

The Jordan River and the Life of Christ

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The Jordan River is the site of many important Biblical events. It is where God held back the waters so that Joshua and the Israelites could cross on dry land into the promised land; where Naaman washed away his leprosy by the power of God; where Elisha made an axe head float; where John baptized great numbers of people; and where our Savior was baptized in order to fulfill all righteousness.

God has often used landscape features or physical objects to illustrate Bible truths. Jesus was compared to such things as a rock, a door, a lion, a lamb, a vine, and a star. In a similar way, the Jordan River can be used as a teaching tool to illustrate the life of Christ:

The Jordan River	The Life of Christ
The waters that feed the Jordan travel several miles before they settle in the Sea of Galilee.	When Jesus was young He traveled many miles and settled in Galilee (Matthew 2)
The Jordan then leaves the Sea of Galilee and brings water to Palestine.	Jesus left Galilee and brought the water of life to those who were thirsting for it in Palestine (John 4:5-26)
The Jordan made its way through thick vegetation called the “swelling” or “pride” of Jordan (Jeremiah 12:5; Zechariah 11:3)	Jesus successfully made His way through a “jungle” of temptations (Matthew 4:1-11; Hebrews 4:15)
Lions dwelled in the area of the Jordan River (Jeremiah 49:19; 50:44; Zechariah 11:3)	Jesus was often surrounded by those who were as vicious as lions (1 Peter 5:8; Luke 4:28-30; John 8:37-44)
Jordan literally means “to <u>descend</u> ” (Fausset). It is the <u>lowest</u> river in the world, dropping to 1407 feet below sea level where it enters into the <u>Dead</u> Sea. The bottom of the <u>Dead</u> Sea is another 997 feet lower, and is the <u>lowest</u> body of water on earth (Wikipedia.org).	Jesus, the Son of God, <u>descended</u> from Heaven to earth and humbled Himself to the <u>lowest possible point</u> —the point of <u>death</u> (Matthew 26:53, 54; 27:27-54; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Hebrews 2:9; Philipians 2:5-11)
The water does not stay there long – it evaporates; it <u>rises</u>	Jesus did not stay in the grave – He <u>arose</u> ! (Matthew 28:1-6; 1 Cor. 15:1-8; Acts 1:1-3, 2:24)
The Israelites went through Jordan to enter the promised land (Josh. 3:12-17).	We must go through Christ to enter the promised land of Heaven! (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)