



Crossing the Jordan River ...

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The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”² “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.”³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”⁶ Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.⁷ The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. **Genesis 12:1-3, 6-7** (NIV)

¹³ Then the LORD said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there.”¹⁴ But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. **Genesis 15:13-14** (NIV)

^{23b} The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God.²⁴ God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.²⁵ So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them. **Exodus 2:23b-25** (NIV)

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After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide: ² “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. **Joshua 1:1-2** (NIV)

Israel’s Jordan River Experience Teaches Me ...

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¹³ When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself,¹⁴ saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.” And so after waiting

patiently, Abraham received what was promised.¹⁷ Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath.^{18b} ...it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. **Hebrews 6:13-15, 17-18b** (NIV)

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⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. **Deuteronomy 7:9** (NIV)

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² The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. **Psalms 18:2** (NIV)

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. **2 Corinthians 1:3-5** (NIV)

How can I Cross My Jordan River Joyfully?

1. _____
⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” **Joshua 1:9** (NIV)

2. _____
⁷ “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey ... **Joshua 1:7a** (NIV)

¹⁵ “If you love me, keep my commands.”²³ Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. **John 14:15, 23-24** (NIV)

3. _____
²⁶ So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith,²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. **Galatians 3:26-29** (NIV)