

Title: Leader of Mankind - Joshua 4 12-24

Read:

¹²⁻¹³ The Reubenites, Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh had crossed over in battle formation in front of the People of Israel, obedient to Moses' instructions. All told, about forty thousand armed soldiers crossed over before GOD to the plains of Jericho, ready for battle. ¹⁴ GOD made Joshua great that day in the sight of all Israel. They were in awe of him just as they had been in awe of Moses all his life. ¹⁵⁻¹⁶ GOD told Joshua, "Command the priests carrying the Chest of The Testimony to come up from the Jordan." ¹⁷ Joshua commanded the priests, "Come up out of the Jordan." ¹⁸ They did it. The priests carrying GOD's Chest of the Covenant came up from the middle of the Jordan. As soon as the soles of the priests' feet touched dry land, the Jordan's waters resumed their flow within the banks, just as before. ¹⁹⁻²² The people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month. They set up camp at The Gilgal (The Circle) to the east of Jericho. Joshua erected a monument at The Gilgal, using the twelve stones that they had taken from the Jordan. And then he told the People of Israel, "In the days to come, when your children ask their fathers, 'What are these stones doing here?' tell your children this: 'Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry ground.'" ²³⁻²⁴ "Yes, GOD, your God, dried up the Jordan's waters for you until you had crossed, just as GOD, your God, did at the Red Sea, which had dried up before us until we had crossed. This was so that everybody on earth would recognize how strong GOD's rescuing hand is and so that you would hold GOD in solemn reverence always."

Think:

So GOD made Joshua great that day in the sight of all Israel. We have talked about this often in these devos and we have even talked about this recently from earlier passages in Joshua but sometimes I think we still miss the point. Joshua wasn't special, God was. Joshua didn't know how to lead people, God taught him as he went. Joshua didn't look great in front of his mates, but God made Joshua look great that day. Let's be honest most of the time we don't feel special at school or college. Often we don't feel that we look great in front of our mates and we spend most of time trying not to look like a dork. But it's not all about us, is it? It's all about God and what God can do through us. It says elsewhere in the Bible that God will not let you through anything that he knows you are not capable of coping with. That means that God won't give you a job to do that you can't do. So if you feel God is telling you to do something but it scares you, then God knows you can do it. You might have to persuade people that you think won't listen to you, but God will make them listen. You might have to get people to do things who you think won't follow you, but God will make you look like the leader they can follow. Remember God made the people look at Joshua as the leader and God will make the people you need to lead,, look at you as the leader too.

Pray:

Lord I know that you know what abilities I have. Please lord give me the confidence I need to match the ability you have given me. Amen.

Action:

No good sitting around then. Now you have prayed the prayer go and get on with the plan God has for you. Cheerio.