

Journey Through The Cities Of Refuge

Lesson #20

Hebron: Stepping Into The Unknown

June 3, 2026

I Cor. 10:11-12 Now all these things happened unto them for examples:

and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

BEFORE THE WILDERNESS: See Chart #1: Far Right Side

The Israelites' wilderness journey is considered a type, a symbolic foreshadowing, of

➤ the Carnal Christian Experience.

Saved but Stagnant: Just as the Israelites were delivered from slavery in Egypt, a carnal Christian has experienced salvation. However, like the Israelites wandering in circles for 40 years, they fail to move forward into the abundant spiritual life God intended.

Flesh Over Faith: The wilderness was marked by constant murmuring, complaining, and a lack of faith in God's provision. This mirrors a believer who relies on the "flesh" [their own strength, desires, and worldly thinking] rather than walking in the Spirit.

The wilderness is meant to be a temporary place of testing, training, and learning dependence on God—not a permanent state of defeat.

The "Promised Land" [Abundant Life] Goal:

Canaan represents a life of spiritual rest, victory, and maturity.

➤ Carnal Christians remain trapped in their wilderness because of unbelief.

SEE CHART #1: Christian Life In The Flesh: Carnal Christian in the Wilderness

Battle For My Spiritual Inheritance

A. Prepare To Possess the Land: Prepare For Spiritual Warfare

If we want to live victoriously there will be giants to face & walled cities to attack.

But we don't have to face them alone...we can't face them alone & have any success.

Joshua 1:10-11 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying,

"Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess.'

Key Principle: Divine promises do not eliminate human responsibility.

The people had to take practical action to prepare for their entry into the Promised Land.

They trusted God for victory yet still bake the bread, fill the skins and sharpen the swords—a partnership expressed through obedient readiness.

Truth: We do not drift into God's will. It is a planned and disciplined life with determination and perseverance. Requires walking in the Spirit.

Truth: If I am going to be victorious and live in my Promised Land, I must change my diet and daily feed on God's Word which is always available. Am I daily hungry for God's Word?

Ps. 81:10 I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt:
open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.

What I receive at church, SS, Bible study, etc. is only an appetizer which should whet my appetite to dig in for more on my own. Am I obedient to the command...?

II Tim. 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Can't live the Christian life in your own strength. Plug in to the real power source! [John 15:5] Joshua's strength and courage would come from meditating on the Word of God, believing its promises and obeying its precepts.

Transition & New Beginnings

Joshua 1: 11b for within three days you will cross over this Jordan,

to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess.

For the Israelites, it marked the end of a 40-year wilderness journey due to disobedience and the beginning of life in the Promised Land.

Transition to Spiritual Abundance: Moving from a "wilderness" [a place of wandering, discipline, or spiritual dryness] into a land of "promise" [a place of spiritual victory and rest].

Crossing the Jordan: Stepping into the Unknown

The Israelites were facing a physical barrier—the river was at flood stage. [Joshua 3:15]

- The Jordan River, normally only 20 to 60 yards wide, had swollen to almost $\frac{3}{4}$ mile.

Note: We face a spiritual barrier that requires absolute surrender to Lord Jesus Christ.

- The plain that surrounds this river was packed with tangled brush and dense growth.

Jer. 12:5 The LORD rebukes Jeremiah for his impatience:

"If you have raced with men on foot and they have tired you out, Then how can you compete with horses? If you fall down in a land of peace [where you feel secure],

Then how will you do [among the lions] in the [flooded] thicket beside the Jordan?

- Thick undergrowth could easily trip someone up and cast them into an overwhelming current.

Consider: They had not traveled this way before.

Crossing required them to step out in faith before the waters actually parted. New beginnings often require you to move forward even when the full path isn't completely clear.

- A call to leave your hesitations on the riverbank. Trust in God's Promises.
- Leave behind past failures; break old habits.
- Take a bold step of faith into a new, abundant identity.
- It is a major turning point—the transition from a life of wandering in the wilderness into a season of spiritual breakthrough, victory, and the fulfillment of God's promises.
- Make a conscious decision to wholeheartedly follow Jesus Christ.

- Joyfully appropriate our spiritual blessings in Christ.
- Courageously engage in spiritual warfare against my enemies.
- It represents the leap of faith required to step into the abundant life God has planned.

B. Dying To Self To Live In Victory:

Rogers: The reason so many of us are not filled with the Spirit is we're so stuffed full of ourselves, there's not room for the Spirit.

Joshua 1:11b for within Three Days You Will Cross Over This Jordan,
to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess.

Three days is a profound symbol of completion, divine intervention, and resurrection. It marks the transitional period between an ending, such as death, darkness, or a trial, and a miraculous new beginning or spiritual awakening.

- Making our move in 3 days - We will go in with GOD'S POWER!

In Hebrew, the name of the river [Yarden] comes from the root word meaning "to descend" or "to cross over".

Descending into the Jordan's waters requires lowering oneself. [Jordan = descend; cross over]

- This act is tied to the concept of surrender, humility, and repentance.
- It requires a heart posture of purification and dedicating oneself fully to God's Calling.

I Thess. 4:3a For this is the will of God, your sanctification: [I am being saved; abundant life]

Rom. 8:29 For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be

Conformed To The Image Of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Dying to self is the process of surrendering your own desires, ego, and will to align with God's purpose. It is the foundation for overcoming sin and experiencing true spiritual freedom.

Blackaby: Our difficulty is not that we don't know God's will.

Our discomfort comes from the fact that we do know His will, but we don't want to do it.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Note: We can't have this abundant life until we're sick and tired of that old life.

