

Israel crosses the Jordan

T.P. ALEXANDER
Central Newspaper Service

"Tomorrow," he said, "the Lord will do wonders among you."

(Joshua 3:14-17)

Israel crosses the Jordan River (Joshua 3:7-17)

"Be strong and of good courage, be not afraid, neither be dismayed: for the Lord, thy God, is with thee whithersoever thou goest." (Joshua 1:9)

Our study for this week recounts one of the events in the life of the people of Israel. The Israelites were camped on the east side of the Jordan River. There seemed to be no way for them to get their families across the river since it was swollen to the point of non-crossable level.

They would have to wait until the river receded. But God had other plans, and He revealed them to Joshua, who had taken Moses' place as the leader of Israel.

The former camp of Israel had been some miles from the river, now it was moved closer. Then came the day when Joshua told the people to prepare for another move.

God's words (Joshua 3:7-13)

"And the Lord said unto Joshua, this day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so will I be with thee." (Verse 7)

Ultimately, the people of Israel owed their allegiance to the Lord, not to Joshua alone. They would accept Joshua as their leader if they knew the Lord was with him.

Spiritually speaking we haven't changed much since ancient Joshua's day. Christian people still want to know that their spiritual leaders are called by Christ to lead the church. Seven groups of warlike peoples lived in the country west of the Jordan - the land that the Lord had promised to Israel.

It would take spiritual commitment, and personal courage for God's people to march into the promised land.

God's actions

"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." (Verse 14)

Slowly the huge caravan was formed. The priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant led the way. The people left their campsites and followed at a respectful distance.

All Israel removed from their tents and prepared to approach the flooded Jordan, though no one of them could possibly wade across.

Faith in action. Is there anything more important in the life of the church and its membership.

I grew up in a Christian home - a very enjoyable and fortunate upbringing. My father was a minister, my mother was beside him every step of the way, and together they raised and taught seven children.

None were law breakers - none were ever arrested, or in jail for wrong doing. That would have brought shame on

our parents.

However, I am not saying that out parents raised seven angels. Now, back to our Bible lesson.

The Israelites had reached the Jordan River - it was a crucial moment in the promised sign of God's presence and power.

How were the people to cross the swollen river Jordan? What happened was so unusual and marvelous that it is hard to find words to adequately describe it. Verse 16 of our scripture text relates the incident, or miracle.

"That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon a heap..." (Verse 16a)

As a result of this, in front of the people of Israel were no water at all - only the empty bed of a river.

Very easily the people passed over the waterless ground, and proceeded on to their destination of the City of Jericho.

The kernel of today's lesson provides an incident involving God's people doing God's will - and the results of it.

(Lesson based on the International Sunday School lessons)

SERVICES

Hertford Pentecostal

Evangelist Ralph Rawls will be conducting services Nov. 17-21 at Hertford Pentecostal Church, 715 W. Grubb St. Evangelist Rawls has been a minister with the Assemblies of God since 1978. He and his family live in Garner. Services will begin at 7:30 nights (7 p.m. on Sunday).

Bay Branch

Bay Branch A.M.E. Zion Church Sunday School begins

at 10 a.m. At 4 p.m. a Memorial Service for the Third Masonic District will be held. Rev. J.H. London Jr. and the First Baptist Church Family will be the guests. These services will be held Nov. 14.

All are welcome at services published in this column. To have an item published, please submit it by Friday at 5 p.m. Items may be faxes to 426-4625, mailed to P.O. Box 277, or delivered to our office at 119 W. Grubb Street. No phone calls, please.

Insurance company fined by state for violations

Insurance Commissioner Jim Long announced a settlement over violations with Mid-South Insurance Company. The settlement resulted in a fine of \$51,850.

During a market conduct examination in February, the Department of Insurance found a variety of violations. Some of these violations were in areas regarding record-keeping, handling of consumer complaints, advertising, policy forms and filing, and claim payments.

In accordance with the Constitution of North Carolina, the funds from this fine will be distributed by the State Controller's Office to North Carolina public schools in the area where the violations took place.

The Department of Insurance oversees market conduct in the insurance industry through a variety of functions, including conducting on-site company examinations. Since 1995, the Department has taken administrative action against insurers in 37 different instances

because of market conduct issues. These actions have resulted in total settlements of more than \$2.5 million.

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SENIOR CENTER

Nov. 16: Manteo and Outer Banks Christmas shopping trip; 8:30 a.m.; \$2 plus lunch on your own.

Nov. 17: Carolina Pottery Christmas shopping trip, 8 a.m.; \$20 per person plus meals.

Nov. 19: Thanksgiving dinner, 6 p.m.; \$5 for turkey and all the trimmings; sign up and pay by Nov. 12.

Nov. 23: Van trip to MacArthur Center to shop and view the Christmas decorations, 9 a.m.; \$2 plus lunch.

Nov. 25, 26: Closed for Thanksgiving

Nov. 26: Myrtle Beach trip
Nov. 30: Bingo at EC Senior Center, 1 p.m.; sign up to ride the van.

Regular Activities

Monday - Exercise area, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Flower class, 9 a.m.; games 10 a.m.; Craft time, 1 p.m.

Tuesday - Exercise area, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Games, 10 a.m.

Wednesday - Exercise area, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Baskets, 9 a.m.-noon; Bingo, 2-4 p.m.; Pinochle, 2 p.m.

Thursday - Exercise area, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Games, Upwords, 10 a.m.; Bible study, 1 p.m.; Rook, 2 p.m.

Friday - Exercise area, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Blood pressure, 10 a.m.-noon; Shuffleboard - 10 a.m.

Birthdays are celebrated on the first Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m.

In Memory of John Henry Askew

Its been six years this month, but its like yesterday. I still think about you. I'm praying that we'll meet again in a better place.

Still love you,
Mama, Sisters, Brothers
and a Special Niece

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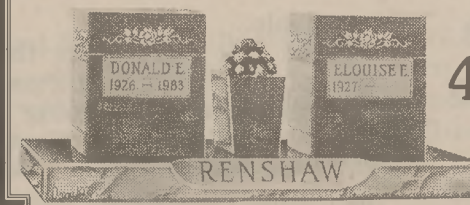
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Open Letter

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The CARPENTER'S Tools

This Weekly Message is brought to you by the following merchants:

"One Step Forward, Two Steps Back"

Do you ever feel like you are going backwards? Do you ever feel like you are supposed to be moving ahead, only to feel like you are getting behind? Recently, I left our little town of Ahoskie and proceeded toward Winton. I came to the Stop sign outside of Ahoskie and saw a sign that read, "Suffolk... 38 miles". I proceeded on toward Suffolk and then saw another sign that read, "Suffolk... 39 miles". I thought, "I know I am going the right way, but the signs say that I'm not." I was moving toward Suffolk and the miles were increasing. Well, we'll have to strike that up for a mistake on the part of the Department of Transportation. Do you feel like that in your life at times? I'm sure you do. There are times in my walk with God that I feel like I am moving toward the right direction, but the signs say that I'm losing ground. We must remember that "all things work together for the good of those who love the Lord." God IS in control. Though we may feel like we are falling behind, we may be right in step with the Lord's plans for our life. One step forward and two steps back? It may feel that way, but just keep walking with the Lord. He is in control. Have a blessed walk!

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