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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1842 ~ Israel Crosses the Jordan River.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

Today's *Bible Adventure* tells how God's chosen people, the Israelites, crossed the flooded Jordan River to enter their Promised Land called Canaan.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

In the Bible book of Joshua, in Chapter 3, God was ready to confirm that Joshua was the new leader of His people. God was going to prove that He was with Joshua in the same way He'd been with Moses. So He told Joshua His plan for the Israelites and then Joshua presented it to the people. By having a plan to share from God proved to the people that God was now with Joshua. Just what He'd done for Moses at the Red Sea, He was now doing for Joshua at the flooded Jordan River.

Joshua told the people to consecrate themselves before the Lord, as the following day, they would see a great miracle done for them by God.

The crossing of the Jordan River is known as one of the major events in Israel's history, and was similar in importance to Israel's miraculous crossing of the Red Sea 40 years earlier. In the Jordan River crossing, the priests carried the Ark of the Covenant before the rest of the people, symbolising God's presence ahead of the procession. As a mark of respect to the Lord, the people were told to stay back from the Ark as they crossed.

The Lord told Joshua to instruct the priests to go down to the river bank and stand in the water while holding the Ark of the Covenant. The priests did as they were told, trusting the Lord to help them get across. Often the same for us too, God waited for the priests to step out in faith before He opened up a way before them. As soon as the priests set foot in the water, the river ceased flowing. However, the river was blocked off upstream nearly 30 kilometres away just at the right time, so that the water stopped flowing just as the priests' feet stepped into the water. God's timing is perfect!

While the waters were heaped up a long way upstream, the people were able to cross over the swollen Jordan River on dry ground. Seeing this miracle, the people knew without a doubt that their God was a living God and not a lifeless idol. If He could be trusted to get them safely across a large flooded river, He could be trusted to help them beat their enemies in upcoming battles that would claim them the land of Canaan.

After all the people had crossed over the Jordan River, the priests carrying the Ark were still standing in the riverbed. Twelve young men, each chosen from their tribe at Joshua's instruction, stepped back onto the riverbed again. Each young man picked up a large stone lying on the riverbed and carried it to the riverbank. When this was done, the Lord spoke to Joshua to command the priests bearing the Ark of the Testimony to come across the Jordan River themselves and step onto the riverbank. As soon as the priests stepped out of the riverbed, the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed its banks as before. Again, the Lord's timing was perfect.

Why did the Lord do such an amazing thing? He did it so all the people of the earth, more than just the Israelites, might know that He was and is the great I AM; the one true and all-powerful God. When arriving in Canaan the Israelites found plenty of food so the people's daily supply of manna from heaven ceased.

The Israelites moved a short distance northeast of Jericho, and here they made camp at Gilgal. Joshua set up the 12 stones selected from the Jordan riverbed to create a memorial that would remind all the people of their crossing of the Jordan River. When future generations asked what this mound of stones meant, their parents were to tell them of God's great miracle of holding back the waters of the flooded Jordan River so that the Israelites could enter their Promised Land on dry ground.

The Israelites' crossing of the Jordan River symbolises our own crossing into a full spiritual inheritance that awaits us in Christ, and for which we need to make a total commitment to the Lord Jesus before receiving. Many Christians have been delivered from their sinful bondage to Satan when they became a Christian, but they don't experience the presence and power of Christ in their lives as a Christian. They remain spiritually undeveloped and spiritually defeated. To avoid this, we must daily remain in Christ's grace and power, practise self-denial and resist the tempting desires of our old defeated sinful nature.

When the Israelites were camped at Gilgal, they planned to celebrate the Passover but then they found that all the young men born in the wilderness hadn't been consecrated into the Abrahamic covenant. After that was done all the people celebrated the Passover; but not the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread.

The next job for Joshua was to overtake the city of Jericho. After he'd sent out spies and heard their report, Joshua was at a loss to know how to tackle the secure walls that tightly surrounded the city. When close to Jericho, he saw a man with a drawn sword standing close by him. This man was certainly an angel of the Lord, if not the Lord Himself. His drawn sword symbolised God's involvement in the coming destruction of Jericho. At first, Joshua thought that this was only an ordinary man and asked him whose side he was on. But the man replied: "Neither but as the commander of the army of the Lord."

