

Take Courage! Jesus will bring you through on dry ground

Let's look at two well-known water crossings found in the Old Testament—the Red Sea in Exodus 14 and the Jordan River in Joshua 3—with the wilderness journey in between. Israel's journey from Egypt to Canaan is an apt depiction of the Christian life: learning to recognize God's voice and, even more importantly, learning to obey it. Let's look at what God's Word has to say!

1 Corinthians 10:1-14

1 For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. 2 They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. 3 They all ate the same spiritual food 4 and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. 6 Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.

Romans 6:3-4

3 Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Colossians 2:13-15

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Ephesians 2:1-9

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 6:10-12

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not

against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Joshua 1:7-9

7 “Be strong and very courageous. 8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Ask the following questions as they relate to the points above.

1. What can you learn from these verses? Does anything stand out to you? Which verses speak to you the most? Why?
2. What does the Red Sea crossing in Exodus 14 represent to believers?
3. Why did Israel wander in the wilderness for 40 years? What might this represent for us today?
4. What is the significance of the crossing of the Jordan River in Joshua chapter 3? As followers of Christ, what does it mean to enter the promised land?
5. Identify one big takeaway from this lesson. Share any insights you gained. Summarize what you learned in a sentence or two.

Israel’s exodus would have been impossible without God’s direct intervention. He led them with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, brought them safely through the Red Sea on dry ground, and destroyed the pursuing Egyptian army. In the wilderness, He fed them with daily bread, gave them water from a rock, and sustained them until the next generation entered the promised land some 40 years later. The apostle Paul writes that a spiritual Rock accompanied them—and that Rock was Christ.

God doesn’t intend for us to wander through life without purpose. He calls us to experience a Red Sea deliverance from the bondage of sin and to enter the promised life He offers—a life of abundance, fullness, and freedom (John 10:10). Jesus brings us out of slavery, through death, and into the abundant, Spirit-filled, purposeful life of the Kingdom—it’s the whole Gospel, the entire journey—from the Red Sea, through the wilderness, into the promised land!

Bible Refs: [1 Corinthians 10:1-14](#); [Exodus 14](#); [Romans 6:3-4](#); [Colossians 2:13-15](#); [Ephesians 2:1-9](#); [Joshua 3](#); [Joshua 4](#); [Joshua 1:9](#); [Ephesians 6:10-12](#) [**SPANISH**]

Key: miraculous, supernatural provision, divine blessing

Red Sea = freedom from sin, deliverance from bondage and slavery, baptism, death and judgment of the one, life and newness for the other, new birth, new identity

Wandering = disobedience, lack of purpose, longing to go back, complaining, belief vs doubt, forming identity and faith, relationship, trust, miraculous provision, crucifying the flesh, relationship

Jordan River = reestablishing covenant and promise, new generation, faithfulness, reminder, proof, trust, confidence

Promised Land = milk and honey, abundance, undeserved, unearned blessings, inheritance, promises, abundant provision, warfare, spiritual battle, active participant, purpose, claim the promises, continuity of the covenant, victory, overcoming in this life, eternal life in the life to come