

Joshua 3:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Joshua's prophetic declaration establishes the Jordan crossing as proof of God's presence and power. The phrase 'the living God' (El chai, אֱלֹהֵי חַיִּים) contrasts Yahweh with Canaan's dead idols—He is alive, active, and powerful to save. This title emphasizes God's vitality and ability to intervene in history, as opposed to the lifeless gods of the nations who can neither hear, speak, nor act (Psalm 115:4-7). The promise 'is among you' (beqirbkhem, בְּקִרְבְּכֶם) indicates divine presence dwelling in Israel's midst, a privilege unique to the covenant people. The comprehensive list of seven Canaanite nations—Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, Jebusites—represents complete conquest and divine judgment. The phrase 'without fail drive out' (yarosh yorish, יָרוּשׁ יוֹרִישׁ) uses Hebrew infinitive absolute for emphatic certainty: God will absolutely, certainly, definitely dispossess these nations. This grammatical construction removes all doubt. The miracle about to occur (Jordan's waters stopping) will authenticate both God's presence and His promise to give Israel the land.

Historical Context

The enumeration of seven Canaanite nations appears frequently in Scripture (Deuteronomy 7:1; Acts 13:19), representing the peoples occupying Canaan during

Israel's conquest. These groups practiced abominable religious rites including child sacrifice to Molech, ritual prostitution, and divination—practices that filled up the measure of their iniquity (Genesis 15:16). God's judgment through Israel was not ethnic cleansing but divine retribution for centuries of moral degradation and idolatry. The 'living God' contrasts sharply with Baal, Asherah, Molech, and other Canaanite deities who demanded horrible sacrifices yet could provide neither salvation nor life. Archaeological evidence from sites throughout Canaan confirms the prevalence of these idolatrous practices. The miracle at Jordan echoed the Red Sea crossing 40 years earlier, establishing continuity between Moses and Joshua and demonstrating that the same God who delivered Israel from Egypt would give them the land. This dual exodus—from Egypt and into Canaan—frames Israel's redemptive history.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What 'living God' evidences in your life demonstrate to skeptics that God is real and active today?
2. How does knowing God is 'among you' change your confidence in facing overwhelming opposition or challenges?
3. What modern idols (career, wealth, pleasure, approval) function as 'dead gods' in your life, and how does the 'living God' expose their powerlessness?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוֹשֻׁעַ	בְּזֹאת	תָּדַע וְ	כִּי	אֱלֹהִים	חַיִּים
said	And Joshua	H2063	Hereby ye shall know	H3588	God	that the living
H559	H3091		H3045		H410	H2416
בְּקִרְבְּךָ	יֹרֵשׁ	יֹרֵשׁ	מִפְּנֵיכֶם	אֶת	הַכְּנַעֲנִים	וְאֶת
is among	drive out	drive out	from before	H853	you the Canaanites	H853
H7130	H3423	H3423	H6440		H3669	
וְהַחִתִּים	וְאֶת	וְהַחִוִּים	וְאֶת	וְהַפְּרִזִּים	וְאֶת	
and the Hittites	H853	and the Hivites	H853	and the Perizzites	H853	
H2850		H2340		H6522		
וְהַגִּרְגָּשִׁים	וְהָאֱמֹרִיתִים	וְהַיְבוּסִים				
and the Girgashites	and the Amorites	and the Jebusites				
H1622	H567	H2983				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 7:1 (References God): When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou;

Exodus 33:2 (Parallel theme): And I will send an angel before thee; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite:

Hebrews 10:31 (References God): It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

1 Samuel 17:26 (References God): And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

Jeremiah 10:10 (References God): But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

Exodus 3:8 (Parallel theme): And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

Deuteronomy 31:17 (References God): Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us?

Joshua 22:31 (Parallel theme): And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said unto the children of Reuben, and to the children of Gad, and to the children of Manasseh, This day we perceive that the LORD is among us, because ye have not committed this trespass against the LORD: now ye have delivered the children of Israel out of the hand of the LORD.

2 Kings 19:4 (References God): It may be the LORD thy God will hear all the words of Rabshakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God; and will reprove the words which the LORD thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that are left.

Psalms 9:16 (Parallel theme): The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgaion. Selah.