

DID YOU KNOW



Joshua and Jesus began their ministries at the Jordan River.

Joshua 1:1 – 5:1

Israel Crosses Over

Joshua Takes Over (1:1-9)

- “Moses My servant is dead”
- I am giving you a lot of land
- Enemies don’t stand a chance
- I will be with you
- Obey the Law strictly
- Study & meditate
- Be strong & courageous (5,6,9)
 - Compare to Deut. 31:7-8



Spying Jericho (chapter 2)



- Why send spies at all?
- Why pick Rahab's house?
- What motivated Rahab's actions?
- Terms & conditions of the deal
- The spies' report: we got this
- Test of faith; God's plan
- Not likely to arouse suspicion
- Belief in the true God (Heb. 11:31)
- Rahab: don't tell anyone; hang scarlet cord in window; shelter in place
- Spies: we will rescue, not kill you

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

- Why come to the Jordan, then wait 3 days?
 - Test of faith, trust in God & Joshua
- What was the Jordan like at that time?

“for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest” (Josh. 3:15)



Normal: 100 feet wide, 3-10 feet deep

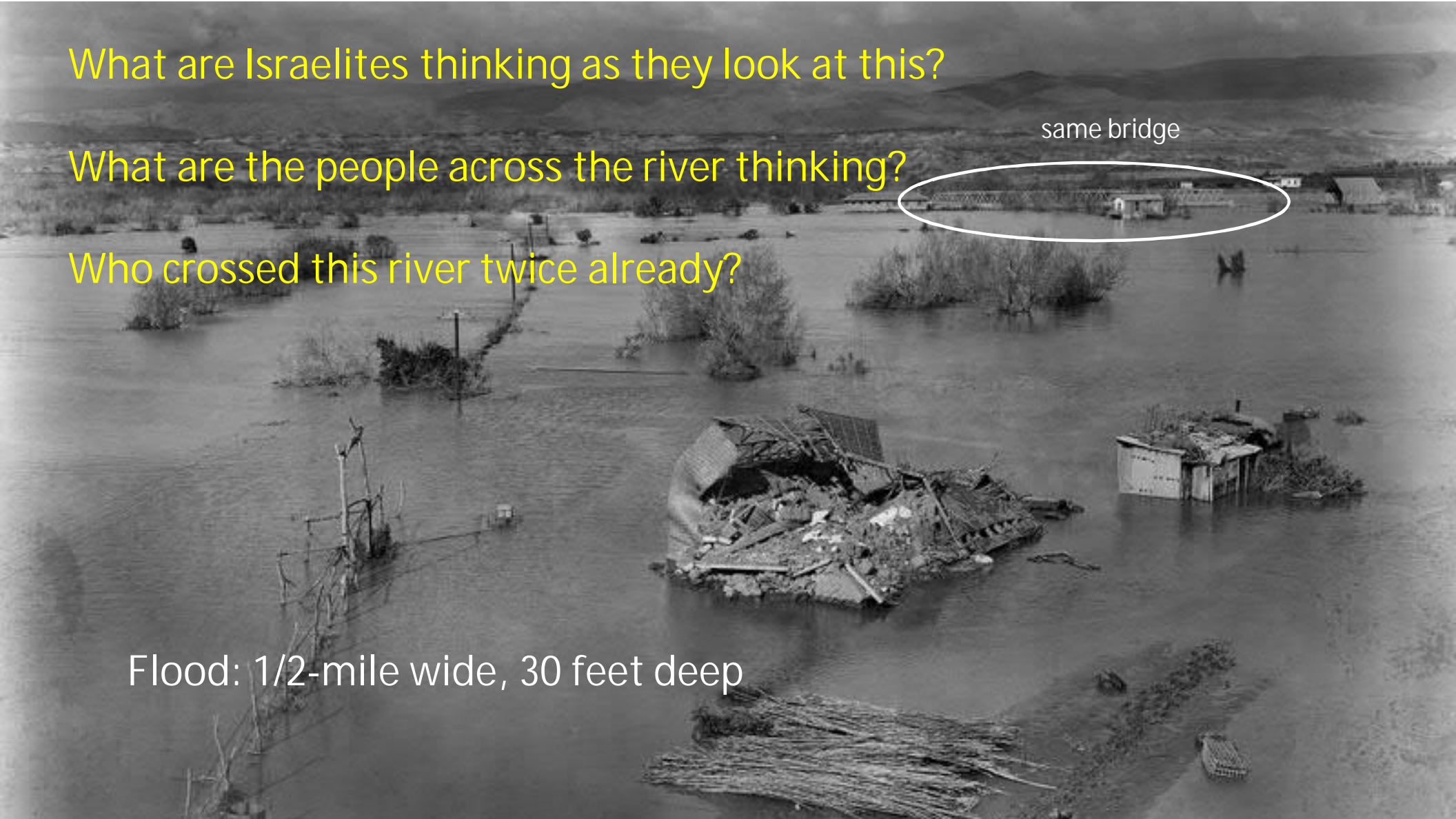
What are Israelites thinking as they look at this?

What are the people across the river thinking?

Who crossed this river twice already?

