Joshua 3:7-17

Crossing into the promised land

3:7The LORD said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they may know that I will be with you as I was with Moses.

3:8You are the one who shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, 'When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.'"

3:9Joshua then said to the Israelites, "Draw near and hear the words of the LORD your God."

3:10Joshua said, "By this you shall know that among you is the living God who without fail will drive out from before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites:

3:11the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is going to pass before you into the Jordan.

3:12So now select twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe.

3:13When the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, come to rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan flowing from above shall be cut off; they shall stand in a single heap."

3:14When the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests bearing the ark of the covenant were in front of the people.

3:15Now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest. So when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the edge of the water,

3:16the waters flowing from above stood still, rising up in a single heap far off at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, while those

flowing toward the sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea, were wholly cut off. Then the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

3:17While all Israel were crossing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firmly on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

Thanks for a beautiful land

107:1O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

107:2Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble

107:3and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

107:4Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town;

107:5hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

107:6Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress;

107:7he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town.

107:8Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

107:9For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.

107:33He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground,

107:34a fruitful land into a salty waste, because of the wickedness of its inhabitants.

107:35He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water.

107:36And there he lets the hungry live, and they establish a town to live in;

107:37they sow fields and plant vineyards and get a fruitful yield.

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

The apostle's teaching

2:9You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

2:10You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers.

2:11As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children,

2:12urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

2:13We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers.

Matthew 23:1-12

Humble yourselves

23:1Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples,

23:2"The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses's seat;

23:3therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach.

23:4They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of other, but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them.

23:5They do all their deeds to be seen by others, for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long.

23:6They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues

23:7and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have people call them rabbi.

23:8But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers and sisters.

23:9And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father, the one in heaven.

23:10Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah.

23:11The greatest among you will be your servant.

23:12All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.