

# Joshua 3:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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The instruction that 'there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure' maintained reverence before the ark. Proximity without irreverence—they followed closely enough to see but not so close as to treat holy things casually. This balances intimacy and reverence in approaching God.

## Historical Context

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The two-thousand-cubit distance (approximately 3,000 feet) ensured visibility across the multitude while maintaining respectful separation. This recalls Sinai's boundaries preventing touching the mountain (Exodus 19:12-13). Such separation taught that God's presence brings both blessing and danger—approach properly or face judgment.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How do you balance intimacy with God and reverence for His holiness?
2. What safeguards maintain appropriate respect while drawing near to God?

## Interlinear Text

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אֵלָּה	כַּח וּקְ	יְהוָה ה	בֵּינֶיכֶם	וּבֵינֵנוּ	
H389	<b>Yet there shall be a space</b>	H1961	H996	H996	
	H7350				
	כְּאַלְפֵי יָם	אַמָּה ה	בְּמִדָּה ה	אֵל	תִּקְרַב ו
	<b>between you and it about two thousand</b>	<b>cubits</b>	<b>by measure</b>	H408	<b>come not near</b>
	H505	H520	H4060		H7126
אֵלָּה יוֹ	אֲשֶׁר לִפְנֵי	תִּדְעוּ	אֶת	בְּדֶרֶךְ	אֲשֶׁר
H413	H4616	H834		H853	H834
		<b>unto it that ye may know</b>		<b>the way</b>	
		H3045		H1870	
תִּלְכוּ	כִּי ה	לֹא י	עֲבַרְתֶּם	בְּדֶרֶךְ	מִתָּמָּוֹל
H1980	H0	H3588	H3808		
		<b>for ye have not passed</b>		<b>the way</b>	<b>heretofore</b>
		H5674		H1870	H8543
שְׁלֹשָׁם:					
H8032					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 89:7** (Parallel theme): God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.