

**THE WILDERNESS JOURNEY**  
**by Pastor Richard H. Jones**

**V. THE JOURNEY OF THE ISRAELITES FROM THE PLAINS OF  
MOAB TO CANAAN (Joshua 1-4)**

**A. THE ISRAELITES TOOK SEVERAL STEPS BEFORE THEY LEFT THE PLAINS OF MOAB AND CROSSED OVER THE JORDAN.**

1. First of all, Joshua was called of the Lord to succeed Moses and he assumed command (Josh. 1:1-18).
2. Secondly, Joshua sent out two men to spy out Jericho and they lodged with Rahab who hid them and received their promise of deliverance (Josh 2:1-22).
3. Then, the Israelites crossed over the Jordan dry-shod and set up 12 stones in the Jordan as the Lord commanded. On that day the Lord magnified Joshua so that the Israelites feared him as they had Moses (Josh. 3:14 - 4:18).

**B. THE ISRAELITES TOOK SEVERAL STEPS AFTER THEY CROSSED OVER THE JORDAN.**

1. After the Israelites had crossed over the Jordan River dry-shod, they encamped at Gilgal on the east side of Jericho and erected a memorial of 12 stones as the Lord had commanded them (Josh. 4:19-24).
2. Next, Joshua had all the men circumcised who had been born in the wilderness. This was done in obedience to the covenant which God had made with Abraham and his seed (Josh. 5:2-9 cp Gen. 17:9-14).
3. Then, the Israelites kept the Passover in the plains of Jericho and ate the old grain of the land on the next. Then on the next day the manna stopped (Josh. 5:10-12).
4. Joshua then, met the captain of the Lord's host and the conquest of the land began with the overthrow of Jericho (Josh. 5:13 - 6:27).

**C. SOME APPLICATIONS WE CAN MAKE FROM ISRAEL'S JOURNEY ACCROSS THE JORDAN.**

1. First, we can see that Rahab believed what she had heard concerning the Lord and exercised faith by hiding the spies (Josh. 2:8-11). From her example we should realize that, while we are justified by faith in Christ, our faith is evidenced before others by our works (Jas. 2:26).
2. Secondly, notice from the steps which Joshua took concerning circumcision and keeping the Passover Feast, we can see the need to be obedient unto the Lord's commands. If we expect Him to bless us and give us the victory in our battles we must be obedient.

## **WORKS CITED**

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