

## The Ark: Presence

*The Ark*

By Dr. Jeff Meyers

**Bible Text:** Joshua 3:1-7

**Preached on:** Sunday, June 24, 2012

As you are turning to Joshua chapter three and Hebrews chapter seven, if you are a first time guest or visitor or maybe a long term member or an attendee, but have not been with us over the course of our summer sermon series, let me catch you up to date just a bit. We are studying a subject matter chronologically through the Old Testament that has fascinated millions and millions of people. It is this subject matter, it is this item known as the Ark of the Covenant, a box when constructed that would have been 16 cubic feet in size. It was not magnificent as far as its structure was concerned, even though it was overlaid with gold. Its intrinsic or materialistic value would have been great, don't get me wrong, but the amount of money, the amount of resources, the amount of time and even, yes, the amount of lives that have been given to try to acquire and to harness the this famous box are worth untold who knows how much? Why would kings, why would kingdoms, why would people of all backgrounds and all locations, why would they desire to just get a hold of this small simply gold-covered box? Not because of its materialistic value, but because it represented in the Old Testament it represented the specific, powerful presence of God.

And we have been leading up to this week over the last three weeks. We have dealt with the construction of the Ark of the Covenant. We have dealt with its measurements and the specifics and how God asked them to build it a certain way. And last week we got everybody ready to go into the Promised Land. We talked about how we must trust the Word of God. We must do it the way that God told us to do it. But today when we come to Joshua chapter three, we are actually going to have to put the pedal to the metal, the rubber to the road. It is one thing to say I am going to do what God tells me to do. It is another thing to actually put it into practice. And today when we come to Joshua three, this famous Ark of the Covenant is going to go before the people of God over the rivers, or should I say through the River Jordan into what we know as the Promised Land.

When we get to this passage of Scripture the banks of the Jordan are going to be overflowing. Their enemies are going to be numbering on the other side and yet this is the way that God had them go. Before we turn to Joshua chapter three, before we study the generation that came out of the wilderness, before we study how they put their feet into the water, before we talk about how they actually passed without any issue whatsoever, I feel like I need somewhat of a response and make sure that I am not the only one on the only page today.

Today as we talk about the Israelites going over the River Jordan, as we talk about them entering what we know as the Promised Land, do me a favor and just by the simple raising of your hands, if you believe that God could have got them in the Promised Land without going over the River Jordan or through the River Jordan, raise your hand. He could have done it any other way. Do you agree with that? Ok. If you agree with me or

you believe that instead of having to stand 2000 cubic feet or 2000 cubits behind and go in a certain manner in a certain way, that God could have said, "Just take off," he could have somehow gotten them in there as easily as possible. Do you agree with that? Raise your hand. All right. Do you agree with me that the Lord could have gotten the Israelites up to the bank of the Jordan River and said, "Here is what we are going to do. We are all going to close our eyes and on the count of three, I am going to snap my fingers and instantaneously you are going to be in the Promised Land, all the enemies are going to be crushed and you are all going to be in your individual houses ready to eat and milk and honey?" If you believe God could have done that, raise your hand. Yeah, He could have, right?

Here is the problem. He didn't. And so how many times when we have an issue in our life that is a Promised Land that is not being promised. We say, "God, why don't you snap your fingers? God, why don't you just have me close my eyes? Why can't you just do this immediately?"

What we are going to see today is that God demonstrates his power and at the conclusion of the message today, he is going to instruct those who went through the River Jordan, he is going to instruct them to do something very specific so that the generation coming behind them would not miss out on what God did.

You will turn to Joshua chapter three with me as we begin in verse one as the Israelites prepare to cross through the Jordan River. It says:

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. And it came to pass after three days, that the officers went through the host; 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. 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. And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.<sup>1</sup>

I want you to skip down to verse 15 as they actually entered the water. And it says: "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)."<sup>2</sup>

Then go to chapter four beginning at verse one. It says:

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<sup>1</sup> Joshua 3:1-5.

<sup>2</sup> Joshua 3:15.

