

Conquering the Promise Land - Part II

Romans 8:37

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

- **Set up Text**

Joshua 3

¹ Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. ² After three days the officers went throughout the camp, ³ 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. ⁴ 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.”

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

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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.’”

⁹ Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. ¹² Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. ¹³ 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.”

¹⁴ So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. ¹⁵ 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, ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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

40 years of aimless wondering.

- Going through the motions.
- Existing.
- Living lives that seem to be void of meaning.

- Missing out on their purpose.
- A people created for Promise Land Conquering and have relinquished themselves to existing in the desert.

A. Unpack the context

1. They had wondered.
2. The faithless disobedient generation was dead.
3. Now a new generation was ready to go.
4. Give instructions

Joshua 3:1-4

¹ Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. ² After three days the officers went throughout the camp, ³ 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.

Joshua 3:4

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

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.

How to follow the direction of the Holy Spirit

How to conquer new territory

God is for you

C. Watch this...

1. Do you believe God has more for you?
2. Do you believe God has more faith, more power, more miracles.
3. Do you believe God has more **joy**, more **overcoming**, more **conquering**, more **advancement**, more **defeating darkness**, more **change**, more **sanctification**, more **strength**, more **anointing**, more **authority**.

Question

– Do you think that God is ok with the condition of the world?

Answer

- God is not OK with the condition of the world.
- 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.

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

I. The tablets of the Ten Commandments

- A. The Ten Commandments represent God's **holy standard**.
- B. As they moved into the Promised Land, they were to be guided by His Word not their own desires.
- C. What They Represent:
- a. God’s covenant
 - b. God’s standard
 - c. God’s revealed will
 - d. Divine order for life

Obedience is better than sacrifice.

I Samuel 15:22

²² But Samuel replied:

“Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD?

To obey is better than sacrifice,
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

²³ For rebellion is like the sin of divination,
and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.

Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,
he has rejected you as king.”

- Unpack

Before Israel could walk into promise, they had to walk under **the authority of God’s Word**.

Application

- You cannot step into God's promises while ignoring God's principles.
- The Word must go before you.
- Obedience positions you for breakthrough.

If you want to cross your Jordan, follow the Word.

Application

- Moving forward with God requires obedience to His established truths.
- **The Ark represents Christ**, in whom the law is fulfilled
- **Jesus** guides believers today through the **Scripture - Spirit**.
- 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.

II. **Aaron's budding rod**

- A. When Israel questioned leadership, God caused Aaron's dead rod to bud, blossom, and produce almonds overnight.
- B. Represents God's Divine Authority
 1. The people had previously rebelled **against Moses and Aaron**.
 2. **God brought judgment and death to the uprising**.
 3. Aaron's rod symbolized God's chosen leadership and miraculous power to bring life out of dead wood.

Illustration

- God deals harshly with rebellion to his established authorities.
- Question – What are the three institutions that God designed on earth.
- **Church Home State**
- It is no coincidence 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.
- If you **love Jesus** and **put him first, love your family, stay married**, are **straight, discipline your children** and **teach them to follow God's commands, stand for the freedom of religious expression, stand for the rule of law**

- You are a labeled **RIGHT WING RADICAL**

C. The Rod represents God's

1. Divine authority
2. Resurrection life
3. God-ordained leadership
4. Life from what was dead

D. Before crossing into promise, Israel was reminded:

1. **God's authority brings life where there was death.**

Sermon Emphasis:

If God has called it, He will confirm it.

Application:

- God validates what He ordains.
- Dead situations can bloom again.
- Spiritual authority flows from divine appointment, not human opinion.

What God ordains, God empowers

Application

- When the Ark moved, the people followed
- They trusted that God's chosen leadership (ultimately Jesus) would lead them through the Jordan.
- It reminds us to trust Jesus and his representatives.
God's appointed, resurrecting power in difficult transitions.

III. Gold Jar of manna

A. Give backstory on the manna.

1. Pick it up every morning
2. Not a day in advance – but for that day only.
3. Sabbath is the exception - Israel takes this seriously.

B. Manna – means – What is it.

1. Dependence on the unknown.
2. What is it – I'm not sure?
3. How does it work – I don't know.

4. Obey God and you will be taken care of.

C. God requires self-discipline and obedience.

God provides supernatural sustenance in the wilderness.

D. Now in the promise land you will not have manna any more.

1. You will eat from the fruit of the land.
2. You will cultivate the land and eat from it.
3. You will work the soil and I will cause it to flourish.
4. It flows with milk and honey.

Application

- Following the Ark meant leaving behind the old reliance on the wilderness.
- Trusting that the same God who provided there would
- Sustain them in the new land.
- It is a reminder to trust in God's daily, sufficient grace as you step into the future.

1. God provides in impossible situations.
2. To receive God's supernatural provision requires you to gather it God's way.
3. Trust God that it will be there tomorrow.
4. Tithe does this.

The Jar of Manna – The Provision of God

Reference: Exodus 16:32–34

God instructed Moses to keep a jar of manna as a testimony of His supernatural provision in the wilderness.

What It Represents:

- Daily dependence
- Supernatural supply
- Faith for tomorrow
- God's faithfulness in barren seasons

Before entering Canaan (a land flowing with milk and honey), they were reminded:
The same God who fed you in famine will sustain you in abundance.

Sermon Emphasis:

Your future victory is built on remembering past provision.

Application:

- Don't forget what God brought you through.
- What sustained you in the wilderness will stabilize you in the promise.
- Gratitude fuels faith.

The God who provided yesterday will provide again.

Follow God's Presence - Abiding

Follow God's Promised - Covenant

Follow God's Power - Supernatural Strength

In **Joshua 3**, Israel stands at the flooded Jordan River. Behind them: wilderness. Ahead of them: promise.

God gives a clear instruction: Follow the Ark.

When the priests step into the water carrying the Ark of the Covenant, the river stops, and the people cross on dry ground.

The Ark represents **God's presence, covenant, and power**. And inside the Ark were three powerful reminders of Israel's spiritual journey.

When the priests stepped into the Jordan carrying the Ark, they weren't just carrying a box. They were carrying:

- The **Word of God**
- The **Provision of God**
- The **Power of God**

And when those three entered the water — the obstacle moved.

1. Follow the Presence

Joshua 3:3–4 – Keep your eyes on the Ark.

2. Step in Before It Moves

Joshua 3:13 – The water did not part until their feet touched it.

3. Stand Firm in the Middle

Joshua 3:17 – The priests stood in the riverbed until everyone crossed.

Closing Application

If you're facing a Jordan today:

- Let the **Word** guide you.
- Remember God's **Provision** behind you.
- Trust His **Power** within you.

The same Ark that carried covenant, manna, and resurrection power
is the same presence that still goes before you.

“Lord, as You were with Israel at the Jordan, go before us.
Let Your Word direct us,
Your provision sustain us,
and Your power make a way where there seems to be none.
In Jesus’ name, Amen.”