Israel Enters Canaan

Deuteronomy 34; Joshua 1–5

Moses went up from the plains to Mount Nebo. The LORD showed him all the land.

The LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, 'I will give it to your offspring.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there."

So Moses, the servant of the LORD, died. He[1] buried him, but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. The people of Israel wept for Moses thirty days.

After the death of Moses, the LORD said to Joshua, "Now arise, go over this Jordan, into the land that I am giving to the people of Israel. Be strong and very courageous. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate[2] on it day and night. Then you will have good success. Do not be frightened, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua commanded the officers of the people, "Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving you."

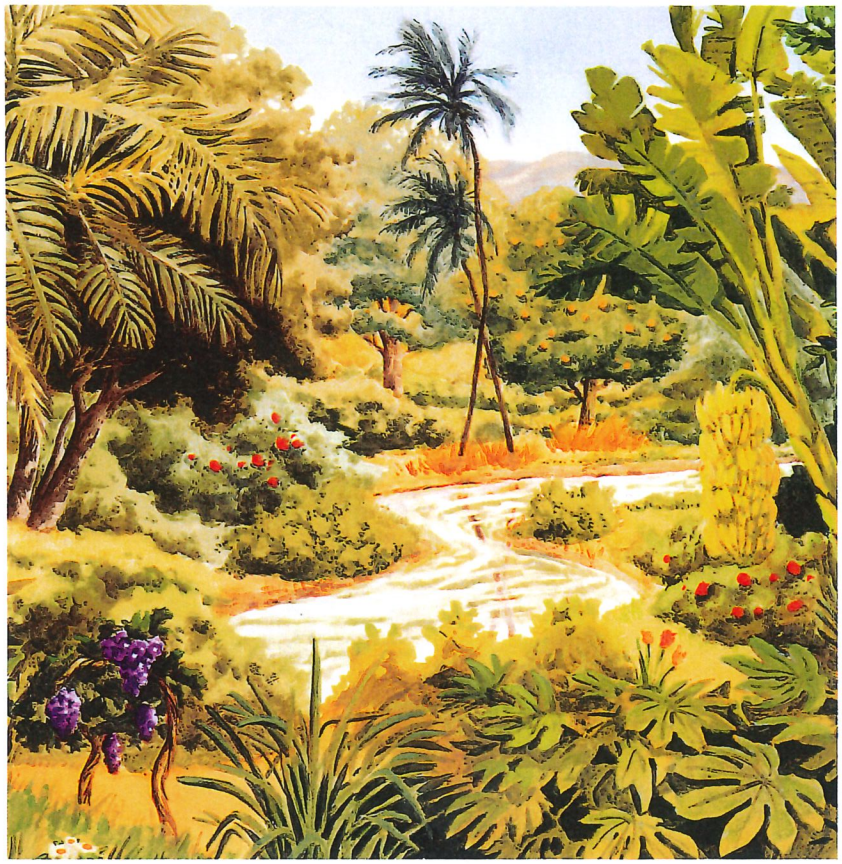
The people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant[3], and as soon as the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water, the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap. Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firmly on dry ground, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all finished passing over the Jordan

When the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up on dry ground, the waters returned to their place and overflowed all its banks.

Soon, they celebrated the Passover. The day after the Passover, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. There was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

Explanatory Notes

[1]God. [2]Read it and think about it. [3]A golden chest, carried on two poles that symbolized the throne of God; see Exodus 25:10–22.



The Lord said to Joshua, "Go over this Jordan, into the land that I am giving to the people of Israel."

For Reflection

1. God told Joshua, "Be strong and very courageous. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night." Apply God's words to your own life.
2. In what ways did God demonstrate His loving presence and care for His people?
3. The name *Joshua* means "The Lord saves." Share how Jesus has saved you and now gives you courage as you live for Him.

Words to Remember

Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with their whole heart. *Psalm 119:2*

Reprinted from *One Hundred Bible Stories* © 2015 Concordia Publishing House (https://www.cph.org/one-hundred-bible-stories).