And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying, Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man, And command ye them, saying, Take you hence ~~out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet~~ stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night. Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man: And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel.<sup>3</sup>

It is this story that the Israelites who, by the way, according to Deuteronomy chapter one verse 39 were of age where they did not know the difference between good and evil. This young generation that grew up in 40 years in the wilderness is now going to go over the River Jordan. They are now going to cross through that which is going to be dried up and they are going to possess what we know as the Promised Land. It is a picture for you and me today. How do we as the children of God, how do we as believers in Jesus Christ with the powerful presence of God whom we now know as the Holy Spirit indwelling and living in us, how do we experience the same thing they experienced? How do we receive the Promised Land in our life? How do we cross the River Jordan?

Several things we need to learn from Joshua chapter three and the first thing is this. We need to be in the right position. We need to make sure that our lives are in the right position in order to actually inhabit the Promised Land.

Now what we are about to show you or what I am about to show you in Joshua chapter three may have been something you just completely overlooked when you read it. It is in verse one. It says: "~~And Joshua rose early in the morning, and they removed from Shittim, and came to Jordan.~~"<sup>4</sup>

It just seems like a simple geographical adjective or a description, so to speak. But what you see here is the position that God had to get the Israelites in. He had a very specific direction that he wanted them to travel.

Now if you were to do your own independent study or you were to dig deep into these passages of Scripture about the Israelites passing into Jordan, one of the things you would have to study is where did they spend those 40 years in the wilderness? We know that they came across the Red Sea. We know for 40 years they have wandered in the wilderness and now this generation goes into the River Jordan. There are actually two major trains of thought of where this 40 year experience was, very relevant to verse one.

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<sup>3</sup> Joshua 4:1-5.

<sup>4</sup> Joshua 3:1.

The traditional thought is that they resided for 40 years in what we know as the Sinai peninsula. If you look in your Bible maps or maybe even online, the Sinai peninsula is that piece of land that is exactly between what we know as Egypt and Israel. Now the not so traditional idea is that they crossed the Red Sea not at the northern part, but at the lower part and they dwelt for 40 years in what we know as modern day Saudi Arabia.

Now you may be asking, "Why is that so relevant?"

We could spend hours and hours discussing were they in the traditional spot, were they in the non traditional spot. But here is what is significant to us today. If you were to go look up on any map whether you subscribe to theory one or theory two and you look at these two locations, from Shittim unto Jordan, you will see that God put them in a direction directly east to west across the Jordan River.

You say, "Why is that so significant?"

Because to enter the Promised Land of their life, God did not send them up the easy road. He did say, "Just take the path of least resistance." Had they been in the Sinai peninsula, they would have simply just marched straight up north, been right in the Promised Land. Life would have been good. Had they been in Saudi Arabia it would have been a little bit longer of a journey, but nonetheless, south to north, they are in the Promised Land all is good. In other words, for them to cross the Jordan River is completely 100 percent out of the way. That is like going if you are traveling north on 75 or 85 from south Georgia. That is like going to Douglasville by way of Conyers. Do you realize this? It is completely what you would never do. Why?

Why would God have them do this? Why cross the Jordan? Why go completely out of the way? I believe it is very purposeful. I believe it is so purposeful, because when you look at Scripture east and west is a big deal to God.

For example, when Cain rebelled against God and slew his brother, the Bible makes it very clear that God sent him to the land of Nod, east of where they were dwelling. When the temple would be erected and built and the proper worship were to ensue, God would have them enter the holy of holies directly due west. There is a fascinating study. I have seen what happens when people go east versus what happens when people go west. And here we are at the banks of the River Jordan and God asked them to actually do that which is going to happen in the temple, go direction from east to west.

But here is what is most fascinating to me: that every one of us on this terrestrial ball that we know as earth, we are, whether you know it or not, spinning at a very rapid rate. Thanks to gravity and all the other scientific stuff, we are not actually flying off this ball, but we are spinning at a rate of about 1000 miles per hour. And we are spinning due east. In other words, not only does he not have them go the easy route, when he winds them up on the banks of the Jordan and he says, "I want you to go in the Promised Land this way," they are exactly in opposition to the movement of the world.

If you want the promises of God in your life, if you want the Promised Land, listen to me clearly. You need to go the opposite direction that the world is telling you to go, because that is the way in which God says you must enter his promises, not just going to the way everybody else is going.

