

## JOSHUA 3-4

### “Uncharted”

AS YOU SETTLE IN PLEASE TURN TO Joshua 3...

### LET'S PRAY -

### INTRO -

NOTE TAKERS I'VE TITLED TONIGHT MESSAGE: “Uncharted”

IN OUR STUDY WE'RE GOING TO SEE JUST THAT

- Joshua 3 is all about the Israelites crossing the Jordan river
  - Just a quick flyover of where we are at in history...

WHAT I FIND FASCINATING IS LOOKING AT OLD MAPS OF THE WORLD

- Now we have advanced technology but that was not always the case...
  - The maps of the new world in 1500 that were created looked nothing like the continent we know today
    - Those maps weren't wrong because people were just made up — they were wrong because no one had been there yet.
      - Faith is how God draws the map.
        - What feels like uncharted territory in your life is not unclear to God

(READ V 1-8 NLT)

### IDEA 1 - Prepared for the Promise

IT'S BEEN 40 YEARS OF WAITING AND GOD TELLS THEM TO WAIT...

- During these 3 days the people would have heard the rushing waters
  - Maybe you find yourself at a decision point in your life
    - Give God some room to work
      - Psalm 46:10 NLT

WHY MAKE THE PEOPLE WAIT FOR AN EXTRA 3 DAYS

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- Because They needed to take the time to prepare themselves...
  - Their Priests were the ones who lead the way, not the engineers, construction workers, or soldiers but the priests
    - This is because the preparation needed was spiritual
      - key: God is not looking for greater techniques. He is looking for greater character
        - I wonder how many of God’s blessings we miss out on because of a lack of Character
  - “The wonder-working power of God depends always on the sanctification of people... the level on which God meets men depends on the level on which we as Christians are prepared to meet our Lord.” - Alan Redpath

### TAKE NOTE: THE ARK IS THE CENTRAL FOCUS

- The Ark was a representation of the presence of the Lord
  - And from these 17 verses it was brought up 14 times

### THERE WAS A DISTANCE BETWEEN THE ISRAELITES AND THE ARK

- The people were told to have a separation of about half a mile
  - Why? Perhaps because God wanted to them to see the whole picture
    - And to show the people that the miracle is happening by God

(READ V 9-17 NLT)

### **IDEA 2 - One Small Step for Man, One Giant Leap for Mankind**

### NEIL ARMSTRONG THE FIRST MAN TO WALK ON THE MOON

- It was less than 200 years after the founding of America that the nation sent a man into space to a new frontier
  - How did we go from America being uncharted territory to stepping on the moon in that short amount of time?
    - The answer is one step at a time!

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#### THE PRIESTS HAD TO PHYSICALLY TAKE A STEP INTO THE WATER

- This gen grew up hearing stories about their parents crossing the Red Sea
  - Now their faith had to be their own
    - Moses vs Joshua Active faith

#### STEPPING INTO THE WATER REQUIRED SOME LEVEL OF FAITH

- Key: A Genuine Faith is an active faith not a passive one.
  - James 2:18 - Faith without works/actions is a dead faith
    - Actions are a reflection of who or what you put your faith in
      - Joshua had an active faith not a passive one

#### THIS WAS THE HARVEST SEASON - (APRIL,MAY)

- During this time the Jordan can get up to half a mile wide and 50 feet deep
  - It was not a convenient or safe time to cross
    - The Jordan river back then was much different than it is today.
      - The flooding was a test for them, would they hesitate in fear or would they advance in faith.
- They could have hesitated and said we will come back in the winter
  - 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 NKJV

#### ANOTHER THING TO CONSIDER HERE:

- All of this water had to go somewhere
  - and we were told that it was redirected near a city called Adam.
    - God works behind the scenes on Israel's behalf...

### **IDEA 3 - A Story Set in Stone**

#### **(READ 4:1-7 NLT)**

#### STONES CARRIED BY HAND FOR 8 MILES TO THE CITY OF GILGAL

- These stones would be used as a memorial...
  - Consider this: At Calvary we have our faith wall...

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- These stones were the exact same for the Israelites

### GILGAL BECAME THE ISRAELITES BASE OF OPERATIONS

- Gilgal Translates to “The reproached has been rolled away”
  - God was leading them back to Gilgal, this place of redemption.
    - walking into the city you would see these stones knowing that if that is the God who is with you no one can stand against you!
      - In later years Gilgal became an important center for the nation
        - 1. Samuel anointed Saul as the first king here
        - 2. David was turned to this city after Absalom Rebellion
        - 3. Elijah and Elisha Established a school of Prophets here

(READ 4:8-11 NLT)

### THIS IS A SECOND MONUMENT THAT JOSHUA BUILDS...

- It doesn't seem like God asked him to build this one, so why does he do it?
  - who would even see it?
    - Nobody... except God
      - That's the idea - This is where they buried the past.
        - We are living by faith now!
          - Romans 6:4 NLT

(READ 4:15-24 NLT)

### ONE THING I WANT TO HIGHLIGHT...

- Verse 21 is an instruction to fathers...
  - You have an obligation to teach your children
    - The book of proverbs is the instruction of a father to his son
      - Proverbs 22:6 NKJV

ON APRIL 30TH, 1803 AMERICA PURCHASED THE LOUISIANA TERRITORY FROM THE FRENCH

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- Acquiring 800,000 square miles of land for about 3 cents per acre
  - This land was purchased while still being mostly uncharted.
    - America did not know fully what they were purchasing nor did they have the means to occupy the land fully.
      - They had ownership without any true possession.
        - Israel would find itself in the same spot now
          - God’s promises and blessings are freely given to you but you must take possession

**CALL WORSHIP UP - Stand with me**

**COMMUNION**

**PRAY**