YOUTH WORSHIP **12 September 2026**
Text: Joshua 3
Title: "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you" Joshua 3:7

INTRODUCTION

1. The transition to Joshua as the next leader Joshua 1:1-9
2. Commitment of the new community that had risen Joshua 1:10-18
3. Spying out the land Joshua 2
4. The crossing of the Jordan Joshua 3

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT TO LEAD THE WAY

1 Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over. 2 So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp; 3 and they commanded the people, saying, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it. 4 Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before."

5 And Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you." 6 Then Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, "Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people."

So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.

Joshua 3:1-6

1. The ark of the covenant Joshua 3:1-4
    a. It symbolised the Presence of God
    b. It would lead Israel into a way they had never gone before
        i. Israel to maintain a certain distance from it
        ii. So that all Israel could see it and know the way to go
        iii. So that Israel would not approach God's holy Presence casually

2. The command to be sanctified Joshua 3:5-6

    a. Physical preparations alone were not enough

    b. Israel also needed to sanctify themselves

    c. In preparation for what God was about to do among them

THE ABIDING PRESENCE OF GOD

7 And the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. 8 You shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, saying, 'When you have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan, you shall stand in the Jordan.' "

Joshua 3:7-8

1. The Presence of God with Joshua

    a. Personally promised Joshua 1:5

    b. Publicly confirmed Joshua 3:7

        i. God would use the crossing of the Jordan to begin exalting Joshua in the sight of all Israel

        ii. Not to glorify Joshua

        iii. But for Israel to know (with certainty) that Joshua was God's appointed leader

        iv. Just as God was with Moses in leading Israel across the Red Sea
        So too would God be with Joshua in leading Israel across the Jordan

        v. Just as God enabled Moses to lead Israel throughout the wilderness
        So too would God enable Joshua to lead Israel in the conquest of the Promised Land

2. The Presence of God with Israel

    9 So Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Come here, and hear the words of the LORD your God." 10 And Joshua said, "By this you 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 is crossing over before you into the Jordan. 12 Now therefore, take for yourselves twelve men

from the tribes of Israel, one man from every tribe. [13] And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap."

Joshua 3:9-13

a. The crossing of the Jordan was also meant to let Israel know

b. That the living God was among them (and not just Joshua)

c. That God would without fail drive out the inhabitants of the land for Israel

THE POWER OF GOD DISPLAYED

[14] So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, [15] and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest), [16] that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho. [17] Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.

Joshua 3:14-17

1. Obedience at all levels

    a. On Joshua's part (the leader)

        i. To hear and speak as God commanded

        ii. To do as God commanded

    b. On the part of the priests and Levites (those who serve)

        i. To bear the ark of the LORD

        ii. To step into the Jordan before God cuts the waters off

    c. On the part of the people (the whole community)

        i. To sanctify themselves

ii. To follow the ark of the LORD

iii. To cross when instructed

2. God cutting off the waters of the Jordan Joshua 3:14-16

    a. This was a time when the waters of the Jordan were overflowing

    b. The power of God marvellously displayed

        i. When the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water

        ii. The waters that went down failed and were cut off

        iii. All the people crossed over

3. The ark of the covenant Joshua 3:17

    a. Led the way

    b. Remained amidst the Jordan

    c. Until all Israel had passed

IMPORTANT LESSONS FOR US ALL

1. God

    a. He leads

    b. He abides

    c. He works powerfully

2. Our challenge

    a. To sanctify ourselves

    b. To trust in Him

    c. To obey His Word