There is an animated movie that came out a couple of years ago. You may be familiar with it because of kids and grandkids and such. The name of the movie was *Wally*. That is just the name of it and it is an animated picture and it is a story of a little bitty robot by the name of Wally who is left in charge of cleaning up all of planet earth. His job is to pick up the mess that in this movie you and I left. And what has happened is that humanity as you and I know it have gone up in a space ship. Remember, this is an animated make believe movie, ok? We have gone up in a space ship for over 700,000 days. We are simply circulating earth until planet earth is fixed.

The problem with earth in the movie is there is no plant life, there is no green life. And so they continually send these robots out looking for something to have as a reason to go back and to rebuild planet earth.

What is fascinating about this movie is the sheep like mentality of humanity on this ship. They are traveling around. I shouldn't say they are really traveling. They are really being moved around automatically to all the sudden over the loudspeaker it says, "Today's color is red." Everybody pushes the button. They become red. They say, "Today's special is..." And everybody flecks to the buffet and eats that special. In other words, everybody is doing the same thing and going the same direction. And they have been doing it for over 700,000 days.

There comes a point in the movie where a drone or a robot comes back and reveals that life has been found on planet earth and the captain of the ship is so excited. They are going to go, listen, where they are supposed to be, planet earth. And he has a personal robot by the name of Otto that is a part of the movie. And he turns to Otto and he says, "We are going back to earth," to which the robot in the movie makes this statement to the captain, "You won't survive if you do it."

And listen to what the captain says about going against the flow, about going about where he is supposed to be. He says, "I don't want to survive. I want to live."

What did Jesus Christ say? "I have come so that they might survive?" He said: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."<sup>5</sup>

1 John 5:12 he says: "He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> John 10:10.

<sup>6</sup> 1 John 5:12.

Listen. There are a thousand ways on planet earth to just survive, to just go with the flow, just to do it as somebody else is doing it. But there is only one way to have life. There is only one way to have the promises of God and that is to face due against what the world is teaching and doing and say, "Ok, God, I am going to do it your way." That is the position we have got to get into. If we want the promises of God, we have got to get in the position directionally that is with God that will naturally be against the world.

But there is another part about this position. The distance that we have to have. I want you to look in verse three and four. He says:

"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. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits."<sup>7</sup>

Or about a half a mile. Now I found this intriguing. Why would the Lord say when the Levites take the Ark of the Covenant and they put it in the water and so the water is receded. Why did the Lord say, "You need to be back about half a mile"?

I don't know the exact specifics and the exact reasons why the Lord did this, but I am going to tell you something that I have learned through life. I have a really bad habit and if you don't have this habit just agree with me so I don't feel like I am all alone. I have this really bad habit of thinking that God doesn't do things fast enough. I mean, I really do, because in my world it can always be... they tease me in the office. You know what speed I like to go? Mach two with my hair on fire. I like going fast. And one of the things that I want in my life is I often—and I know I am wrong—I accuse the Lord of not going fast enough.

But do you know what I have discovered about God? I have discovered that he is never early. But he is never late. And when he does it on his time it always works out. The problem is as humanity we seem to say what we need to do it a little faster. We need to get there quicker. We need to make this happen.

Now there are some of you who don't like to move fast. You like to move slow. It did not say 2000 plus cubits. It said 2000. In other words, don't get so far behind it is like, oh, I will get there when I get there. But the Lord had this reason. And I want to share with you an analogy of the reason I think it shows to the safety of doing it God's way.

There is an activity that I really enjoy doing, particularly in the summer time. And it is called tubing. And I don't mean going down the river tubing. I mean behind the fastest ski boat you can find tubing. Do you remember the mach two with the hair on fire thing? Now my wife, she is a very... She is an excellent water skier. I struggle with the two legged ski thing, but, boy, when you get an inner tube that is covered, I am good to go. Ok? But I believe honestly and, by the way, Billy Buchanan our student pastor is on vacation this week, so when you are gone I get to tell stories about you and you can't defend yourself.

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<sup>7</sup> Joshua 3:3-4.

Billy and I really enjoy tubing together. We enjoy getting on these inner tubes behind the fastest ski boat we can find and saying, "Let's go for it."

