

# On Jordan's Stormy Banks

LESSONS FROM THE JORDAN RIVER

# The Jordan River

- Mt. 3:1-6, 13-17
- Jordan River might be the most famous river on Earth
- Why?
  - Peculiar physical characteristics
  - Fantastic history
  - Associated thoughts with it in the minds of believers

# Jordan River: Peculiar physical characteristics



- **Begins at Mt. Hermon**
- **Then to “Waters of Merom” (Josh. 11) at sea level**
- **10 miles south to Galilee, 680’ below sea level**





# Physical Characteristics of Jordan River

- 65 miles from Sea of Galilee to Dead Sea
- Windiness of river makes it 165-200 miles long
- Enters Dead Sea at 1,300' below sea level
- Mountains on either side of river
- Lowest water on the planet; Jordan valley lowest land
- Valley 14 miles wide (Jericho to Moab)





# Jordan River: Historical Events

- Deut. 34:1-4, 8 – Death of Moses
- Josh. 3:14-17 – God parts Jordan so Israel can take Canaan
  - River already rapid based on topography now at flood stage – 3:15
  - River likely several hundred feet up to a mile wide
  - Crossed on dry ground
- 2 Kgs. 2:6-14 – Prophets part Jordan; Elijah’s chariot of fire
- Mt. 3 – John the Baptist
  - Prophet like Elijah, working where Elijah ascended – Mal. 4:5-6; Lk. 1:17
  - Wilderness – last 7-8 miles of Jordan
- Mt. 3:13-17 – Jesus baptized “to fulfill all righteousness”

# Jordan River: What do we think of?

“On Jordan’s stormy banks I stand,  
And cast a wishful eye;  
To Canaan’s fair and happy land,  
Where my possessions lie...”

- Standing on banks of Jordan River, looking at “promised land”, waiting to inherit heaven
- How can we cross this flooded river?
- Only with God’s help—parting the river/being baptized in it