

# Israel Crosses the Jordan: A Lesson in Walking in Faith

Joshua, Judges, Ruth

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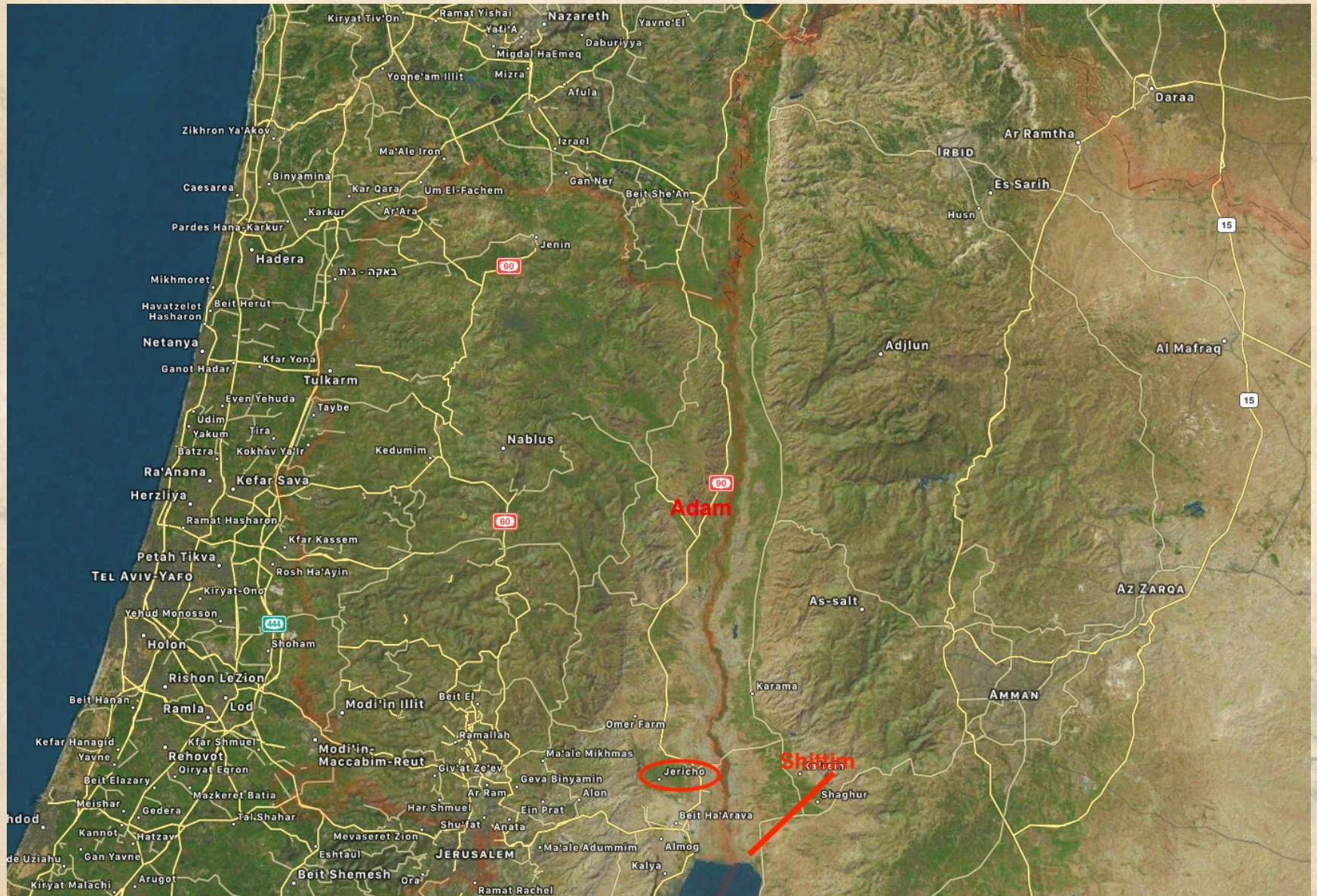
# Crossing the Jordan

- Nudging up to the river
  - Leaving Shittim
  - They “lodged there” by the river

3:1



# Geography





# Crossing the Jordan

- Nudging up to the river 3:1
  - Leaving Shittim
  - They “lodged there” by the river
- Observations
  - Grasp your need for God’s help by facing obstacles in life head on



# Crossing the Jordan

- Officers instruct the people 3:2-4
  - Follow the Ark!
  - But keep your distance!
- Observations
  - Planning ahead is still part of following the Lord
  - Following the Lord is keeping a focus on his word
  - Maintain reverence and respect in your access to God



# Crossing the Jordan

- Joshua instructs the people 3:5
  - Consecrate yourselves
  - Wonders will happen among you
- Observations
  - Perceiving God's work requires a deliberate spiritual focus



# Crossing the Jordan

- Joshua instructs the priests 3:6
  - Begin moving the Ark toward the river!
- Observations
  - God's Word should always be forefront in our activities



