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# Joshua 3:16

*NIV the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho.*

*KJV That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zarethan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho.*

*Amplified Then the waters which came down from above stood and rose up in a heap far off, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan; and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt [Dead] Sea, were wholly cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho.*

*Knuth The water came to a standstill and accumulated far upstream at Adam, the town near Zarethan. This completely cut off the flow down to the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea), so the people were able to cross opposite Jericho.*

## 1 Introduction to Joshua

- Joshua's name means "The Lord saves" and is the Hebrew equivalent of the name Jesus.
- It is unclear who authored the book of Joshua. There is evidence that some part of it may have been written while the events were occurring, including by Joshua himself. Some passages were also clearly written long after the events, so it may be that Joshua is a compilation of folklore and documents.
- In the book of Joshua, Israel is established in the promised land.
- How do we reconcile this war and bloodshed as Christians?

**The book of Joshua starts with the Israelites camped on the east side of the Jordan river. The Israelites move forward into Canaan and conquer Canaan. The book then continues with tribal allotments.**

**The battles for Canaan were the Lord's holy war. It was a limited mission, and the land did not belong to the people, but to the Lord.**

## 2 Providing Context

1. Read Joshua 3:1-5, 13.
2. Read Joshua 3:14-17.
3. Read Joshua 4:18.

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### 3 It's a Miracle

1. Most of the year the Jordan is only three feet deep. At this time, the Jordan was at the flood stage because of spring rains and melting snow on Mount Hermon.
2. In 1929 an earthquake caused a section of cliff to fall across the Jordan, blocking the flow of water for over 20 hours. Does the fact that this story in Joshua could be explained by natural causes diminish the miraculous nature of the event?
3. Read Joshua 4:19-24.
4. What major lesson can we learn from this verse?

**One major lesson we can learn is that God will help us deal with any obstacles that stand in our way when it comes to completing his tasks.**