

JOSHUA 03



WHEN

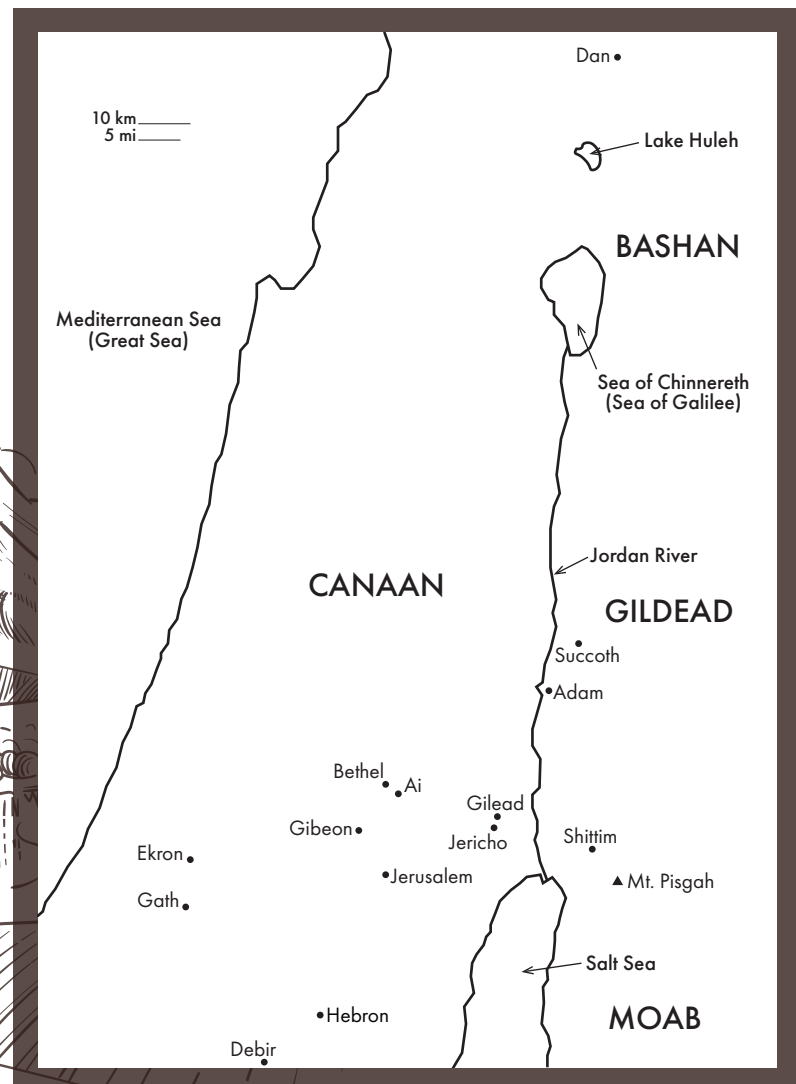
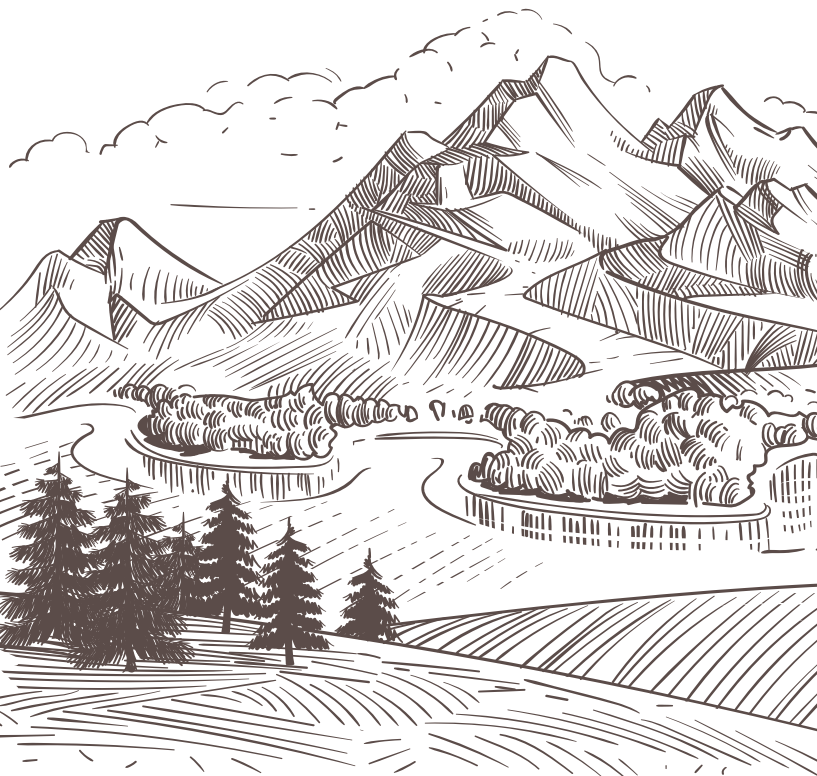
- The Israelites were in the wilderness from approximately 1490-1450 B.C., which places the events recorded in Joshua 3 at approximately 1450 B.C.

