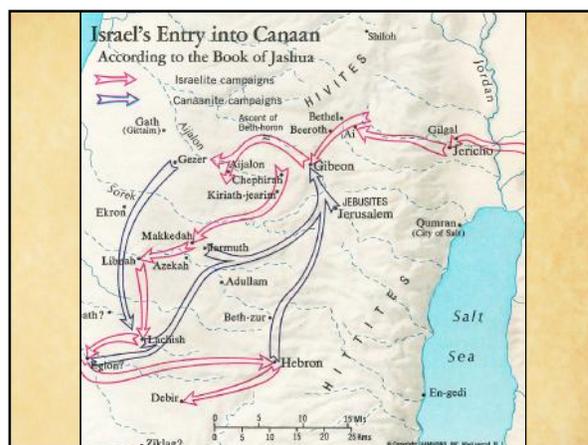


New Beginnings

The Living God
Joshua 3 & 4



- » People moving from wandering to become a landed people
- » Key word 'to cross over' (habar) – used over 20x in text
- » A fulfillment of the divine promises enacted through the crossing over and the establishment of memorials

1. Re-telling the Story

Two Parts:

- a. Traversing the Jordan – Joshua 3
- b. Memorials erected – Joshua 4

Traversing the Jordan

- » The nation crosses the Jordan led by the ark of the covenant held by the priests (Joshua 3)
 - » The priests carry the ark ahead of the nation. They stand holding the ark when they first enter the water's edge. The waters stand in a heap upstream (v16). The nation crosses on dry ground (v17)

Memorials Erected

- » Two memorials of the miracle are erected (Joshua 4)
 - » One in the middle of the Jordan river (visible in the low seasons)
 - » One on the other side of the site of Gilgal (before the city of Jericho)
 - » 12 stones representing the 12 tribes of Israel on each site

II. Theological Truths

1. God is described as the living God -
"by this you shall know that among
you is the living God"(3:10)
 - » 'This' refers to the crossing over led
by the ark
 - » An experiential knowing of God
 - » The living God is powerful - not the
idols of the nations (v10) and will drive
out the nations

2. "The Lord of all the earth"
(3:11,13)
 - » God's sovereignty over the earth
 - » This fact gives Israel a rightful claim
on the land
 - » The earth is the Lord's (Micah 4:1-5)
 - » An important truth for a previously
enslaved people (Egypt -400yrs)

3. The hand of the Lord is mighty
(4:24)
 - » Language used in the Exodus story
(Exodus 3:19, 6:1)
 - » "by a mighty hand he will let them go;
by a mighty hand he will drive them
out of his land" (Exodus 6:1)

- » This event will be a sign to Israel
- » As a result - "they will fear the
Lord" (v24)
- » "fear the Lord" is about
relationship with God - recognition
of God's majesty

4. The Importance of Memorials
 - » To symbol-orientated easterners
the memorials make complete sense
 - » Signs for the future generations to
learn of God's fidelity to his
promises
 - » Not simply a miracle but a
celebration of God's covenant with
Israel

- » Remembrance is more than
remembering - it is a reminder
of one's identity
- » Remembrance becomes a call
for new action
- » "We remember who we are by
remembering whose we are."
(Brueggemann)

» The memorials highlight the importance of instructing our children/youth in the ways of knowing God (4:6, 21)