



APPNOTES

Date: November 5-9, 2018

Series: For NEPA

Joshua 3-9:4-9 More powerful than a locomotive, able to leap buildings in a single bound. Only Superman could do that. If you or I stood in front of the Empire State Building, we wouldn't think we could leap over it. That's how the Israelites felt when they stood looking at the Jordan River. Walking across a river that's 100 feet across and somewhere between three and ten feet deep is, well, doable, but they arrived at the Jordan River during flood stage, when it was nearly a half-mile wide and who knew how deep! Might as well stop a locomotive. God did the seemingly impossible and stopped the rushing waters of the Jordan River. He's calling us to do the seeming impossible: to share His love and grace with a dark and sometimes frightening world. But, as Joshua often said, "Take courage!" With God, it is possible, and we'll rejoice on the other side.

Joshua 3-9:4-9 The Israelites spent 40 years in the desert; their goal was now on the other side of the river. Maybe they stood there thinking, "Sure, we'll go in. As soon as God parts the water, like He did at the Red Sea." But that wasn't God's plan at the Jordan. They had to step in the water before the river's flow stopped. They had to have that little bit of faith. But where was God? Standing back to see if they'd do it? No, He went first. The Ark of the Covenant was the place where God resided, an elaborate and expensive box carried carefully by the priests on poles. As soon as the priests' feet touched the water, it stopped. God went first. Don't think that God is standing back now, just watching. He is calling His Church at Parker Hill to reach NEPA, and He will go first. So, what are we waiting for?

Joshua 3-9:4-9 If you watch old movies, the effects look pretty cheesy, but they've improved over the last fifty years. Nothing Hollywood has created so far, though, can compare with the awe-inspiring sight of a flowing river coming to a stop and standing in a heap. God gave the Israelites a purpose and the start of a plan, but they couldn't even get there until God got them to the other side. God will not leave us to flounder. He has a plan for us individually and as a church. We can trust that when we step forward in faith, God will step in, working in amazing ways that can only be God. Why would God do that? Because He loves the people of NEPA. He'll do anything for them. He proved it at the cross. Let's step out in faith and see what God will do!

Joshua 3:9-4:9 I've never been one to take photographs. Sometimes I collected souvenirs to remember trips I'd taken. Now I save a map. I can see where I went and how I got there. The Israelites are either ending their forty-year trek or starting a new adventure, depending on how you look at it. God had done amazing things in the desert, and here He is, at it again! I doubt the people crossing the Jordan would quickly forget the sight of water standing in a heap. But what about their children and grandchildren? How would they remember? God tells the Israelites to take stones from the river and build an altar so that, in the future, they can point to it and say, "This is where God brought us into the Promised Land." How do you remember the moments of your life where God has done something great and grand and astonishing? Rocks, maps, or journals – whatever it is: don't forget. Remind yourself and your children that God is great and grand and good.

Joshua 3:9-4:9 If you search for a list of one-hit wonders, you'll have the songs stuck in your head for hours. Guaranteed. Although some of those musicians and bands recorded more songs and released other records, that one hit is why we remember them. If they still receive royalties, they're probably glad we remember them at all, but they would likely rather be remembered for more than that one thing. As a church, what do we want to be remembered for? Fifty years from now, when we've handed the reins to the next generation, what do we want the people of NEPA to say about us? We're for NEPA. We don't want that to be a phrase we threw around for a few years. Let's be a church known for what we're for, not for what we're against. For generations. For NEPA.

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