Do you know what Billy and I have learned about skiing or tubing behind these boats? It doesn't matter how fast that boat goes. If you stay in the wake you are safe. Now you think about what that motor does, that outboard motor on a ski boat. It creates these walls of waves on each side, right? It doesn't matter if you are going 10 miles an hour, you are going 50 miles an hour or, in our case, as fast as that boat will go. As long as the rope is tense and as long as it is in front of you and you are right behind it, you are good to go. There is nothing to worry about. There is no problems. Everything is great.

The problem is Billy is a student pastor. I used to be a student pastor. When you get the two of us together every now and then quite regularly we come up with really dumb ideas. And what we like to do is we like to challenge, ok, Mr. Boat Driver, whoever you be, go as fast as you can go and we are going to take the tube outside of the wake, around the corner and see if we can catch up with the boat. Have you ever done that? Thank you. That is a lot of fun. It is also very dumb, but it is a lot of fun.

And so let me tell you what happens when you are on a tube with Billy Buchanan behind a ski boat that is going as fast as it can when you get outside of the wake. You experience two very brutal hits. Let me tell you what happens. As soon as the tube goes outside the boat and you are sitting there waving at the boat like it is sideways, ok? People in the boat are laughing because they know what is about to happen is there is going to be a little wave or there is going to be something that you hit going all that speed and when you hit it, instantaneously without being able to react, you just go flying. You are off the tube. You are gone. There is two hits that happen. The first hit is my face hitting the water. Bam. It is there. About a half a second later it is Billy hitting me. That is what happens when you get outside of the wake.

Now imagine. We have got this multitude of people. They are about to defeat their enemies. They are about to inhabit the Promised Land. Don't you know some of them said, "Come on, guys, can't we do this a little quicker? Why do we have to stand back so far? Let's get outside of the wake. Let's go and flank around the side. Is this the only path we can take? This is a narrow path. God, do you know how long it is going to take us to get across doing it this way?"

And God says, "Yeah, I do. I know exactly." And so when we get in the position to experience the powerful presence of God as far as his power in our life, understand we have got to go a specific direction against the world. But also understand that we have to keep a distance. In other words, if you can't see Jesus in front of you moving, you are in the wrong position, because often times we get beside him, we get in front of him and what we end up doing, whether we mean it or not is we get out, outside of the wake, we mess everything up and here is what we do. We mean it really prayerfully, "God, could you please bless my mess, because this hurts and I am all alone in the middle of the lake and I

don't even know if the boat is going to come back to get me." And we are going, "That was not smart. God, please help me."

Now many times have you said, "God, just bless my mess?" Is it any good to do it? He will come by in the boat and he will pick us up, scoop us up. But here is the great news. If we do what the Israelites did and we stay behind the presence of God, we say, "Ok, God, you do it your way. We will just come back in the wake." He blesses, he takes care. And what we will see through the book of Joshua is everywhere they went behind the ark, there was blessing and the promises of God and it all worked out. When they got outside of that they had a mess.

So that is the position we need to get into both directionally and distance.

But there is a second thing that is very important to this passage of Scripture to experiencing the power of God in our lives and it is the persons or the person that is involved. In verse three it says:

"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."<sup>8</sup>

They did not just come up and Joshua says, "Ok, I need a couple of guys who are somewhat strong who are willing to carry this thing and stand in the water." He didn't go to what would appear to be the most muscular individuals or the strongest. They went to a specific group of people known as the Levites and specifically the priests.

And I want to draw you a parallel if you will go to Hebrews chapter seven in the New Testament. All throughout Scripture Jesus is called a prophet. He is called a priest. He is called a prince or the soon coming king. But in particular in Hebrews chapter seven it is speaking about Melchizedek and his priestly order and it talks about who Jesus is to be in our life.

In the book of Hebrews chapter seven beginning in verse 23 and just verse 23 and 24 very simply, speaking of the past priests, the past men who not only bore the ark, but who went into the temple worship.

And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: But this man [speaking of Jesus], because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.<sup>9</sup>

If you want to enter the Promised Land of life, if you want to go through the high waters of life, it is not just about being against the world. It is not just about being a rebel. It is not just about being a hippie. It is not just about being able to stand behind. What it is, if

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<sup>8</sup> Joshua 3:3.

