

The Covenants

Part 8

“The Ark of The Covenant leads the people of God into Canaan”

Read Joshua 3

Jos 3:1 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.

Note 1;

The progression of the children of Israel was a corporate not an individual thing.

“and came to Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over.”

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Note 2;

In verses 2-4

There is 3 specific Instructions/Commands given to the people.

Command 1. {Verse 3}

Jos 3:2 And it came to pass after three days, that the officers went through the host;

Jos 3:3 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.

Consider;

Two possible dangers that this command is designed to avoid.

1. The Danger of going ahead of the Ark.
2. The Danger of not following when was the Ark went ahead.

Consider 2;

Who it is that is to bear the Ark.

Not just anyone, but the Levites.

App:

Many today think that anyone can do the ministry in God's church.

Not so.

Only those who are called by God and his church can do this.

Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Illus:

Imagine you went home today and found a major water leak in your home.

Who would you call?

Someone who was trained and fitted for the task of fixing such a thing.

A Plummer.

Many in the Church today are being led by un-called un-trained men.

Command 2; {Verse 4}

Jos 3:4 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.

Consider;

The reason given for this command.

“that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore”

Illus:

Have you ever been out in a place or a town with a group of people and none of you have been there before?

Personal Illus:

The Leicester conf. {parking the car}

Command 3; {verse 5}

*Jos 3:5 And Joshua said unto the people, **Sanctify yourselves**: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you.*

Consider;

The reason for this command.

“for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you.”

App:

How much have I/we prepared for the Lord’s day?

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Note 3;

The instructions to the Priests {verse 6}

*Jos 3:6 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.*

Consider;

The responsibility of God’s ministers to lead the people of God.

How much real leading is happening in today’s church?

Consider 2nd; The phrase:

“Take up the ark of the covenant”

Now the Ark is clearly a Type of the Lord Jesus.

Our Lord said:

Joh 12:32 *And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*

App:

The only way God's ministers can lead God's people is by exalting Christ.

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Note 4;

God's word to Joshua. {verses 7-8}

Jos 3:7 *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.*

Jos 3:8 *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.*

Consider 1;

The Supremacy of the Preacher to the Priest.

“And thou shalt command the priests”

Consider 2;

The Phrase:

“When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan.”

App:

This was to make it clear that it was not the power of the priests but the power of God that would stop the river Jordan.

Zec 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Cyril of Jer. 313-386

“Not then in great power nor in fleshly might were the things of Christ, but in power of the Spirit was Satan spoiled, and the ranks of the adverse powers fell with him; and Israel and those who aforesaid served the creature rather than the Creator, were called to the knowledge of God through faith.

But that He saved all under heaven, not by human arm, but by His own power as God Emmanuel, Hosea too protested, “I will have mercy upon the house of Judah and will save them by the Lord their God, and will not save them by bow nor by sword nor by battle nor by chariots nor by horses nor by horsemen” [Hos 1:7](#).

But exeeding fittingly was this said to Zerubbabel, who was of the tribe of Judah and at, that time administered the royal seat at Jerusalem.

For that he might not think that, since such glorious successes were foreannounced to him, wars would in their season have to be organized, he lifts him up from these unsound and human thoughts, and bids him be thus minded, that the force was divine, the might of Christ, who should bring such things to pass, and not human.”

App;

We must be “Still” so that the power would be of God.

So Joshua says in the following verses: 9-13

Jos 3:9 And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, Come hither, and hear the words of the LORD your God.

Jos 3:10 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.

Jos 3:11 Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth passeth over before you into Jordan.

Jos 3:12 Now therefore take you twelve men out of the tribes of Israel, out of every tribe a man.

Jos 3:13 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.

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Note 5;

When we follow the word of God we will know the presence of the Lord and experience the victory that only his presence can bring.

Jos 3:14 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;

Jos 3:15 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,)

Jos 3:16 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.

Jos 3:17 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.