they took it up and went ahead of them. Joshua 3:1-6 (NIV)*

Consecrate = to dedicate or set aside to God

(Exodus 19:9-15; See also Genesis 35:1-3; 2 Samuel 12:20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1)

*And Elisha prayed, “O LORD, open his eyes so he may see.” Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 2 Kings 6:17 (NIV)*

- **Essential #2: TO SEE GOD AT WORK, REASON WITH FAITH AND SEE THE POSSIBILITIES.**

*Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. <sup>10</sup>This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. <sup>11</sup>See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. <sup>12</sup>Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. <sup>13</sup>And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.” Joshua 3:9-13 (NIV)*

*What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Romans 8:31-32 (NIV)*

- **Essential #3: TO SEE GOD AT WORK, UNDERSTAND GOD’S METHODS.**

*So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. <sup>15</sup>Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, <sup>16</sup>the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea ) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. <sup>17</sup>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 passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground. Joshua 3:14-17 (NIV)*

- **Essential #4: TO SEE GOD AT WORK IN THE PRESENT, REMEMBER WHAT HE HAS DONE IN THE PAST.**

*When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, <sup>2</sup>“Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, <sup>3</sup>and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan from right where the priests stood and to carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.” <sup>4</sup>So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, <sup>5</sup>and said to them, “Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, <sup>6</sup>to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ <sup>7</sup>tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. . . . <sup>8</sup>So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them . . . <sup>9</sup>Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day . . . <sup>21</sup>He said to the Israelites, “In the future when your descendants ask their fathers, ‘What do these stones mean?’ <sup>22</sup>tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ <sup>23</sup>For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God did to the Jordan just what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. <sup>24</sup>He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.” Joshua 4:1-9, 21-24 (NIV)*