1 🗀	"Crossing the Jordan" Joshua 3:9-17
	Studies in Joshua Study #4
2 🗀	" the history of the children of Israel was a <u>typical</u> one too plain for any anointed eye to miss." A. W. Pink
	 Their oppression by Pharaoh and their groaning Their utter inability to free themselves from the cruel yoke of the Egyptians The sovereign grace of God in raising up a deliverer in the person of Moses
3 🗀	
	 The provision of the Lamb and the efficacy of its blood to provide shelter from the angel of death on the night of the passover
	 The overthrow of Pharaoh and his hosts at the Red Sea and Israel's sight of the Egyptians dead upon the seashore (Ex. 14:30)
	The subsequent history of Israel in the wilderness, their testings and trials there
4 📮	The crossing of the Jordan
5 🗀	Some important spiritual lessons from the crossing
	The most important lesson is this: God Himself went before them!
	 Israel failed miserably forty years earlier at Kadesh Barnea because when God was ready to lead them into the Promised Land, they refused to follow, because of their fear and unbelief! [Numbers 13 & 14]
	 Then, they tried to advance even though God wasn't leading and the result was disaster! [Numbers 14:39-45]
6 🗀	The ark reminded the
	Israelites about God
	The ark symbolized God's sovereignty, power, and His rule!
	The ark symbolized God's holiness
	The ark symbolized God's justice
	The ark symbolized the mercy of God
7 🗀	This principle of substitutionary sacrifice can be traced back to the very beginning of God's dealing with the sins of fallen mankind • Genesis 3:21

	Genesis 4:3-5
	• Isaiah 53:6
	• Il Corinthians 5:21
	• I Peter 2:24
8 🗀	
	 Therefore, the picture of Israel following the ark of the covenant, which led to victory and conquest, prefigures the people of God in every age looking unto the Eternal, unchangeable God, recognizing His sovereignty, His holiness, His justice, and His mercy.
9 🗀	The flooded Jordan River was not only an emblem of death, but also of judgment!
	 Josh. 3:16 - Christ Bore the judgment of all sins, including our original sin in Adam [cf. Rom. 5:12 & I Cor. 15:21-22].
	 Josh. 3:17 - The flood waters of God's final judgment can never be unleashed until every lost soul who comes by the way of God's true ark of the covenant, the Lord Jesus Christ, has passed safely into God's place of final rest.
10 🗆	
	"Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood Shall never lose its pow'r, Till ALL the ransomed Church of God Be saved to sin no more" William Cowper's hymn, "There is a Fountain"
11 🗀	On a deeper level, the flooded waters of the Jordan represent the judgment of <u>death</u> itself [Rom. 6:23]
	• I Jn. 3:8b " The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work."
	 It was impossible for the Lord Jesus to accomplish this apart from the incarnation!
12 🗀	
_	 The ark of the covenant which the priests carried into the Jordan was symbolic of the incarnation
	 Hebrews 2:14-15 "Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death - that is, the devil - and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."
13 🗀	F. B. Meyer describes the symbolism in these words:

- "... he [Christ] dipped his feet in death: and, dying, abolished death. It fled before him, as Jordan before the priests; and for those who live and believe in him, though the semblance of dying remains, it is as a riverbed from which the the water has shrunk away, and the blood-bought go over dry shod."
- 14 The spiritual lesson is also that as we see all the Jordans which God allows to flow between us and our Canaans...
 - ... we are not to focus on the troubled waters that are rushing past; we are to look at the priest who is also the ark of the covenant, the Lord Jesus Christ!
- 15 There shall be a space between you and the ark."

 Joshua 3:4
 - Heb. 13:20 Jesus is "that great shepherd of the sheep," Who was the first to pass through the grave in the power of the resurrection!
 - I Cor. 15:22-23 "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ the first fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him."
- 16 And we are to follow Him [our Great Shepherd] on this side of glory as well as in the resurrection from the dead!
 - Jn. 10:27 "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me."
 - · Our 'Jordans' may seem to be many, but ...
- 17 🗀

18 🗀

- God permits the Jordans that He may educate our faith and teach us about His great faithfulness and love toward us.
- Do not look at the troubled waters rushing by, look at the priest, who is also the ark of the covenant which God has provided!
- It may seem as if He is leading you to certain destruction at times. But when you look to Him in faith and step trustingly into the trials of each new Jordan river in your life, you will find Him faithful to make the waters flee before you!!!
- "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; ... you are precious and honored in my sight because I love you ... Do not be afraid, for I am with you ..."