- Meditating on God's grace to me will enable me to humble myself before Him.
- Humility is the pathway to the full and perfect experience of our DEATH with Christ.
- Humility leads us to "die to self."
- Humble Myself = Confidence in God and faith in His love for me >

I bow to Him and His will for my life

Go To: Be Conformed Chart: Altar of Sacrifice

Rom. 12:1-2 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—

the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. [NLT]

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. [NKJV]

Joshua 2:24 The LORD has given us the whole land," they said,

"for all the people in the land are terrified of us." [NLT: report of 2 spies]

Murray: The flesh, the old man/nature can never by any process of discipline, or struggling, or prayer be made better than it is!

The "old man," your fallen, fleshly nature, is deeply threatened by God's power.

Because it is driven by self-centeredness and sin, it naturally recoils from God's absolute holiness and sovereign judgment.

Deut. 1:30 The LORD your God, who goes before you, will Himself fight for you, just as He did for you in Egypt before your eyes.

They should go forward into their inheritance with full confidence and assurance.

Joshua: Making our move in 3 days! Going in with God's Power!

Joshua 3:1-2a And Joshua rose early in the morning; and they removed from Shittim, and came to Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. And it came to pass after three days, they commanded the people, saying..

C. God Goes Before Us: Follow God's Leading

Joshua 3:3-4 When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about 2000 cubits [~.6 mile] by measure: Come not near unto it, that you may know the way by which you must go: for you have not passed this way before.

Joshua symbolized Jesus - the Provision of victory

Ark symbolized Presence and Power of God

Priests symbolized Purifying work of Sanctification by the Holy Spirit

Recall: Up until this time the ark of the Covenant had been in the midst of the camp.

But now, it is a new day. They are coming out of the wilderness and going into a new land.

They are commanded to follow the Ark. Don't move until it moves. That is the way to victory.

Right before the Israelites cross the Jordan River into the promise land, there's a moment where God throws down the gauntlet.

D. Sanctify, Consecrate Yourself

Joshua 3:5 And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify [Consecrate] yourselves: Tomorrow The Lord Will Do Wonders Among You.

Note: Joshua did not say to get ready for war and sharpen your sword.

Purify yourself and watch what God will do.

Consecrate: #6942 qadash: the act of setting apart, consecrating, or declaring someone as holy unto the LORD.

A critical call to spiritual preparation: Before Israel crossed the Jordan River to enter the Promised Land, God required them to remove distractions, repent of sin, and set their hearts entirely on Him to witness His power.

It embraces both the Divine initiative—God sanctifying—and the human response to be willing. It anchors the Old Testament theology of Holiness and lays the groundwork for New Testament teaching on Sanctification.

God who is utterly holy, graciously sets apart people, places, and times For His Glory.

Hamrick: There is a certain measure of God's Power that is manifest in an individual's life when we walk in purity before Him.

Spiritual Consecration: It was a designated time for the people to ritually purify themselves:

- let go of their old wilderness mindset.
- set aside everyday agendas to dedicate one's life fully to God's sacred purposes.

Active Preparation: The Israelites had a part to play:

Get their hearts and minds ready to witness the supernatural.

- God's blessings and miracles often require a receptive, obedient posture.

Building Anticipation: By camping on the bank, the people had to face the impossibility of the flooded river head-on. The delay eliminated any reliance on their own strength or contingency plans, forcing them to look solely to God.

Anticipation of "Wonders": The phrase "amazing things" refers to the literal miracles God was about to perform.

They were to CONTEMPLATE a miracle. God wanted them to be eager - gripped by a sense of wonder. God was about to do the incredible and humanly impossible.

Vs. 5 Lord was going to do "*wonders*."

Vs. 10 God said He would "*drive out*" the enemy.

Vs. 13 God would "roll back" the Jordan— "*they shall stand upon a heap*."

Focusing on the Ark: During these three days, the people were commanded to watch the Ark of the Covenant, which symbolized God's presence.

Keeping their eyes on the Ark maintained order and taught them to follow God's lead.

The people of Israel were to expect God to work a miracle.

They were to be eager, gripped by a sense of wonder.

Israel was not to lose sight of their God who can do the incredible and the humanly impossible.

Have You Packed Your Coffin? Around the turn of the nineteenth century, there was a group of missionaries who were called one-way missionaries. Instead of using suitcases, they would pack all their earthly belongings into coffins because they knew they were never coming back.

One of those one-way missionaries, A. W. Milne, set sail for the New Hebrides in the South Pacific, where a tribe of headhunters had martyred every missionary that went before him.

Milne did not fear for his life because he had already died to self.

For 35 years, he lived among that tribe and loved them. When he died, he was buried in the middle of their village. This epitaph was inscribed on his tombstone.

"When he came there was no light. When he left there was no darkness."

The complete surrender of your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ is not radical, it's normal.

Looming Question: Are you ready to obey Me & Walk By Faith?

Filled with fear yet filled with excitement and anticipation.

GO TO: Chart #2 Spiritual Preparation & Commands: Breaking The Faith Barrier

- Crossing the Jordan is symbolic of dying to self - the old is gone - the new has come.
- Gaze on it for 3 days! 3 days of death to self! You feel utterly helpless.
- Barrier stands between us and the power of God in our lives and victory.

When there is a lack of consecration through confession for the defilement of sin along with a lack of commitment to God's purpose for our lives in service or ministry, we Hinder The Power Of God.

Crossing The Jordan represents a state of the heart,
a facing of things with God, a reckoning of the cost of following Him.

True disciples apply for river crossing.

- Death to self
- Deliberate decision

The inheritance is not for the double minded.

God doesn't seek the unfaithful and unwilling. He wants those who have considered the cost, who are willing to put everything they have on the line. People who have a firm foundation.