

PASS OVER JORDON

The children of Israel had been led out of Egyptian bondage by Moses. After crossing the Red Sea, they spent a period of time before reaching the southern border of Palestine. (approx. 2 years). They had the opportunity to enter the promised land at this time, but they refused to go (Numbers 13). Because of their disobedience, they would spend forty years wandering in the wilderness. Now it is time to enter the promised land. Joshua is to be their leader (Joshua 1). There is an obstacle in their way. That obstacle is the Jordan River which is overflowing its banks. (Joshua 3:15). Notice how God is going to provide a safe passage for the children of Israel *“And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people; And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,) That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho. And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan”* (Joshua 3:14-17). When the priests, who were carrying the ark of the covenant, put their feet in the water, the water would stop. The children of Israel were able to go over on dry land. When the priests bearing the ark stepped out of the water, they returned to their normal course, which was overflowing the banks again. *“And it came to pass, when the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD were come up out of the midst of Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up unto the dry land, that the waters of Jordan returned unto their place, and flowed over all his banks, as they did before”* (Josh 4:18). One of the reasons that this occurred was certainly to make them to know that the living God was among them (Joshua 3:10). When people are willing to put their trust in God, nothing is too great.