

1 **A Wall Against the Water**

- Facing Raging Rivers!

2 **Joshua 3:15-17**

- 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 upstream 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 the 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. (Josh 3:15–17 NIV)

3 **Introduction**

- Three years ago, a massive tsunami crashed into northeastern Japan, causing enormous damage and destruction.
- Today, the government is building the biggest anti-tsunami barrier in history.
- This network of enormous seawalls is being mocked by some as “the Great Wall of Japan.”
- Construction has begun, and the barrier will eventually stretch for 230 miles and cost almost \$8 billion.

4 **Tsunami Pictures**

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6 **Tsunami Pictures**

7 **2011 Tohoku Earthquake/Tsunami**

- The earthquake that struck 81 miles off the east coast of Japan was a 9.0-magnitude earthquake.
- In fact, it was the fifth most powerful earthquake in recorded history.
- The resulting Tsunami (harbor wave) was over 30 feet high and killed 15,883 people and injured 6,150. To this day as many as 2,651 people are still missing.
- Not only this, but a man in California—5,000 miles away was swept out to sea by a 6 foot smaller Tsunami where he drowned.

8 **Tsunami's Range and Effect**

9 **Power Plant**

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11 **Geographical Facts**

- The earthquake was so powerful that the Pacific plate moved 66 feet further west.
- It shifted the earth's axes by 9.8 inches.

- Increased the earth's rotation, shortening the day 1.8 microseconds due to the reconstruction of the earth's mass.

12 **\$8 Billion Wall**

- While the earthquake was bad, it was the Tsunami that did much of the damage and loss of life.
- With this in view the Japanese now want to build a 17 foot wall to protect over 230 miles of their eastern coastline.
- The cost of such an undertaking would be huge and many are worried how this will effect the aesthetics and view of the ocean.
- Some have said they don't want to live in a prison and fear the environmental impact of construction will be worse than the Tsunami.

13 **Wall**

14 **Flood Control**

- You know the Lord is in the flood control business.
 - So shall they fear The name of the LORD from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him. (Is 59:19 NKJV)
 - If the LORD had not been on our side — let Israel say — if the LORD had not been on our side when men attacked us, when their anger flared against us, they would have swallowed us alive; the flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us, the raging waters would have swept us away. (Psa 124:1–5 NIV)

15 **The Parting of the Sea**

- In the Old Testament when God wants to inspire His people or even brag about His abilities, He brings up one particular event over and over again.
- Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. (Ex 14:21–22 NIV)

16 **Rebukes the Waters**

- He did miracles in the sight of their fathers in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan. He divided the sea and led them through; he made the water stand firm like a wall. (Psa 78:12–13 NIV)
- He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up; he led them through the depths as through a desert. He saved them from the hand of the foe; from the hand of the enemy he redeemed them. The waters covered their adversaries; not one of them survived. (Psa 106:9–11 NIV)
- . . . who sent his glorious arm of power to be at Moses' right hand, who divided the waters before them, to gain for himself everlasting renown, . . . (Is 63:12 NIV)

17 **Rebukes the Waters**

- You made a name for yourself, which remains to this day. You divided the sea before them, so that they passed through it on dry ground, but you hurled their pursuers into the depths, like a stone into mighty waters. (Neh 9:10–11 NIV)
- He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot — come, let us rejoice in him. (Psa 66:6 NIV)
- . . . to him who divided the Red Sea asunder His love endures forever. and brought Israel through the midst of it, His love endures forever. but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea; His love endures forever. (Psa 136:13–15 NIV)

18 **Crossing of the Jordan**

- While God parted the Sea, He also parted the Jordan River.
- The parting of the Sea was an act of God’s deliverance for His people, the parting of the Jordan River was an act of God’s faithfulness—bring them to the land He had promised.
- Passover and the miracle of the Red Sea is symbolic of our salvation through Christ and the miracle of the Jordan is symbolic of the victory of Jesus’ Second Coming.
- Both are supernatural manifestations of God’s grace.

19 **The Crossing of the Jordan**

- When Joshua led the people of Israel across the Jordan River into the Promise land, he had them to fall into formation behind God, not to march ahead of God.
- This is very important because people always have a tendency to want to get ahead of God and want God to follow them, instead of them following God.
- So the people followed the priest carrying the ark, which represented God’s covenant with His people but also His presence and power.

20 **Following God’s Presence**

- Earlier in the wilderness, Moses says to God . . .
 - “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?” (Ex 33:15–16 NIV)
 - In other words, Moses is saying that the most important thing is to have God’s presence in our lives as it not only is a witness that God is with us, but the assurance we’ll have victory over our enemies.

21 **Grieving the Holy Spirit**

- This is why it is very important for us to not grieve or quench the Holy Spirit in our lives.

- As the Apostle Paul says, And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Eph 4:30 NIV)
- We grieve the Holy Spirit when we don't line up with the Covenant that God has freely given us.
- We grieve the Spirit by living like the pagans (4:17-19), by lying (4:25), by being angry (4:26-27), by stealing (4:28), by cursing (4:29), by being bitter (4:31), by being unforgiving (4:32), and by being sexually immoral (5:3-5).

22 **The Importance of Godliness**

- My devotional this morning was from the following portion of Scripture. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. (1 Tim 4:8 NIV)
- When the Apostles give us godly instruction it is not without a purpose. It is to help us to continue to abide in God's presence.
- For when they say, Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs—it is so we won't grieve the Holy Spirit of God. (Eph 4:29–30 NIV)

23 **Importance of God Presence**

- Again, why is this important?
- Unless we have God's presence—following in His footsteps, we could frustrate the victory that God wants to give us.
- This is why the Apostle Paul gives us this saying, Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, . . . (Eph 5:15 NIV)
- Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit (God's presence). (Eph 5:17–18 NIV)

24 **Nurturing God's Presence**

- According to God's word, when we are kind, thoughtful, considerate, thankful, and respectful, we are nurturing the presence of God in our lives.
- Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph 5:19–20 NIV)
- In other words, when we walk in step behind God's word, we walk in the Spirit and allow His presence to grow in our lives.

25 **The Great Wall of Japan**

- "The Great Wall of Japan" is a vivid example of humans trying to create secure environments at any cost.
- Perhaps this is the best response in their situation, but the jury is still out.
- Our security comes only from the God who walks with us into the future, giving us exactly what we need for each day -- no more and no less.

- However, without His presence we can do nothing and victory entering the Promised Land can be greatly frustrated if we grieve His Holy Spirit.

26 **Crossing the Jordan River**

- When God led the children of Israel across the Jordan River, the river was at flood stage.
- In other words, when God wants to teach us something about Himself, He often puts us in situations where we need a miracle.
- His purpose is so that we can grow in our faith and recognize that God has the power to do what He has promised.
- When we do so . . . and put ourselves in alignment with His word, He will perform the miracle and raise up a standard against our enemies or circumstances.

27 **Raise Up a Standard**

- There may be people here tonight that need a miracle.
- The enemy has come in like a flood and you need God to raise up a standard.
- So then, let us put our faith in God and grieve not His Holy Spirit.
- Let us make straight paths for His grace to flow in our lives where the fulness of His power and goodness will help us to cross over into the abundance of His provision.
- God wants to bless us. Therefore, let us follow in behind Him and successfully cross the Jordan into the Promised Land!

28 **Psalm 91**