

Studies in Joshua
Study #3

“The Response of Faith”
(A Holy Pause vs. Procrastination)
Part 2

Joshua 1:10-18

The book of Joshua is the sequel to what happened forty years earlier at Kadesh Barnea (Num 13 & 14; Heb 3 & 4).

- **Joshua chapters 3 & 4 record the response of faith.**
- **Is 30:18: Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!**

Another significant thing happened during this three day pause.

- **Joshua solidified the commitment of the two and a half tribes which had settled on the east bank of the Jordan [Reuben and Gad and the 1/2 tribe of Manasseh - cf. Numbers 32 & Deut. 3:18-20].**

- **Meyer says:** “Are not these the type of Christians to whom the Land Of Promise is as freely open as to others, and who make an incursion into it with no thought of remaining? They are willing [for a time] to pit their strength against the seven nations of Canaan, but they are not prepared to abandon the strong fascinations of the world, and to settle down to a life hidden with Christ in God. Are there not amongst those who have spent seven years in the land of Promise and have had hallowed experienced of blessedness, rest, and power, but who have been swept off their feet and back by the advancing tide of worldliness?”

- ***“... From such a lot may we all be saved! Rather be it our happy portion to be employed as the Lord’s ambassadors in seeking souls; shown where to find them; taught how to deal with them; and enabled to lead them out into complete identification with the people of God.”***

How the pause ended

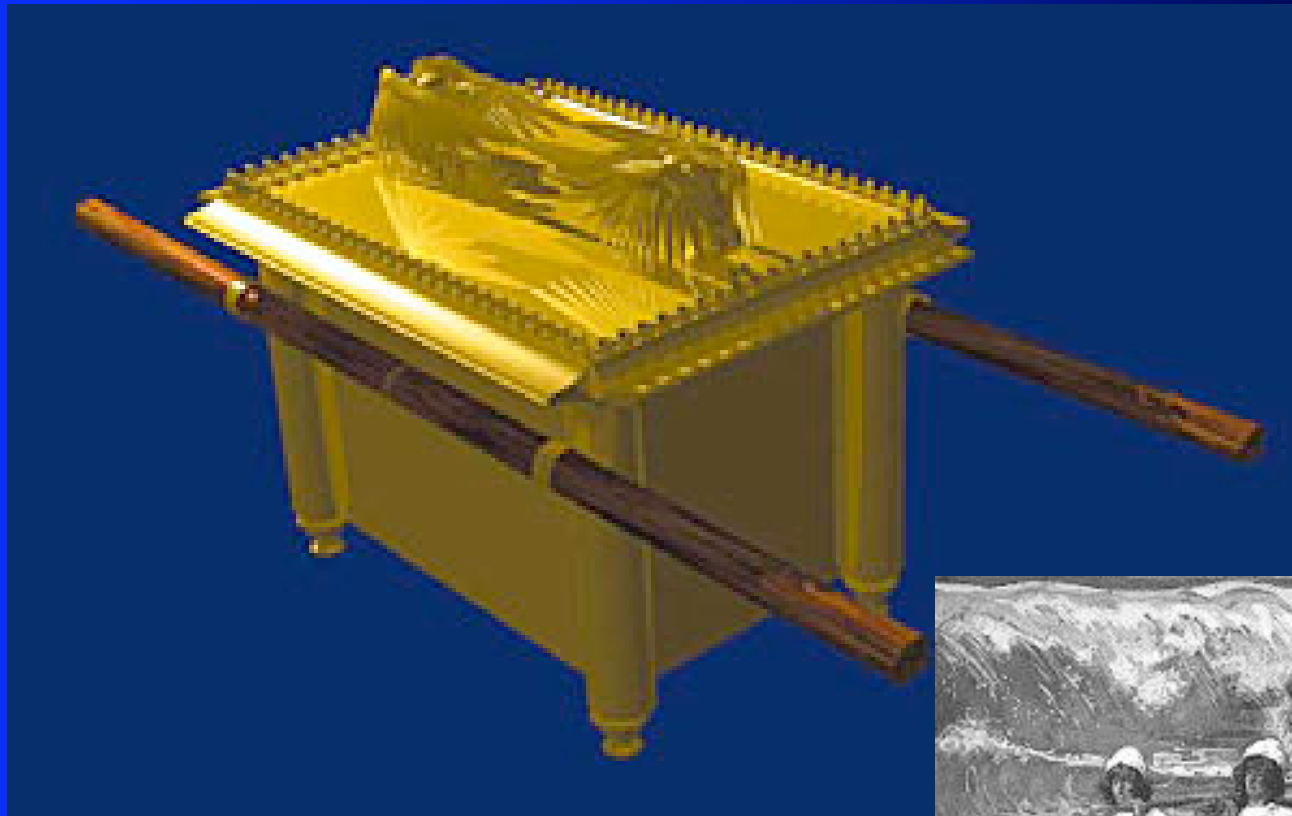
- **Joshua 3:1** suggests that on the third day, the entire encampment of Israel moved closer to the very edge of the Jordan. -
- **Verse 5** says: “*Joshua told the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.’”*”

