

Old Testament # 18
Be Strong and of Good Courage
(The Book of Joshua)
By Lenet Hadley Read

(Here is inspirational background, showing how Salvation would come First through Christ, and then in the Latter-Days).

- I. Joshua led the children of Israel over Jordan into the Promised Land (Ch 1, 3-4). In doing so, He taught of Jesus the Christ, who would lead Israel into Eternal Life.
- A. When ancient Israel sought to obtain their land, the Jordan stood as an awesome barrier. And though Moses had led his people to this point, he was not allowed to complete the work. For in one way, **Moses represented the Mosaic Law, and that Law could only carry the people so far. The completing work could only be done by one specially anointed, in fact, by God Himself.**
 - B. Joshua was chosen to complete the work – to provide the way for Israel to pass over to their covenanted land. **Jesus is the Greek form of Yeshua; Joshua is its English form.**
 - 1. **Joshua chose twelve men to assist him in his labors (3:12).**
 - 2. **The final crossing was accomplished after three days (1:11).**
- II. **The way over the waters was achieved by an ark, The Ark of the Covenant.**
- A. The Ark of the Covenant was one of the chief witnesses of Christ.
 - B. Among the names was the Ark of Testimony, for it testified of Christ. Its **usual name, Ark of the Covenant, promised Christ would fulfill God's covenant.**
 - C. The pattern for its structure came from the heavens, for it was based on Christ.
 - D. Its cover was a throne, where God symbolically sat. Yet this cover was not known by a name of power, but, more lovingly, as the "Mercy Seat."
 - E. The ark was guarded by cherubim. Their purpose was to veil. Their wings stretched out, covering God's throne, on earth (the Mercy Seat), as in Heaven (Ezek. 10:1-5).
 - F. The scriptures have many images of veils which exist between a holy God and unholy man. One was the veil in front of the Holy of Holies. The only one allowed through that veil was The High Priest who entered on the Day of Atonement and sprinkled blood upon the Mercy Seat to atone for men's sins (Lev. 16:15-6). This taught that Jesus would offer His blood to atone for our sins (Hebrews 4:14-6).
 - G. The Ark served as protection and guide, dwelling in Israel's center, or going before as their guide. One of its major works was to lead them into the Promised Land.
- III. The Crossing of the Jordan
- A. Compare pictures of Joshua crossing Jordan, Pictures of Christ upon Cross and of the Resurrected Christ.
 - B. How was Jordan overcome? (Priests lifted up the ark taking it into Jordan. After the ark was lifted up, the waters parted, dry land appeared, and the Israelites crossed over, inheriting their covenant land. Joshua was then magnified by the Lord).
 - C. Looking at pictures of Christ upon the cross and in the Resurrection, think how Jesus Christ brought mankind into Eternal Life.
 - 1. **Recognize that Christ was *lifted up* in His Crucifixion and then after entering into death (symbolized by Jordan). He was also lifted up in His Resurrection. In**

this way He provided the way that we might “pass over” the depths of death and enter Eternal Life as covenanted by God.

2. The true ark, Jesus the Christ, fulfilled God’s covenant. Because of Him, we have assurance that upon our death, there will be a way to *Pass over* the cold and empty darkness of death into a glorious inheritance of Eternal Life.

3. Review Joshua 5:2-9. What happened after Joshua accomplished the crossing? (Answer: Israelites were circumcised anew.) Remember after Christ’s great work of atonement, **those willing to accept Him experienced the true circumcision of heart, humbling themselves and accepting, with broken heart, His atoning sacrifice. Remember that the Lord frequently called the unbelievers “uncircumcised of heart.”**

4. Note that both Joshua and Jesus were magnified or exalted after the crossing.

IV. The Witness of the Twelve Stones.

A. Review Joshua 4:19-24.

1. What was the purpose of these twelve stones?

(They were to serve as witness that Joshua had led Israel over the Jordan).

