

## Conquering the Promise Land

### Joshua 3

<sup>1</sup> Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. <sup>2</sup> After three days the officers went throughout the camp, <sup>3</sup> giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. <sup>4</sup> Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it.”

<sup>5</sup> Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.”

<sup>6</sup> Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people.” So they took it up and went ahead of them.

<sup>7</sup> And the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. <sup>8</sup> Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: ‘When you reach the edge of the Jordan’s waters, go and stand in the river.’”

<sup>9</sup> Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. <sup>10</sup> This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. <sup>11</sup> See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. <sup>12</sup> Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. <sup>13</sup> And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.”

<sup>14</sup> So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. <sup>15</sup> Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, <sup>16</sup> the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. <sup>17</sup> The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

### **Zaar-a-thin**

#### **2026 is a year of Conquering.**

- This year is a year of Conquering for this church
- This year is a year of Conquering for the men
- This year is a year of Conquering for the women
- This year is a year of Conquering for students, young adults.

**You are going to Conquer this year.**  
**Start thinking like you are More than a Conquer.**

### **Romans 8:37**

**No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.**

God is stretching us!!

#### **I. Follow where God leads.**

### **History of the Assemblies of God**

- LifeChurch Birmingham is an Assembly of God church.
- That is the tribe we belong to.
- That is our historical roots and that is our association.
- The reason the Assemblies of God was formed was to provide relational accountability, doctrinal stability, establish a ministerial training school and coordinate and cooperate to establish a missions mechanism.
- In other words, the revival of the early 1900's ignited churches and as they began to experience this Revival accompanied with supernatural signs and wonders they wanted to come together to help make sure they did everything in their power to share it with the world.
- Right now we have over 2,600 missionaries in over 150 countries. (195 countries)
- We are a missional church.
- We are missions minded.
- We are missions practicing
- We are a church that loves missionaries.
- We are a church that supports missionaries.
- One of the reasons we exist is to make it possible for the Gospel to be shared with the World.

### **2025**

- 33 Missionary Ministries Supported.
- More than 50 global people groups reached.

### **Missionary Giving**

- \$7,200 given to US Missionaries
- \$13,950 give to foreign Missionaries

### **Italy Missions Trip**

- \$35,000

### **Missions Projects**

- Speed the Light - \$12,211
- BGMC - \$2,727
- Equator - \$5,000
- Pakistan - \$11,610
- India - \$4,611
- Hamilton Pastor's Retreat Center - \$2,000

### **Community Compassion**

- Serving You Ministries - \$1,200
- Benevolence Giving - \$3,196.28
- Compassion One-27 - \$249

### **Local Outreach**

- VBS - \$3,324
- Palm Sunday and Easter Outreach - \$658
- Food Ministry - \$4,495

### **Food Ministry**

- 213,860 pounds of food
- 178,217 meals

**Total Giving for missions, outreach and compassion**  
**\$107,432**

### **Joshua 3:1-4**

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- A. Unpack the context
  1. They had wondered.
  2. Those who were in the no faith / disobedience died and now a new generation was ready to go.
  3. Give instructions
- B. God is on the move.
  1. The question is are you going to move with him.

2. LifeChurch God is on the move – the question is will we move with him.

C. Watch this....

#### **Vs. 4**

Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before.

1. Question – Do you think that God is ok with the condition of the world?
2. Do you think that God is OK with the millions upon millions of unreached peoples on the earth?
3. Do you think that God is OK with the fact that this morning while we are meeting for church there are mother's holding their dead babies because they starved to death?
4. Do you think that God is OK with the fact that in Vietnam right now 11 / 12 year old little girls are being sold into sex slavery to some perverted middle age man?
5. Do you think that God is OK with little 5,6,7,8-year-old little boys and little girls in our community living in a home where no body knows anything about Jesus Christ.

#### **Answer**

- God is not OK with this.
- This breaks God's heart.
- This tears him up inside.
- The pain this causes him is immense.
- He is going to them and the way he is going to them is because he is leading his people to go.

#### **Two ways Christians make a difference**

1. Going
2. Sending

D. I want you to be convinced that God is leading his people into those difficult, painful, dark, barren places.

#### **When he leads us we have to follow.**

#### **Illustration**

- As your pastor I try to do everything I can to help you be able to discern the activity of God.

1. Bible preaching and study
2. Worship
3. Prayer and fasting
4. Christian fellowship
5. Ministry to the body
6. Evangelism and outreach to the community and world
7. Sacrificial giving of your time, talent and treasure

### **Straw Man**

- The goal is not to learn facts and have “life experiences”.
- The goal is to **discern** which way God is going and follow him there.

### **Application**

1. We must follow HIM.
2. Follow him to Africa and Asia, Middle East, South America, India, Vietnam, Spain and Italy.
3. Follow him to Japan and Indonesia.
4. Follow him to the classrooms and hallways of our classrooms
5. Follow him to the living rooms of the widow, the lonely and the broken.
6. Follow him to the local businesses that you use every week.
7. Follow him to the homes of local foster children.
8. Follow him across the street to your neighbors.
9. Follow him to these apartments townhomes within walking distance of this church.

When the Arc moves follow it!!!

Then you will know which way to go because you have never been this way before.

### **The Arc of the Covenant contained three are symbols of Israel's relationship with God.**

#### **1. The tablets of the Ten Commandments**

- God is a God of covenant, Man could not keep the covenant God designed. Therefore God had to design a sacrificial system but it all pointed to what would come one day – a new and lasting Covenant through Jesus Christ.

#### **2. Aaron's budding rod**

God deals harshly with rebellion to his established authorities. Question – What are the three institutions that God designed on earth. Church, Home, State – Isn't it interesting that the modern day woke agenda seeks to destroy all three of those God designed institutions.

It is not an accident – it is demonic. You better wake up to the warfare that your family is in the middle of.

Right wing radicals are – Christians who love their families, stay married, are straight, love God and follow his word, discipline their children and seek to teach them biblical values, believe in the freedom of religion and freedom of speech and the rule of law. It's all a sham. Wake up.

Submission to leadership.

### 3. Gold Jar of manna

God provides in impossible situations, God requires self discipline and obedience. To receive God's supernatural provision requires you to gather it God's way. Trust God that it will be there tomorrow. Tithe does this.

According to the biblical record in [Hebrews 9:4](#), the **Ark of the Covenant** contained three specific sacred relics:

- **The Stone Tablets** – The two tablets of the **Ten Commandments** (also called "The Testimony") given to **Moses** on **Mount Sinai**.
- **The Golden Jar of Manna** – A container of the miraculous "bread from heaven" that sustained the **Israelites** during their 40-year journey through the wilderness.
- **Aaron's Staff** – The wooden rod belonging to **Aaron** that miraculously budded, blossomed, and produced ripe almonds to confirm his divine appointment as **High Priest**.

According to [Hebrews 9:4 in the New Testament](#), the Ark of the Covenant contained three items: the golden jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant (the Ten Commandments). These items served as reminders of God's provision, authority, and law during the Israelites' wilderness journey.

Key details regarding the contents:

- **Stone Tablets**: Representing the Ten Commandments, these were the primary items placed inside, with [1 Kings 8:9 in the Old Testament](#) noting that by the time of Solomon, only these tablets remained inside.

- **Jar of Manna**: A golden pot containing the bread that God provided from heaven during the wilderness wandering.
- **Aaron's Staff**: The rod that budded, symbolizing God's chosen priesthood

These items were symbols of rebellion, with the manna representing complaining, the staff representing the questioning of leadership, and the tablets representing the broken covenant.