

## April 9, 1957—Suez Canal Re-opens



The Suez Canal is a bridge, but not a bridge in the usual way. When you think of a bridge, what do you picture? Things like the bridges you can drive on or walk across? But, a bridge is anything that joins two things that are separate or apart. The Suez Canal is a man-made waterway that bridges the distance between the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, making it possible for a ship in one sea to reach the other.

Before the Suez Canal, if a ship wanted to sail from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, it had to travel the whole way around the tip of Africa, a very long and dangerous journey. But, after the Canal opened, ships could travel much more quickly. The impact on trade was huge. Suddenly, food and other goods and supplies could get to where they were needed to go much more quickly and safely.

People had wanted to build a canal like the Suez Canal ever since the days of the ancient Pharaohs. But, construction didn't begin on the Suez Canal until 1859. It officially opened in 1869. It is supposed to be open for all the nations to use, but it has closed down more than once due to international issues and fighting between nations. One of the times it re-opened was April 9, 1957. The way was restored.

A *bridge* and a *way* are also symbols. What is a symbol? A symbol is something that means something else. It's sort of like saying you are "as strong as an ox." Are you really? Probably not. But, what you really mean is that you are really strong. An ox can be a symbol of strength.

Sometimes, "bridge" and "way" are used to refer to Jesus. In the Bible, Jesus said He is the Way to God the Father. And, in many ways, Jesus is like a bridge. He is what crosses the great distance between man and God.

Read more about the Suez Canal and see what other symbols you can find. What ways are the Suez Canal and Jesus *bridges* and special *ways*? First are a few pairs to get you started. Next, there are a few ideas you need to fill in the pair for. Fill in what you find beside the \*\*. Then, see what pairs you can find on your own.

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The Suez Canal bridges the distance between the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. This way had been very long and dangerous before the Suez Canal.

Jesus bridges the distance between man and God. The distance between us had been very long—so long no man could travel it on his own.

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The Suez Canal allowed food and supplies to reach people who needed it, bringing them life and blessing.

Jesus brings real life and many blessings to us from God.

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The Suez Canal was designed to be available for all nations to use (though mankind hasn't lived up to that plan).

Jesus' love and life are available to all people, of every nation.

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The work to build the Suez Canal was very hard.

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The plans to build the canal existed since ancient times.

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