

FAMOUS

BIBLE

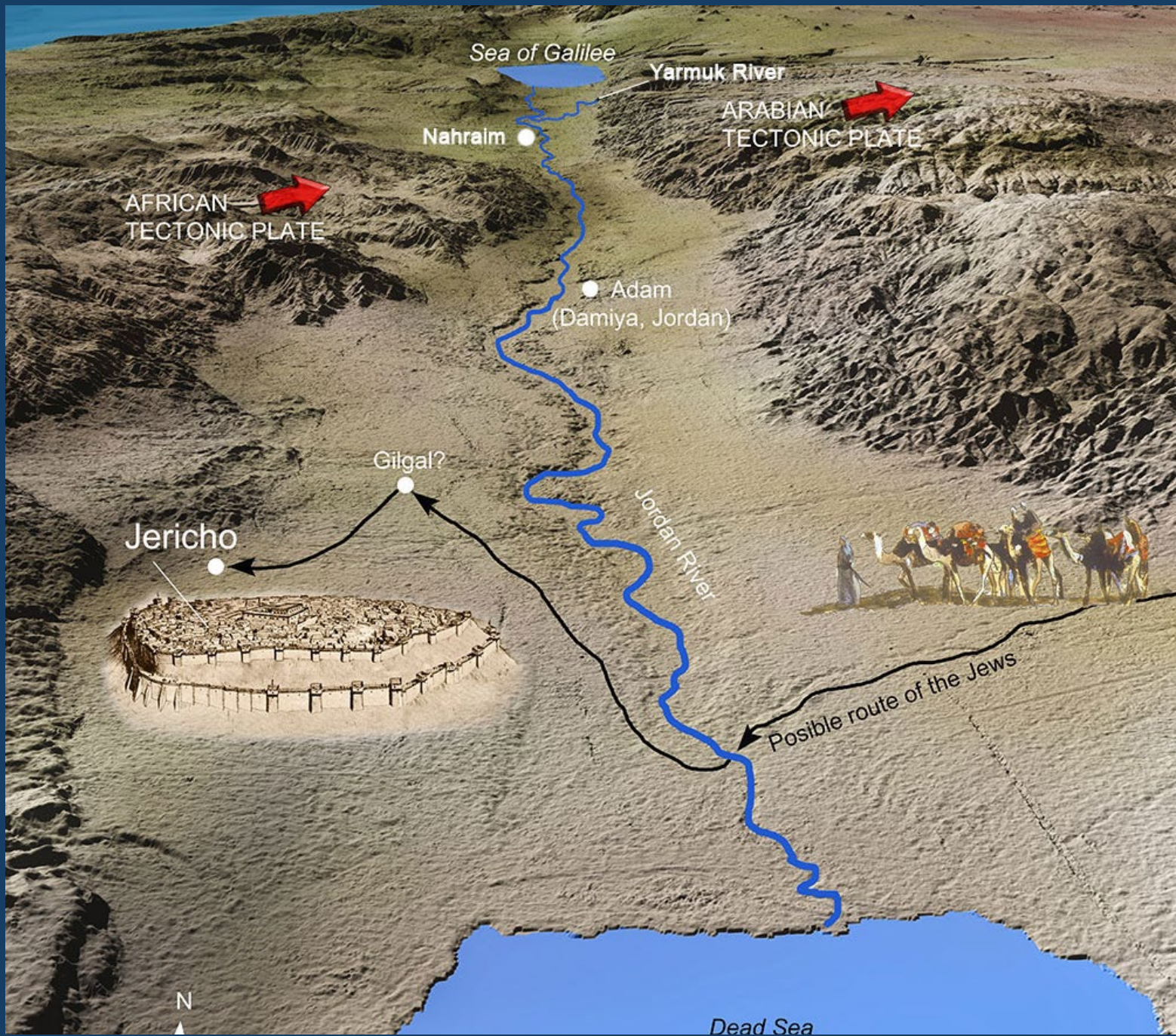
STORIES




“On Your Mark”

Joshua 3:1-5; 14-17; 4:1-3; 7









1. Joshua led well. He directed them to a spiritual focus. Jesus leads! I follow Him (rather than the crowd around me).

A. Joshua 1:6-9 Humbled under the power of God:


- Joshua was to be “strong and courageous,” ..., “meditating on the [word of God] day and night”... in order that he was able to do what the Word said to do.

B. Joshua 3:3-4 “As soon as you see the ark of the covenant..., then you shall set out and follow it. Yet, there shall be a distance between you and it, about 2000 cubits... Do not come near it... in order that you may know the way...” (Deut 31:8)

C. Priests – stand still in the Jordan?? 3:8







2. Our commitment to spiritual preparations tells us who is really leading the way. Preparations *fuel* expectations.

A. “Consecrate” yourself. V3:5

1. “Wash” yourself, symbolizing purity.
2. Abstain - from sex, “unclean” foods.
3. Fasting – possibly.


B. Gather your expectations - God is going to do a miracle. 3:5.

C. Preparation and expectations are linked. John 15:4-5.

3. Our willingness to “dip our feet” in the “high-waters,” first, reveals what we believe about God.

- **3:10**, Here is **how you shall know that the living God** is among you 13 when the soles of the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the Lord... shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters shall be cut off....
- **3:15**...and the feet of the priests... were dipped in the brink of the water (**now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest**)...the waters... stood and rose up...”
- *What if...?*

- The most important ingredient to claiming God's best for our lives is not our talents, gifts, resources, or who we know, *but our faith* in God, i.e., what we believe about God and his best for our lives. His nature *requires* him to redeem our past mistakes and failures, thereby freeing us from our own condemnations. *Jesus is the evidence of this truth.* As we believe what God says, his promises become our reality. 3:10-13



4. What are your “memory stones”? How can you draw upon them?

A. The priests stood firmly on dry ground.

- Is someone standing with you as you cross your Jordan. 3:17

B. 12 stones were taken from the riverbed as proof of what God had done. 4:2-3.

- Will we give testimony to Gods hand in our lives?

What about for Bethany Church? Are we ready to “dip our feet” in the high-waters that surround us?

- We are strategically placed in Howard County to bring the love of God to those around us. It is no more an accident that we are here than it was for Israel to be at the River Jordan.
- Will you consecrate yourself to the cause of Jesus, united with others, in keeping Jesus in front; committed in obedience to how He calls us to witness and minister to others around us?

Next steps.

1. Contemplate what lies before you. How can you embrace it in the same way that Joshua and Israel embraced the Jordan?
2. Will you consecrate yourself to the cause of Jesus, united with others, in keeping Jesus in front; committed in obedience to how He calls us to witness and minister to others around us?