

## **February 2007—Our Guide to the Great Unknown**

### *Part 2*

. . . When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God . . . then ye shall remove from your place, and *go after it* . . . that ye may know the way by which ye must go: *for ye have not passed this way heretofore.*" (Josh 3:3-4)

God likens our walk with Him to that of the children of Israel. They were on the brink of entering the land of promise, a literal land (yet also symbolic of day by day victorious living for you and me). Between the people and the land flowed the mighty Jordan River, symbolic of some of the raging difficulties we will likely face this coming year. To briefly review: **I am confident because—**

#### **God will guide us through uncharted places—v 4.**

We've not passed this way before, so we need someone to guide us. Yet, we often want details—and that, my friend, is walking by sight not faith! We were reminded that *we don't need to know where, what, when, or why*. Just keep your eyes on the ark, which, without a doubt is a picture of Jesus Christ. The ark contained...

The ten commandments: symbolic of Christ, *the righteousness of God*.

The golden pot of manna: symbolic of Christ, *the resources of God (the Bread of life)!*

Aaron's rod that budded: symbolic of Christ, *the resurrection of God*.

It will help to ask, what was the difference between this juncture and the 40 years of wasted wanderings? Was it the possession of the ark? No, the ark was with them all the time! So, what *had* changed—what's the difference? The difference is in position (not possession). No longer was the ark *just* in the midst of them, now it was *in front—ahead—leading* them! Some Christians are victorious and others are not. Yet all Christians **possess** the same person: Jesus Christ. But not all **position** themselves, through obedience, to follow him.

#### **God will grant us His unfailing promises—v 7.**

It was the ark of the "covenant". Here's a personal promise from God to Joshua, "And the LORD said unto Joshua . . . as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee". God's promises did not die with Moses! Dear missionaries—God's promises didn't die with Joshua either, so this is also a personal message to us. Take it to heart; just as God was with Moses and Joshua, he will be with me! Let's not allow 2000 years (or more) rob us of the promises of God!

We should constantly evaluate, "Am I saturating myself in His word in my journey to get to know Him better?" This is imperative in cultivating an "I'll move when he moves" mentality. And let's all be warned, even though I know Him, I can still wander in the wilderness of "barely get by Christianity"; either in the course of disobedience, neglect or even apathy.

**God will guard us with His unfailing power—vv 9-17.**

The people passed through the raging, overflowing, cascading river of difficulty because of God's power! They obeyed God, stepped into the water, and He guarded them! When we face our river of difficulty, **three obvious characteristics of God will thrill us:**

- 1) Jesus is the *Lord* your God—v 9. *He is Sovereign with the right to command!*
- 2) He is the *living* God—v 10. *He is Sufficient; follow Him!*
- 3) He is the *Lord of all the earth*—v 11. *He is the Saving God, trust Him!*

The typology is beautiful; not only in assuring us that God will see us through an uncharted year, but also reminding us that we have a God given responsibility to reach others with the Gospel of Christ. Consider this: when they stepped in the Jordan, the current stopped. Dig a little deeper in vv. 14-17. Dan means judgment, so the Jordan River is the river of judgment. Where does it flow? All the way to the Dead Sea. How far back was the river of judgment stopped? All the way back to **Adam—v. 16!** So, put it all together; when the ark (the Lord Jesus Christ) entered the river of judgment, the flow of death was stopped all the way back to Adam, the first sinner! Isn't that an amazing delight?

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*I just have to share a very personal testimony; this week our son Cliff discovered that his cancer is growing again. On a far lesser scale, Terri and I are in a motel after hitting a deer, wrecking the vehicle, waiting for a tow truck and canceling plans. Yet, I can assure you that I am confident and having a good day in Him! Because of circumstances? Certainly not; who wants this stuff! But I know that as I continue to trust in Him and apply Biblical principles, my Blessed Savior will victoriously see me through these uncharted waters.*

*Bill*