# Crossing the Jordan

- God encourages Joshua 3:7
  - “I will exalt you”
  - “I will be with you”
- Observations
  - Humility precedes the Lord’s exalting someone



# Crossing the Jordan

- God instructs Joshua regarding the Priests 3:8
  - “Stand in the Jordan”
- Observations
  - Trust what is truly “a word from the Lord.”
    - All else must be tested against Scripture
  - The Lord will be a steady reference while we pass through our trials
  - He who is first, may be last

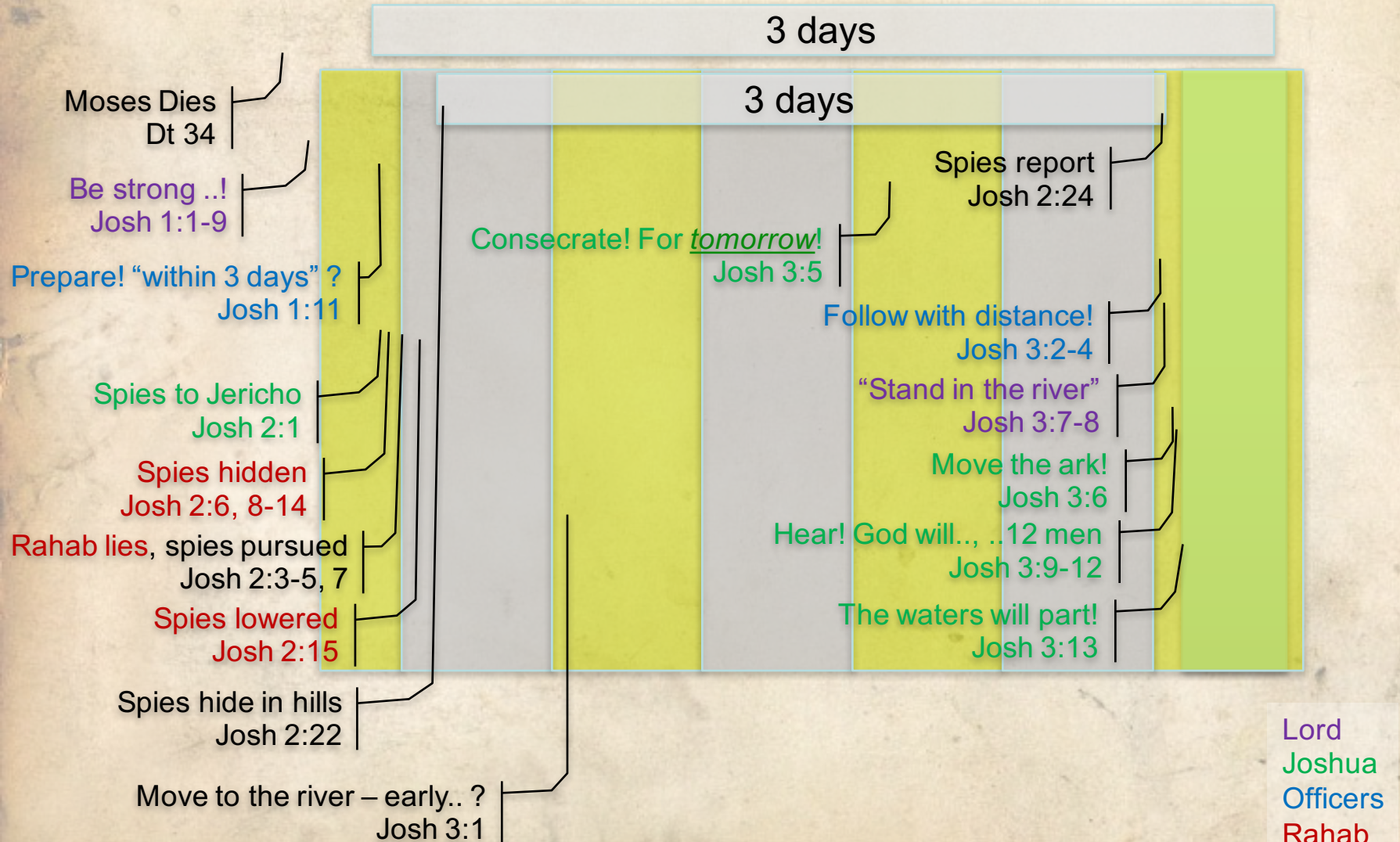


# Crossing the Jordan

- Joshua comforts the people 3:9-13
  - Signs of God's presence and promises
    - He will dispossess the land's inhabitants through you
    - The Ark is before you
    - He will have you raise a memorial by the end of the day
    - The waters will part like they did for Moses
- Observations
  - When it's time to cross through a trial,
    - The Lord is the only God in whom to trust
    - The Lord will provide any necessary final details
    - The Lord will provide confirmation after your obedience
    - The Lord will judge sin – simply based on our conscience