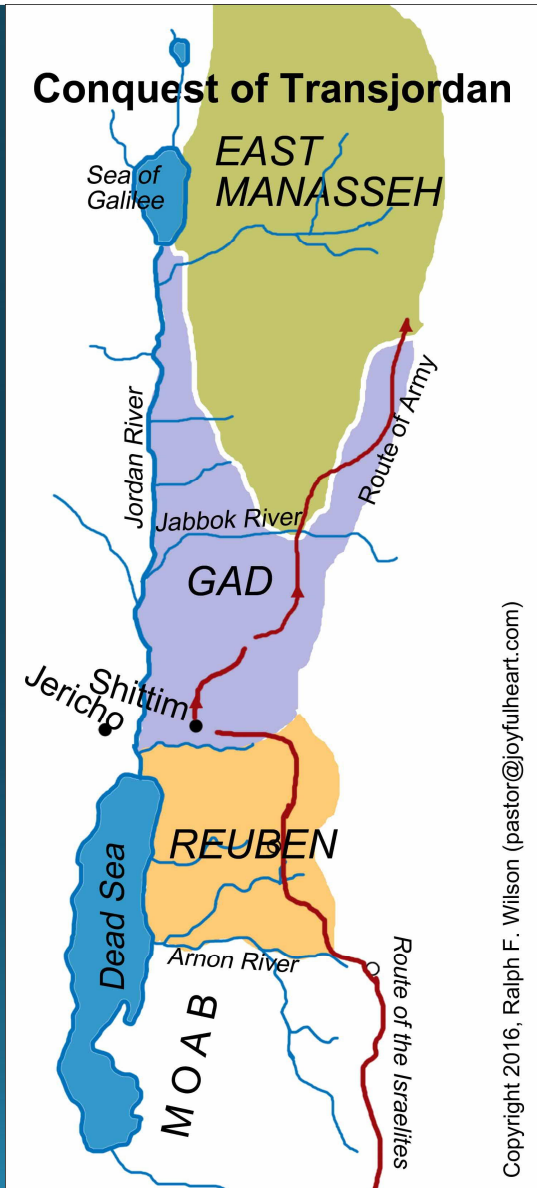
same bridge

Flood: 1/2-mile wide, 30 feet deep



Prepare to Cross (1:10-18)

- In 3 days we will cross Jordan
- Admonition to Reuben, Gad, East Manasseh
 - What had they done? (Num. 32)
- Families can stay over here but you must help brothers conquer
 - Num. 32:20-23; Deu. 3:18-20
- They pledge compliance
- What is ironic about their reply?



Jordan Rules (chapters 3-4)

- “Consecrate yourselves” – how?
- Ark will lead the way, then a gap of 3,000 feet
- Priests / Ark will stand in the middle of (dry) Jordan River
- People will cross over while Priests / Ark stay there
- 12 representatives will take one rock from river bed
- Joshua will place 12 different memorial stones in Jordan
- Priests / Ark will come out of the river
- River rocks set up in Gilgal

Salvation Through Water

Red Sea crossing

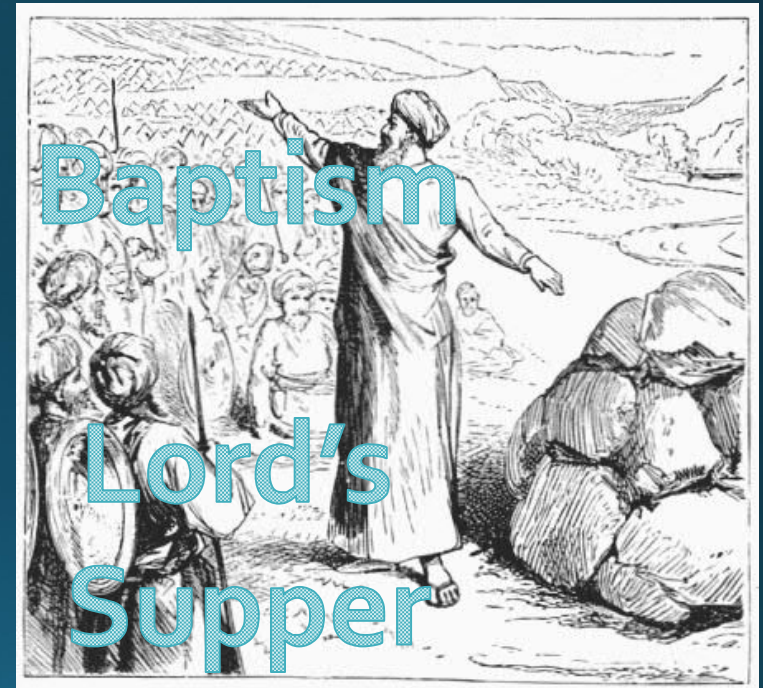
- Initiated by Moses' staff
- Wall of water left & right
- Crossed on dry land
- Running away from enemies
- Escaping slavery
- Beginning of journey
- Days after Passover

Jordan River

- Initiated by priests' feet
- Water piled up miles away
- Crossed on dry land
- Walking toward enemies
- Entering inheritance
- End of Journey
- Days before Passover

Two Memorials

1. In the Jordan River
 - Crossing was a one-time event
 - Buried, never seen again
2. In the new land
 - Visible to all
 - Intended to provoke remembrance



Other Lessons

- There was no scouting report of the river; just follow the Ark
- Because Joshua executed God's instructions, God made him look like a hero before all Israel. (3:7; 4:14)
- The real star of the show was God, represented by the Ark
- The miraculous nature of this crossing further discouraged the Canaanites. (5:1)