

# GLOBAL SCHOOL OF SPORTS MINISTRY

# NEWS BRIEF

March 2022

## BE STRONG & COURAGEOUS

*Part One*



When Moses died just prior to entering the Promised Land, the leadership of the thousands of God's chosen people fell upon Moses' top aide, Joshua.

As Joshua considered the dire circumstances that they were facing, he immediately sought wisdom and assistance from the Lord.

Numerous, seemingly impossible challenges, in all probability caused Joshua to have sleepless nights and sore knees as he sought help and guidance from the Lord.

Thousands of God's people waited patiently for a time but grew restless while Joshua attempted to assure them that they would be moving out soon.

Many wondered how in the world could they cross the swift moving Jordan River since it was at flood stage and overflowing the banks. Apparently there were not any places of shallow water around that would allow them to cross in waist-deep water. Consider the fact that they would have to cross the river with an assortment of equipment, personal belongings, children, cattle and other animals and most importantly they had to cross the river with the precious cart carrying the Ark of the Covenant which contained the Ten Commandments engraved by God onto tablets of stone.

**So what does one do when confronted with such an impossible task?** The Jewish leaders prayed fervently to the Lord for help. When the Lord responded to them and told them to move out with the Ark going first by stepping into the flooded waters of the Jordan River it just didn't seem to make sense. I am certain that there were probably more than a small number of people who questioned this move. Surely if they stepped into the deep and swift-moving Jordan River they would be swept away and probably would drown. It is very likely there were even some who were muttering to others, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"





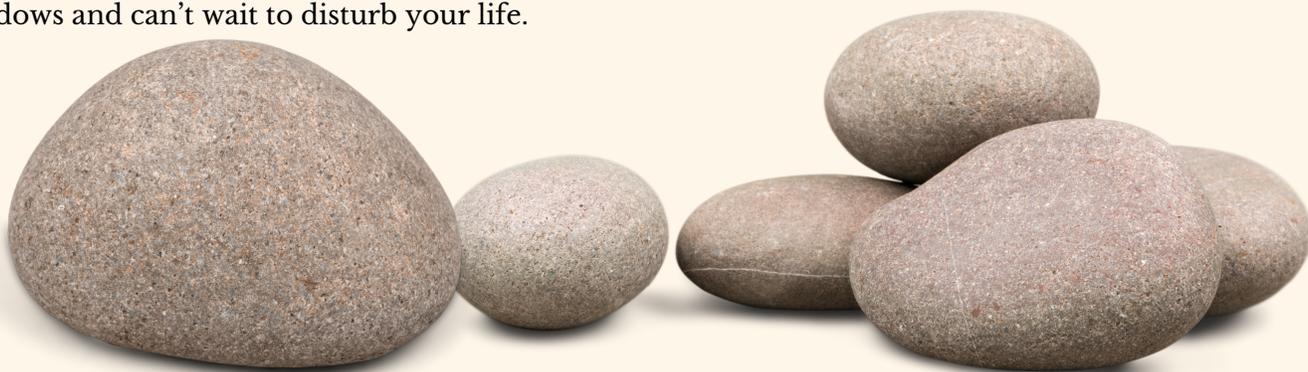
When the three days were up the people moved closer to the Jordan River and waited anxiously to see how God would provide a way for them to cross over.

And then it happened. Joshua, Chapter three, verses 14-17 best describes what took place:

**“So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of them. Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the Ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, the water from up-stream 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 Arabah (the Salt Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. The priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.”**

One of the objectives of our newsletter for March is to learn from scripture and people like Joshua who was urged by the Lord to “Be Strong and Courageous” as he faced one challenge after another.

It is understandable why some people want to give up when problems begin to pile up at your door step. You deal with one issue and four more seem to appear. Life can be cruel at times. Depression lurks in the shadows and can’t wait to disturb your life.



In order to combat discouragement we often need reminders of God’s faithfulness. Joshua sent one representative from each of the twelve tribes of Israel back to the Jordan River and instructed them to return with one stone each from the middle of the river and place them where they were camped at Gilgal. Joshua 4: 19 – 24 describes what happened to the stones:

**"On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. He said to the Israelites, “In the future when your descendants ask their fathers, ‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The Lord your God did to the Jordan just what He had done to the Red Sea when He dried it up before us until we had crossed over. He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God.”**

After reading Joshua’s story about Stones of Remembrance, I would like to challenge each of you to carry a Stone of Remembrance with you. Not a big stone mind you, just a small pebble. Actually, I was going to send you a sample but potential problems with our postal system and other concerns caused our administrative team to recommend that I find an alternative to my original plan. The following is my revised suggestion for those who are adventurous and would like one more simple way to share the Good News with friends, family or even strangers.

You could begin by having a “pebble hunt” with your family searching for some small smooth stones. If you want a whole bunch of smooth pebbles you can purchase a bag of these small pebbles that are produced for fish bowls or aquariums. My son, Michael came up with this idea and it is perfect for this project.

If you decide to give this a go, I’m sure you can think of many other ways to use a “Stone of Remembrance”. My prayer is that the Lord will use this simple tool to open the hearts of children and even adults who need to hear the Good News and erase the bad news that seems to dominate our world today.

In part 2 of **“Be Strong and Courageous”** I would like to tell you about 3 powerful weapons that are available to each follower of Christ. As we face a world being strangled in the grip of Satan and his forces of evil.



These 3 weapons are not only powerful but they are indestructible. The latest supersonic missiles loaded with destructive explosives and even nuclear bombs cannot destroy the weapons the Lord has provided for each of His followers.

Remember, God promised to never leave or forsake us. He will not only lead us into the battle, He will also equip and protect us.

Therefore, get ready and put on your Armour, do some knee bends and prepare to drive the enemy into a full retreat as we go on the offensive.

Then, in part 2 we will look at our 3 powerful weapons. I encourage you to dust them off, oil them and get ready to put them to full use as we watch in utter amazement as our Lord leads us to victory after victory as the enemy is forced into full retreat and our nation and the world enters a new era that we call revival.

Thank you for your prayers and support as we join together to be bright lights in a very dark world. May the Lord bless and encourage you as we endeavor to “Be Strong and Courageous”.

**Russ Carr**

**GSSM Founder & President**



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