# Possible Timeline ?



*\*Depiction of timing is only a thoughtful guess*

Lord  
Joshua  
Officers  
Rahab  
Others



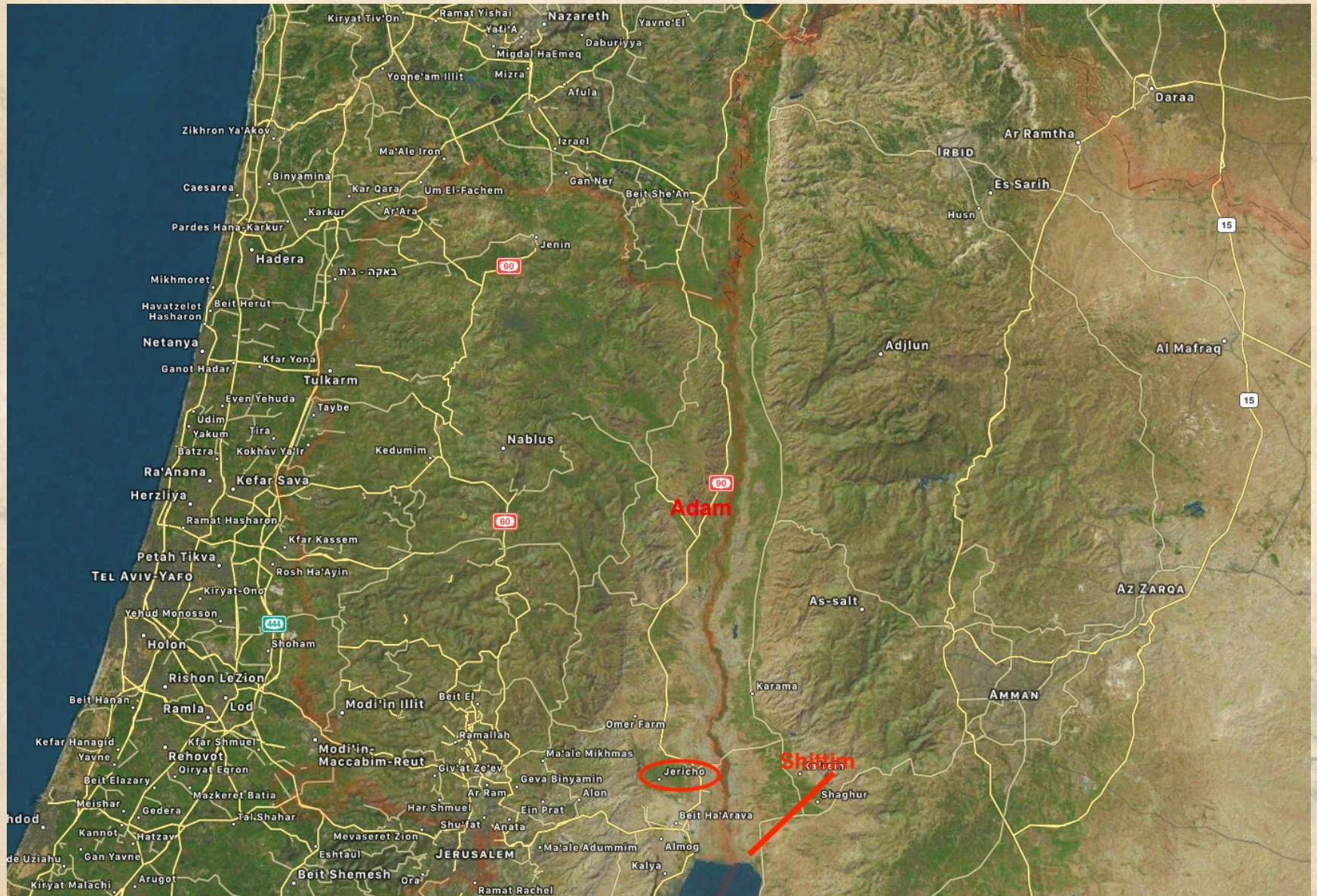
# Crossing the Jordan

- All goes as planned

3:14-17



# Geography





# Crossing the Jordan

- All goes as planned 3:14-17
- Observations
  - Obedience is seen in everyone
    - The chain of command is functioning and brings order
    - There has been no murmuring!
    - The people have consecrated themselves
  - Joshua is confirmed as “Moses part 2”



# Application Exercise

- Take a moment to privately list the trials of faith you are facing right now
  - Uncertainty in how God might be working
  - Fears you may be facing
  - New changes you may be anticipating
- Do a private self-examination of how you are facing these things
  - Worry?
  - Confidence in God, or self?
  - What is your “1st thought” or “response” when some new test comes your way?



# Applications – Walking in Faith

- When trials come, we can be confident God is leading the way but we must have our hearts focused on his word and seeing things from his purposes
  - When God provides answers,
    - they may not be the answer we were hoping for
    - the hard work may still be ahead
- God continues to test our faith so that we learn to trust him even more – so details may be held back until they are needed. Therefore, we must be patient and trusting in his delay
- Confirmation of God's direction may only come **AFTER** we have taken the step into the water