

Amazing Things . . . and More

Joshua 3:5 says: *“Joshua told the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.’”*

The Israelites were camped on the eastern banks of the Jordan River when God gave them the command to “consecrate themselves.”

To consecrate something is to “set it apart,” to be reserved for a special purpose. Since these words were spoken to the Israelites the night before they were to cross the Jordan River, the Israelites were to do nothing that would bring dishonor to God before crossing over.

They were to surrender themselves to the Lord.

Yes, it’s true that the Lord wants our obedience and devotion. But perhaps the focus of this verse is not the fact that the Israelites were to consecrate themselves to the Lord, but rather that the Lord was going to do “amazing things” among them.

And amazing things He did.

The people were about to cross the Jordan River. The river was at flood stage at this time. Nevertheless, as soon as the priests who carried the ark set foot in the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan stopped flowing.

The ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan while all the people of Israel passed through.

It’s hardly what the people of Israel would have expected. After all, when they saw the river at flood stage they expected that their crossing would be a wet one. But because of their faith and obedience to cross even when the waters were raging, Joshua tells us that all Israel passed by *“on dry ground.”* Amazing!

As you engage in the “Building Hope for the Future” campaign, what kind of amazing things is the Lord revealing to you? What kind of barriers are you facing? What kind of issues seem like the odds are against you?

Whatever the challenges may be, it is our prayer that we all take our challenges before our amazing God and allow Him to reveal His answers in amazing and unexpected ways... answers that are “immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine.”