



SO CLOSE, YET SO FAR

JUNE 23, 2025

JOSHUA 3:5-6 NKJV – (5) And Joshua said to the people, “Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” (6) Then Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, “Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people.”

The reason Moses was kept on the wrong side of the promised land occurs earlier in the book of Numbers. Amid constant rebellion and pushback from God’s people, Moses reached a boiling point. He let his temper get the best of him and did not follow God’s specific instructions on how to get life-saving water to pour out from a rock for the Israelites. Instead of holding his staff and *telling* the rock to open up (much like he did on the shores of the Red Sea), he yelled at the people and brought his anger down on the rock itself, striking it twice.

Despite his disobedience, the rock still poured forth water, but Moses’ fate was sealed. God said, “Because you did not believe in me, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them”. We aren’t told how Moses reacted to this news, but we can assume it was devastating. Fast forward to the end of Deuteronomy, the end of forty years of leading a people who were bent on their passions and lawlessness, and here Moses sits, on the top of Mount Nebo, the Lord himself showing Moses the land that had been promised to Abraham so long ago, in which he would never step one foot.

So, who was it that took on the burden of the Israelites and finally led them into the land of Canaan? It was Joshua, one of the twelve spies that had been sent into Canaan in **Numbers 13**, *the one who encouraged the Israelites to rise up* and take the land that they had been promised, despite the seemingly insurmountable obstacles that had been living there (including giants!). In the face of the impossible task that could not be performed by the work of their hands, he trusted that with God on their side they would have victory. And today I want to encourage you in your faith! Come out of your emotions through prayer. You are so close to your breakthrough. Stan wants to keep his foot on your neck. He is able to do this if you allow him. You are so close but yet so far. Why? You haven’t taken the next step. Don’t get mad at others because of their ungratefulness, their inconsistent attitudes. Do your part. Rise up!

SCRIPTURE READING: ISAIAH 60:1

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Little minds are tamed and subdued by misfortune; but great minds rise above them.