

Joshua 3

Chapter 3 of 24 · 17 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Crossing the Jordan

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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;

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,)

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.

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.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Covenant — בְּרִית (Berit)

Covenant, treaty

The Hebrew **berit** (בְּרִית) denotes a covenant—a binding agreement, often ratified by blood sacrifice. God's covenants (Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic) structure redemptive history, culminating in the New Covenant.

Priest — כֹּהֵן (Kohen)

Priest

The Hebrew **kohen** (כֹּהֵן) denotes a priest—one who mediates between God and people through sacrifices and intercession. Aaron and his descendants served as Israel's priests, foreshadowing Christ the Great High Priest.

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Sanctify — קָדַשׁ (Qadash)

To set apart, make holy

The Hebrew **qadash** (קָדַשׁ) means to set apart or consecrate—separating something for God's sacred purposes. God sanctified the seventh day (Genesis 2:3) and calls His people to 'be holy; for I am holy' (Leviticus 11:44).

Lord — יְהוָה / אֲדֹנָי (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

CROSS REFERENCES

Joshua 3:1 **Parallel theme:** Joshua 2:1; Mark 1:35

Joshua 3:3 **Covenant:** Joshua 3:8; Numbers 10:33; Deuteronomy 31:9; 31:25. **References**
Lord: 2 Samuel 6:13

Joshua 3:4 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 89:7

Joshua 3:5

References Lord: Joshua 3:13; 7:13; Leviticus 10:3; 20:7; 1 Samuel 16:5. **Parallel theme:** Job 1:5; Psalms 86:10; Joel 2:16; John 17:19

Joshua 3:7 **References Lord:** Joshua 1:17; 4:14; 1 Chronicles 29:25; 2 Chronicles 1:1.

References Moses: Joshua 1:5. **Parallel theme:** Job 7:17; Psalms 18:35; John 17:1; Philippians 1:20

Joshua 3:8 **Covenant:** Joshua 3:3; 3:17

Joshua 3:9 **References God:** Deuteronomy 4:1. **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 12:8

Joshua 3:10 **References God:** Deuteronomy 7:1; 31:17; 1 Samuel 17:26; 2 Kings 19:4; Jeremiah 10:10; Hebrews 10:31. **Parallel theme:** Joshua 22:31; Exodus 3:8; 33:2; Psalms 9:16

Joshua 3:11 **References Lord:** Joshua 3:13; Psalms 24:1; Micah 4:13; Zechariah 4:14; 6:5

Joshua 3:12 **Parallel theme:** Joshua 4:2; 4:9. **References Israel:** Joshua 4:4

Joshua 3:13 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 15:8; Psalms 78:13

Joshua 3:15 **Parallel theme:** Joshua 3:13; 4:18; 1 Chronicles 12:15; Jeremiah 12:5; 49:19

Joshua 3:16 **Parallel theme:** Joshua 3:13; Genesis 14:3; Numbers 34:3; Deuteronomy 1:1; 1 Kings 4:12; 7:46; Psalms 114:3

Joshua 3:17

References Israel: Exodus 14:22; 14:29. **References Lord:** Isaiah 25:8. **Parallel theme:** Joshua 4:3; 2 Kings 2:8; Psalms 66:6

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