1. This seems to suggest that the wonder-working power of God is dependent upon the sanctification and consecration of His people!
2. **Mk. 6:5** says of Jesus' visit to His own hometown: "He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands upon a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith."

- a) **Many counselees do not see the hand of God moving in their lives because they are absorbed with self-pity, doubt and stubbornness, and they do not believe God can heal them! They refuse to repent of their unbelief and step out in faith, trusting His promises!**
- b) **We want to see great wonders performed by God in answer to our prayers, but our personal lives are not consecrated and sanctified to God!**
- c) **cf. II Tim. 2:21 - We are unclean [unsanctified] vessels that are not fit to be used by God to accomplish great things!**

The conclusion is: if we want to see Jordans crossed and Jerichos to fall in our lives; if we want to enter fully into the rest of God and 'Promised Land living' in our souls, we need to get serious about the sin in our lives:

The Ark of the Covenant



- ***“When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it.”***

Joshua 3:3

What is the ark? For what purpose was it made?

- The ark is a wooden chest which was overlaid with pure gold on both the inside and the outside [Ex. 25:19, 11].
- It was made to be a container for the two tablets of stone upon which were written the ten commandments [Ex. 25:16; 40:20.]



It was called “the ark of the testimony”

- The stone tablets = “the tablets of Testimony [Ex. 31:18]”
- The ark = “the ark of the Testimony” [Ex. 25:22]
- The tabernacle = “The tabernacle of the Testimony” [Num. 1:53]