2. What was the role of the twelve apostles after Jesus overcame death? **(A major role was to bear witness that Jesus had provided a passage over death).**

3. **The truth is that twelve apostles continue to perform this same work today, to bear witness of the Savior and of His atonement and resurrection, bringing us into the True Promised Land of Eternal Life. Their testimonies of the Savior are the foundation stones of Christ’s Church today as they were in the Meridian of Time.**

V. The Deliverance of Jericho.

A. Review main features of how Jericho was taken (Joshua 6).

1. Jericho was called a “city of palm trees.” It was the heart of the land.

2. Joshua was to deliver this great walled city.

3. Levite priests lifted and carried the Ark of covenant around it six days.

4. They blew on *Trumpets made from Ram’s horns*.

5. On the seventh day, they marched seven times, trumpets blaring.

6. They gave a great shout (Joshua 6:16-20). The walls fell!

7. After Jericho, they eventually conquered much of the land (Ch. 11).

B. Several items in this event point to Christ’s Second Coming.

1. John’s “Revelation,” shows many parallels to Joshua’s conquering of the land.

2. The Heavenly Jerusalem is as a great walled city. Jesus will deliver it at His Return (Revelation 21:2).

3. The time periods of seven used in conquering Jericho point to the time of His Second Coming, as do the blowing of trumpets and the great shout given. **The falling of the walls teach that the Lord Himself will deliver this choice place, not by any conquering due to men! It represents God’s coming down among the faithful with His hosts, so that we can actually enter into His presence.**

C. The Shout which accompanies deliverance of the city is significant.

1. Elder Bruce R. McConkie said “In our modern solemn assemblies we give the Hosanna Shout, which also was associated with the Feast of Tabernacles anciently, except that ancient Israel waved palm branches instead of white handkerchiefs as they exulted in such declarations as ‘Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, to God and the Lamb’” (*Promised Messiah*, pp. 433-4). The ritual represents salvation by God, as part of the words associated with the shout are, “O work then now salvation, Jehovah” (p. 434).
2. What occurred when Jesus entered Jerusalem just prior to His crucifixion (John 12:12-13)? [Crowds greeted Him waving and strewing palm branches before Him. They shouted Hosanna, because they believed He was the Messiah who had come into their presence to deliver them. This day is now celebrated as Palm Sunday].
3. Dr. Robert Millet and Lloyd Newell shared the following about Palm Sunday:

“As part of every temple dedication, we stand and three times joyously shout, "Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, to God and the Lamb! Amen, Amen, and Amen." We also sing these same words in the beloved hymn by W. W. Phelps, "The Spirit of God," which was written for the dedication of the Kirtland Temple (*Hymns*, no. 2). *Hosanna* is Hebrew for "save, we pray." The acclamation was accompanied anciently with the waving of branches, as today we wave white cloths. Two thousand years ago a crowd of believers gathered to give Jesus a royal welcome the Sunday before his crucifixion and resurrection. As he descended the Mount of Olives and entered Jerusalem, they laid cloths on the ground and waved palm branches, calling out "Hosanna" (John 12:12-13; Mark 11:8-10). **Interestingly, the Kirtland Temple was dedicated on Sunday, 27 March 1836, the very day Christians around the world celebrated Palm Sunday. Then, too, we joyously shouted, ‘Hosanna to God and the Lamb!’”** Robert L. Millet and Lloyd D. Newell in *Draw near Unto Me: Daily Reflections on the Doctrine and Covenants*. [Emphasis added].

- D. How important *to the eventual salvation of mankind* were the events at the Dedication of the Kirtland Temple? [At that time Jesus Christ Himself appeared. He was then followed by those with keys, (Moses, Elijah, etc.), to begin the great latter-day work of salvation for the living and the dead. This great work of salvation will be finally completed by the end of the Millennium].

VII. The Fate of the Inhabitants of Jericho (Joshua 2, 11).

- A. The fate of Rahab (Ch. 2:1-21). Rahab was called a harlot. But all who worship false gods are considered as harlots. What will be the fate of those outside Israel who accept the Savior before His coming? (The *real* message here is that any who accept Christ and repent, whether originally of Israel or not, will be saved).
- B. The destruction of the wicked (Joshua 11-12). While the slaying of many of the inhabitants of Canaan and their kings may bother us, when we see this as prophetic of what will occur when Christ returns, it helps clarify these events. **“Revelation” 19** portrays Jesus at His second coming, going forth with power to overcome all the rule and reign of earth’s previous kings. He will become Earth’s sole King. We also know from these and other scriptures that the cleansing at His coming will be thorough (Revelation 19:11-21).

Sorrowfully, but factually, at Christ’s coming, all wickedness must be purged from the earth that it might be made a fit inheritance for the righteous, for without that cleansing, the peace and promised joy of the Millennium could not exist.