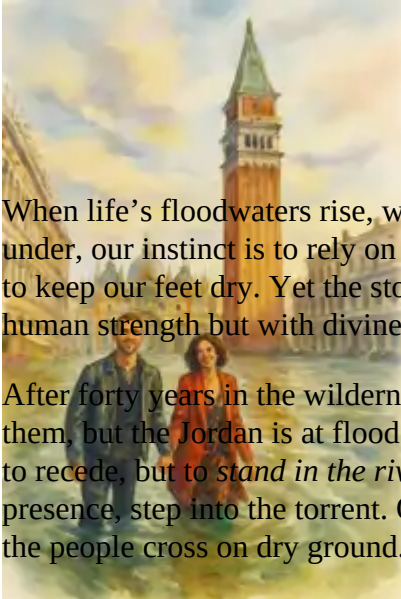




When the Waters Rise

Joshua 3:7-17

February 1, 2026

When life's floodwaters rise, when obstacles seem impassable, and when fears threaten to pull us under, our instinct is to rely on ourselves. We build our own defenses: plans, barriers, and strategies to keep our feet dry. Yet the story of Israel at the Jordan reminds us that salvation never begins with human strength but with divine presence.

After forty years in the wilderness, Israel stands at the river's edge. The Promised Land is before them, but the Jordan is at flood stage. God's command is not to build a bridge or wait for the waters to recede, but to *stand in the river*. The priests, carrying the Ark of the Covenant, the sign of God's presence, step into the torrent. Only when their feet touch the water does the river stop flowing, and the people cross on dry ground.

Faith begins there, in the step before the miracle. God did not part the river and then invite the people to walk through. The current broke only when they acted in trust. It is a powerful image for our own lives: the waters move when we move.

Centuries later, Christ, the Living Ark, entered a far deeper flood: the river of death itself. By standing in it, he transformed it into a passage of life. The One who opened the Jordan still opens a way for us, calling us to follow in faith rather than fear.

Whatever river lies before you, grief, change, uncertainty, God invites you not to retreat but to step forward. Listen for where Christ is already ahead of you. Take one faithful step. Keep facing forward. The river that once threatened to block your way may yet become the doorway to promise.

When the waters rise, remember: Christ stands in the current before you, and under your feet, by grace, the ground is already dry.

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