**The stone tablets were called
“the tablets of Testimony”
because:**

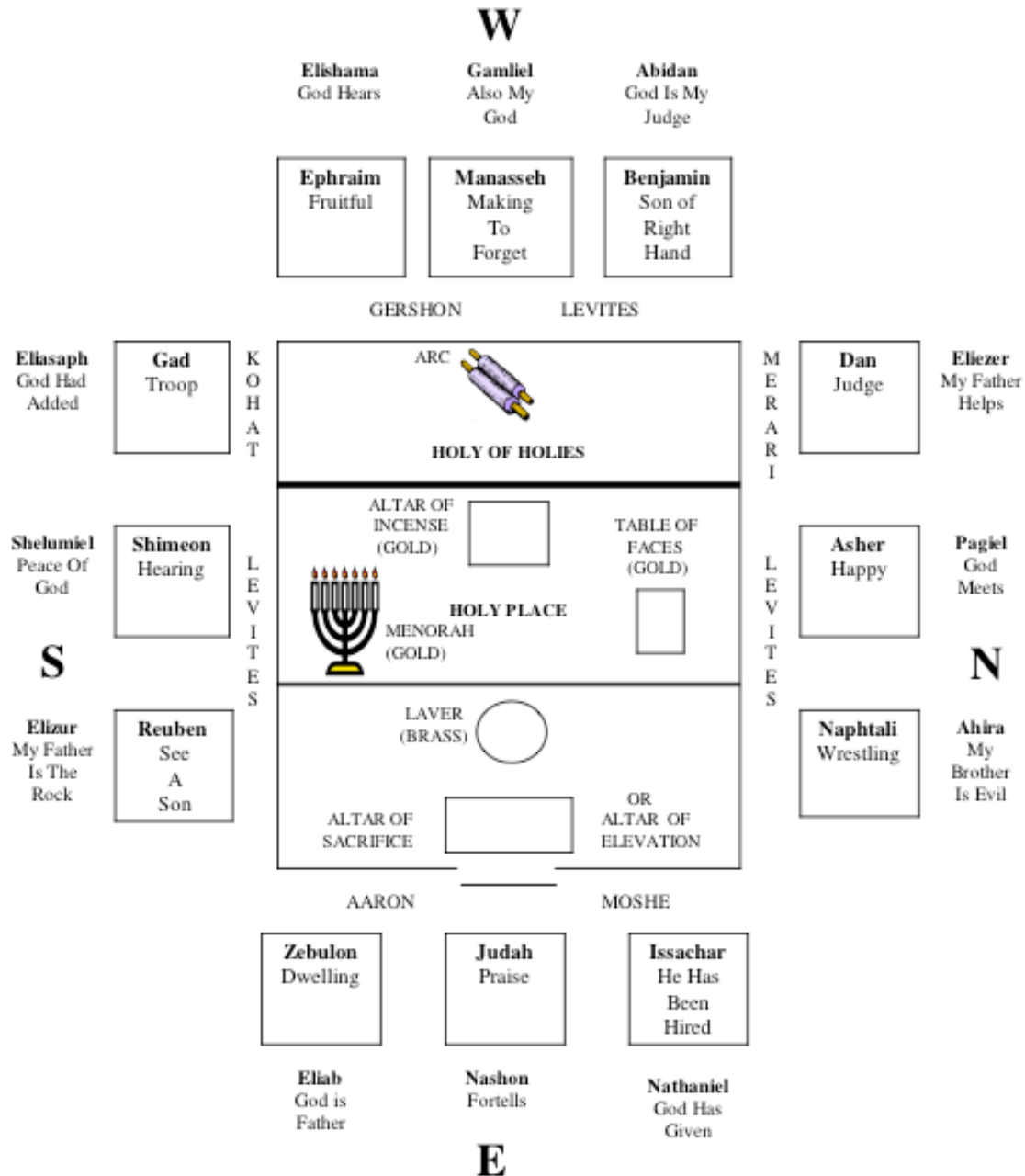
- **They declared Who God is [i.e. they are a revelation of His holiness; they reveal the fact that He is a moral and ethical Being]**
- **They make known the terms upon which He will hold fellowship with His people.**

- The ark also contained the writings of Moses, which revealed further truth about God;
cf. on Sinai - Ex. 34:6-7 - *“The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love...”*

Therefore, the ark, and the Testimony it contained, was the centerpiece, the most important object in the tabernacle!

- **The tabernacle itself [with the ark as the centerpiece] was the place of God's habitation**
- **It was, therefore the place where Israel was to meet with their God; - to receive a knowledge of His will and to commune with Him and to have fellowship with Him, and to worship Him! [Ex. 25:21, 22]**

Tabernacle Arrangement in the Wilderness



The Tabernacle, and the ark, also clearly have to do with the problem of “sin”, they revealed God’s appointed means of dealing with this problem and how to be restored to His favor!

It was also called “the ark of the covenant” [Josh. 3:3]

- **The ark was also a reminder that Jehovah is a covenant God!**
- **Israel’s experience with the covenant of the Law was ever one of incomplete obedience and failure**

A. W. Pink says:

***“The ark ... pointed to Christ ...”**

***“... the ark here prefigured**

Christ as the believer’s covenant-head...”

- **1. The covering of the ark was the mercy seat [Greek = hilasterion, referring to a place of atonement, propitiation!] - cf. 1 John 2:2 where Christ is called the atonement for our sins!]**

- **Matt. 26:28** - When Jesus commanded His disciples to drink the wine at the Last Supper, He said: “... *This is my blood of the [New] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sin.*”
- **Hebrews 9:16-22** speaks of how ‘the blood of calves’ was used to sprinkle everything in the tabernacle to validate the covenant. [**Leviticus 16:14** tells how in the O. T., Aaron, Israel’s high priest, sprinkled blood on the mercy seat!]

- Then, **verse 23** [in Hebrews 9] says: *“It was necessary, then for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.”*
- **Verse 12** says that when He entered the Most Holy place in heaven, Christ *“... did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.”*

- ***“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”***

Hebrews 12:2