

Joshua 3

King James Version (KJV)

3 And Joshua rose early in the morning; and they removed from Shittim, and came to Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. (They are getting organized on this side of the Jordan after moving all the people and their herds. The river would give them protection from the army of Jericho)

² And it came to pass after three days, that the officers went through the host; (Mustering the troops and giving them instructions for the battle)

³ And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place, and go after it. (They sent the ark with the priests ahead of the troops. They knew that God would protect it and them. No army can stand against almighty God)

⁴ Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore. (That's over ½ of a mile in front of the troops. They would be easily killed by the enemy if not for God's protection. This is to prove to the enemy and to the people of Israel that it is God who has the victory; not the people)

⁵ And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you. (Joshua gets it)

⁶ And Joshua spake unto the priests, saying, Take up the ark of the covenant, and pass over before the people. And they took up the ark of the covenant, and went before the people.

⁷ And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee. (Their best guarantee is God, Himself. The leaders don't really matter as long as they obey God)

⁸ And thou shalt command the priests that bear the ark of the covenant, saying, When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan. (Wade in and stop. Have faith in God that the torrent of the river won't wash you away. This time of year, the Jordan was a torrent of flood waters)

⁹ And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, Come hither, and hear the words of the LORD your God.

¹⁰ And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you, and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites, and the Perizzites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Jebusites. (God will drive out the enemy. These were heathen tribes that had mated with the fallen angels. They practiced sexual perversions, idolatry and human sacrifices. God judged them for it and gave their land to Israel)

¹¹ Behold, the ark of the covenant of the LORD of all the earth passeth over before you into Jordan.

¹² Now therefore take you twelve men out of the tribes of Israel, out of every tribe a man. (All 12 tribes were represented – 1 man from each tribe. The Jews we know today, in Israel, are from the tribe of Judah. There are 11 other tribes. Today, the other 11 tribes are called Caucasians because they migrated over the Caucasus Mountains to settle Europe and later, America)

¹³ And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD, the LORD of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap. (Just like through the Red Sea; they crossed the Jordan over on dry ground, not in mud. This was done to prove to Israel and to the Canaanite tribes that this was the judgment of God; not of Israel. Maybe some of them would wake up and know that there is a living God in heaven)

¹⁴ And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people; (They did as God commanded)

¹⁵ And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,) (This was usually a time that the Jordan would overflow and flood the land around it)

¹⁶ That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea,

failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho. (Instead of flooding, the water receded so that the bottom was dry ground)

¹⁷ And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan. (Dry ground; not mud; this is the Work of Almighty God)