

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 11

Question 1

- a) People's eyes are blinded in unbelief (2 Cor 4:4).
- b) They do not have an understanding of a Sovereign God.
- c) They do not accept that God is the Creator and therefore controls all things.

We believe on the basis of:

- d) The authority of Scripture.
- e) Our belief in the unchanging God of history.
- f) Our belief that what God created He has complete control over. The Creator God made the world (note: "*Lord of all the earth*" in verse 13). He put in place the laws by which it operates (**Hebrews 1:3** "*he upholds the universe by the word of His power*").

Question 2

- a) In verse 14 we have the "*so when...*" and in verse 15 the "*and as soon as*".
- b) The people needed to step out in faith believing that God would keep His word.
- c) The requirement for the priests to step into the river shows that obedience to the Lord must be complete and exact.
- d) This was a step of faith. Up until the moment this step was taken there was no indication at all of what was going to happen; just God's word!

Question 3

- a) Suggestions have been made that the river was between 60-100 feet wide at places.
- b) However it lay at the foot of Mount Lebanon which was covered with snow in winter. As it thawed in spring, the additional water was too much for the river and flooding occurred.
- c) By the time Joshua was told to cross, the river would have been a raging torrent and about one mile across.
- d) In other words; God led the people across the river at precisely the time of the year when it was impossible.
- e) God sometimes brings us into impossible circumstances in order that we might see Him at work and rely on Him completely.
- f) It will be His power and grace that prevents us from being overwhelmed and washed completely away.

Question 4

- a) Although there appears to be no definitive measurement, we can suggest that the distance between the city of Adam and the Salt Sea was at least 20 miles.
- b) It would appear that the whole distance was dried out. Remember that there are two million people who have to cross over; plus all their belongings.
- c) The waters stopped the moment the priests dipped their feet in the river.
- d) No natural explanation could possibly be used to explain this miracle.

Question 5

- a) It has been suggested that the people went across the river 1000 abreast and 2000 deep. That would have required about an hour for them all to cross.
- b) Throughout that time the priests stood in the middle of the river with the Ark of the Covenant on their shoulders.
- c) This gave confidence to the people that God would hold back the water and was a reminder that the miracle was divine intervention.
- d) This is confirmed in **4:18** where we read that immediately the priests stepped off the river bed; the waters not only flowed back, but also overflowed the banks. In other words the river flooded again.
- e) It was a reminder that God was there with them in the middle of the river.

Question 6

- a) The Israelites were facing massive challenges as they enter the Promised Land.
- b) They needed to see right from the outset that God was more than sufficient for those challenges.
- c) If we turn to **Joshua 5:1** we see the effect on Israel's enemies when the account was inevitably circulated.