God had sent His commander to direct Joshua in Israel's battle against Jericho. God was going to give the orders as well as achieve the victory. Joshua then realised that he was dealing with a divine entity and he fell face down in reverence. Joshua asked the man for instructions and was told to take off his sandals, because he was standing on holy ground. There's a profound truth here. Before we can ask for battle instructions, we must first humble ourselves before God. We can be of no use to God if we don't humbly acknowledge His holiness and power over and above our own achievements and abilities. Our own efforts won't gain the victory, but our faith in God will. God, through His angelic host, will fight the battle for us; we need only to obey His commands. And Joshua did this.

The people living on the west side of the Jordan River became very afraid of the Israelites when they heard that the Lord God had dried up the waters of the Jordan so the Israelites could cross over into Canaan. Does God need to keep proving His power so that all people will respect Him? In those times, books weren't available the way that they are today. The Bible is now written in many languages of the world and God expects us to know what's written in it. Some people don't want to read the Bible or believe the written records that it contains. They simply want to ask the question which challenges God's authority: "If God created the world, then who made God?"

The Bible answer says: "Before You (O Lord) created the hills or brought the world into being, you were eternally God, and will be God forever."

Isaiah, Chapter 45, also says: "The Lord created the heavens – he is the one who is God! He formed and made the earth ... he did not make it a desolate waste, but a place for people to live." And again as well: "I am the Lord, there is no other god." Also: "Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done...."

For those people who refuse to accept that God exists in a trinity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit and always existed from eternity past, are there any other answers that we can give them? Yes, there are! Before the creation of the universe, there was no such thing as time or space. God created time, space and matter when He first made the heavens and the earth.

Many claim that a supernatural act made by a Creator God who exists beyond our time and space is unscientific. But the naturalistic view of the origin of the universe has to explain how nothing became everything by itself, and this view actually violates the known laws of science. As such, these people must then explain or create their own supernatural 'first act', which they claim to be either a big bang or explosion that arose from nothing. Those who claim that all life on earth began from one single cell are totally ignorant of just how complex a living cell is. Living cells are so extremely complex that they can be compared to being like a city.

In reality, the universe displays all the hallmarks of complex and purposeful design. The earth is in a starry galaxy called the Milky Way found nearly in the centre of the universe. The earth isn't too close or too far away from the sun. If the earth was 10% closer to the sun, the earth would be boiling hot, and if it was 10% further away the earth would contain frozen deserts and be unable to support any life form either. The earth's path of orbit around the sun also makes the temperatures on earth fairly constant all-year-round. The world was made just right for humans to live on it.

Gravity is a universal law that God made. The other planets travelling in their orbits around the sun are so accurate that scientists can plot their course in the heavens and be able to accurately predict where a planet will be years into the future. The right strength of gravity also works to stop the planets from drawing too close to each other or flying out of their orbits into outer space. The right strength of gravity further controls the water supply on earth.

Scientists have found that the moon is moving away from the earth at the rate of 4 centimetres a year. We know this because astronauts left equipment there to measure any changes. If we take a ‘billions of years’ theory, the moon would have been so close to the earth at the beginning of its creation, that the tides would have rushed seawater tens or hundreds of kilometres inland each high tide, making erosion such a destructive element on the earth that it would be unlivable.

God showed His vastness and intelligence in making billions of stars that stretch across space billions of light years away from earth. Yet the Bible says that God’s presence is everywhere, even to the furthest star He has made, and that He has named each star out there. This reminds us that God also keeps a count of the hairs on each person’s head. And He knows how many grains of sand there are on the beaches. Another way God has shown His vast knowledge in really small things is the DNA molecules in each living thing’s cells. DNA is so extremely complex, that it’s beyond the possibility of anything ever making itself from nothing. Yet DNA is a necessity for each living thing if it is to grow and survive in its environment.

As it’s not possible for such things to make themselves from nothing, does the person who believes that such things can be so, have a faith system themselves rather than a scientific basis? For science to prove the outcome of an experiment, the experiment should be able to be done over and over again and achieve the same results. Genesis, Chapter 1, says: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Some people try to exclude God from their thinking, but this can only be the case until they leave this earth.

In Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 20, it explains that since the creation of the world, God’s invisible attributes are clearly seen, and are understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that nonbelievers in Him are without excuse.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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