



1

Crossing the Jordan 3:1-5:1

- Three days in scripture is regularly used in the sense of a time of contemplation and/or preparation.
 - Joshua 1:11; 3:2; 9:16
 - Judges 14:14
 - 1 Kings 12:5
 - 1 Chronicles 12:39
 - Ezra 8:15; 8:32
 - Nehemiah 2:11
 - Esther 4:16
 - Jonah 1:17
 - Matthew 12:40

2

Crossing the Jordan 3:1-5:1

- The Ark of the Covenant which represented the presence of God among His people would be the means by which God would show His powerful presence in making the crossing possible.
 - The Ark of the Covenant, borne by the Levitical priests, would be taken into the midst of the Jordan River.
 - The people would follow and maintain a distance of about 3000 feet.
 - This revealed the reverence and respect for God's presence and would set the point at which they were to cross.

3

Crossing the Jordan 3:1-5:1

- The Ark of the Covenant which represented the presence of God among His people would be the means by which God would show His powerful presence in making the crossing possible.
 - The miraculous event of the Jordan River drying up for the crossing would be a sign to the people that Joshua was God's chosen leader and that God would give them the power to drive the people from the Promised Land.
 - The Jordan, which was at flood stage, ceased to flow the moment the priests stepped into the water.

4

Crossing the Jordan 3:1-5:1

- A memorial arrangement of large stones was placed at the site of the Israelite encampment.
 - Twelve men were to take the stones from here where the priests were standing.
 - These stones were large enough that that would be carried on the shoulder.
 - These stones would be evident as a memorial because they would be smooth river stones in contrast to sharp stones that would normally dot the landscape.

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Crossing the Jordan 3:1-5:1

- A memorial arrangement of large stones was placed at the site of the Israelite encampment.
 - In addition to this, stones were taken from the land and placed in the river which would be unique as well.
 - These memorials would be teaching points for subsequent generations to ask about these unusual placement of stones so the story of the crossing of the Jordan would be perpetuated down through the generations.

6

Crossing the Jordan 3:1-5:1

- The message of the crossing
 - A witness to the work of Yahweh God for His people
 - A witness to the peoples of the earth of the power of Yahweh, the God of Israel
 - That his people would fear Yahweh forever

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Crossing the Jordan 3:1-5:1

- The stoppage of the Jordan River allowing the Israelites to cross would have been observed by the surrounding people.
 - This news would have traveled rapidly throughout the land.
 - The obvious supernatural intervention brought a sense of doom to those in the land.

8

Preparation for possession of the Promised Land. 5:2-12

- Attention given to bring Israel into compliance with God's commands.
 - Circumcision of all the males
 - This practice given to Abraham (Genesis 17:9-14) predates the law and was practiced even in the period of time the Israelites lived in Egypt.
 - The practice was also prescribed in the Law. (Leviticus 12:3)
 - Although no reason is given, the practice was neglected during the time in the wilderness.

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Preparation for possession of the Promised Land. 5:2-12

- Attention given to bring Israel into compliance with God's commands.
 - Circumcision of all the males
 - The command to "circumcise the sons of Israel a second time" refers to the first time of circumcision of Abraham and his household. Genesis 17:22-27
 - The serious nature of this oversight is seen at the end of the establishment of the covenant with Abraham,¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant." Genesis 17:14 (ESV)

10

Preparation for possession of the Promised Land. 5:2-12

- Attention given to bring Israel into compliance with God's commands.
 - The Passover observed
 - Reveals Joshua's diligence in leading the people to obey God's clearly revealed will.
 - The notation is made that the day after the Passover, the people began to eat of the produce of the land. On that day the manna ceased.

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