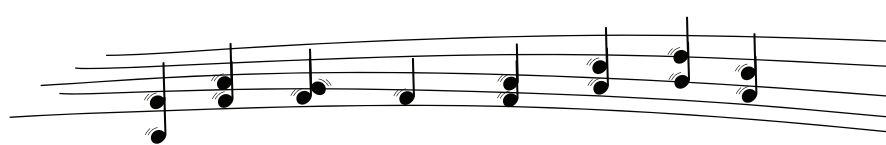
CHARACTERS

- **Joshua** - Moses' assistant while he led the people in the wilderness. God selected Joshua to lead the Israelites after Moses' death.
- **The Levitical Priests** - The specific priests mentioned in Joshua 3 were from the family of Kohath and they were responsible for transporting the Ark of the Covenant.

WHERE

- The Israelites broke camp at Shittim and moved to the banks of the Jordan River across from Jericho.
- The waters of the Jordan River were stopped-up near the city of Adam when God miraculously dried out the riverbed to allow the Israelites to cross.





TO CANAAN'S LAND I'M ON MY WAY...

OUTLINE

- ISRAEL'S MIRACULOUS CROSSING OF THE JORDAN RIVER (3:1-17):
 - + Joshua led Israel from Shittim to the banks of the Jordan River where they made camp.
 - + After three days, the officers told the Israelites to follow the Ark of the Covenant when they saw it passing through the camp.
 - + They were to follow the Ark at a distance of 2,000 cubits (3,000 ft/915 m) and it would guide them to the location of the river crossing.
 - + Before they crossed the river, Joshua told the people to "consecrate" themselves because the Lord was going to work miracles amongst them.
 - + When the time for the crossing arrived, Joshua, at the Lord's instruction, told the priests to carry the Ark of the Covenant into the Jordan River.
 - + As soon as the priest's feet touched the water, the water upstream from them "stood and rose up in a heap."
 - + The water downstream continued flowing until the riverbed was dry.
 - + Joshua told the people this miracle was to be a sign to them that the living God was among them and He would not fail to give them the Promised Land.
 - + All Israel crossed over the Jordan on dry ground.
 - + The priests remained in the river with the Ark of the Covenant until the entire congregation was on the west bank of the river.

APPLICATION

- In a metaphorical sense, we all must cross over Jordan.
- In a metaphorical sense, we are all headed for a promised land.
- In our case, the Jordan represents the things that must be overcome in order for us to enter heaven (our promised land)
- We can't reach the promised land on our own, we need God's help to do it, and us getting there will be a result of an act of God, not an achievement of personal will.
- As you study through the Old Testament, try to remember stories like this one in Joshua 3, because God wrote the Bible with a lot of intentional parallels, a lot of similar themes that reappear in later books, that I believe were meant to illustrate the experiences and needs of all human beings throughout history, even those living up to the modern day.

