

Joshua 1:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Pass through the host, and command the people, saying,
Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over
this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your
God giveth you to possess it.

Analysis

After receiving divine encouragement, Joshua immediately issues practical commands for the impending conquest. The instruction 'Pass through the host' (ivru beqerev hamachaneh, עֲבְרוּ בְּקֶרֶב הַמַּחֲנֶה) indicates systematic communication throughout Israel's tribal divisions. The command 'Prepare you victuals' (hakinu lakhem tsedah, הַכִּינוּ לָכֶם צֶדֶה) means provisions for a journey—dried food, grain, water suitable for military campaign. The three-day timeframe creates urgency—no indefinite delay but immediate preparation for decisive action. The purpose clause reveals the ultimate goal: 'to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.' The Hebrew construction emphasizes divine gift (noten lakhem, 'giveth you') paired with human responsibility (laresheth otah, 'to possess it'). God gives, but Israel must go and take possession. This verse demonstrates the balance between divine sovereignty and human agency—God's promise doesn't eliminate the need for practical preparation and courageous action.

Historical Context

The three-day preparation period parallels other significant three-day periods in Scripture: the days before Sinai revelation (Exodus 19:11), Jonah's journey through Nineveh (Jonah 3:3), and Christ's resurrection (Matthew 12:40). This

timeframe allowed logistical preparation while maintaining momentum from God's commissioning speech. Ancient military campaigns required significant provisioning—armies didn't have modern supply lines but depended on provisions carried by soldiers or foraged from conquered territory. Israel's preparation involved not only food but also spiritual readiness, ensuring the entire nation was consecrated before crossing Jordan. The officers (shoterim) who delivered these commands served as administrative intermediaries ensuring unified action across the twelve tribes. This organizational structure demonstrated that divine leading operates through orderly human administration rather than bypassing proper channels of authority and communication.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What practical steps of preparation is God calling you to take before He opens doors of opportunity?
2. How do you balance trusting God's promises with taking responsible action to prepare for what He's called you to do?
3. What 'three days' of preparation might be needed before you're ready for the next phase of God's plan for your life?

Interlinear Text

לֵאמֹר	הָעָם	אֶת	וְצִוּ	הַמַּחֲנֶה	בְּקֶרֶב	עֲבָרִים
	H853					
saying	the people	and command	the host	through	Pass	
H559	H5971	H6680	H4264	H7130	H5674	
אֲתָם	יָמֵי	שָׁלֹשׁ	בְּעֹדוֹ	כִּי	צִידָה	לָכֶם
H859						
days	for within three			you victuals	Prepare	
H3117	H7969			H6720	H3559	
הָאָרֶץ	אֶת	לְרִשְׁתָּהּ:	לָבוֹא	הִנֵּה	הַיַּרְדֵּי	אֶת
the land	to possess	to go in	this Jordan	Pass		
H776	H853	H935	H3383	H5674		
לְרִשְׁתָּהּ:	לָכֶם	נָתַן	אֱלֹהֵיכֶם	יְהוָה	אֲשֶׁר	
to possess	giveth	your God	which the LORD			
H3423	H5414	H430	H3068			

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 9:1 (Parallel theme): Hear, O Israel: Thou art to pass over Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven,

2 Kings 20:5 (References God): Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD.

Hosea 6:2 (Parallel theme): After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

Deuteronomy 11:31 (References God): For ye shall pass over Jordan to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God giveth you, and ye shall possess it, and dwell therein.

Joshua 3:2 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass after three days, that the officers went through the host;

Exodus 19:11 (References Lord): And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.

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