<sup>9</sup> Hebrews 7:23-25.

you want the river dried up. If you want the Jordan gone in your life, if you want a clear passage, you must have a very specific person in your life. There is no other way to receive the promises and the blessings of God outside of the person of Jesus Christ. He is the high priest. He ever liveth to make intercession for us.

Listen. There are a thousand different ways and a million different people that will take you the wrong direction, but there is only one person who can bear the presence of God, stand in the middle of the waters of life and allow safe passage to the promises of God in your life, that is the person of Jesus Christ. Nobody else came up from the dead. Nobody else lived a sinless life. Nobody else was born of a virgin. Only Jesus meets the criteria to stand in the water of our life.

And so the question is this. You may be standing against the world. You may be doing the exact that the world teaches. You may be a moral, ethical person of value. But who is the person that is your priest?

~~Now that's a word that we use sometimes and other times we don't. But do you know~~ what the real definition of a priest is? A priest is a mediator or a go between, between a simple human and a sinless God. Now let me give you a little insight. There is not a human being on this planet who is qualified to mediate that. There is not a church on this planet that is qualified to mediate that. Why? Because according to the Bible we are all sinners. The wages of sin is death.

Let me tell you what you need. If you want to enter the promises of God in your life into the powerful presence of God in your life, as much as you need to be a part of a local church, as much as you need to be under the teaching of a biblical pastor, it doesn't matter ~~who your pastor or who your church is if you don't have Jesus, because you must have~~ Jesus Christ, the high priest who ever liveth. Without him there is no promised world. Without him there is no life. There is only death. And so there is this parallel of the person of Jesus Christ. But there is also a protocol. I want you to go back to Joshua chapter three and I want you to go to verse 15 where the priests, by the way, the parallel of Jesus Christ, their feet actually go into the water. And it says this. They bear the ark were come unto Jordan, the feet of the priests that bear the ark were dipped in the brim of the water for Jordan over-flowed all of its banks all of the time of the harvest.

Now if I had been there in Joshua chapter three and I had been a part of the generation that had come out of the wilderness and here I was for three days ready to embark on this journey through the river Jordan. Joshua has told me this is how it is going to happen. This is the way it is going to be done. I would have shown up to the brim and maybe you are not as doubtful as I am and I will just confess that to you. I would have shown up and said, "Why now?" I mean, you realize the Jordan River is in a desert where it doesn't rain much and it is usually very shallow and not really significant and it almost looks like when you get up to it, oh, I could get across that no problem. But when it overflows its banks, it looks like a moving lake.

Have you ever wondered about that in life? God, is this the right time? Is this the point in which you want to... this doesn't make sense.

I am going to tell you how many times I have met people whom God has called to do something. Maybe God has called them to change a job. Maybe God has called them to the mission field. Maybe God has called them to get out of debt. Maybe God has called them to reconcile relationships.

Do you realize that when God calls you to do something it always typically happens in the most difficult of manners and the most difficult of times? In other words, God calls people to move sometimes when their house is worth half of what it used to be. You say, "God, it can't be."

He said, "No, no, no. Trust me here. I know the waters are high."

Or God calls you to reconcile a relationship when that person is at their worst behavior. And you are going, "God, no, no, no. Can't we just wait till it all calms down and settles down?"

God calls you to get out of debt when your income is less than it used to be. You say, "Well, God, when it gets back up again that is when I will do it."

See, the water was at its height. Let me tell you about the protocol here. When the priests put their feet in the water and it actually receded, when we have Jesus Christ as our priest, Jesus Christ as our mediator, Jesus Christ as one who forgives us and saves us, what we need to understand is in order for the promises of God, the power of God to be in our life, he has got to be in the middle of the water of our life. In other words, whatever it is that is overflowing, whatever it is that is a mess, whatever it is that is a struggle, you don't need to be ahead of him, beside him or saying, "Hey, Jesus, could you come up for just a minute." He needs to be in the middle of everything.

You want a relationship reconciled? Jesus needs to be all in the middle of it. Do you want finances fixed? You need Jesus all in the middle of it. You need something done? You need Jesus all in the middle, because without the priest in the water they did not recede. Without Jesus in the middle of the junk of your life, do not expect the promises or the power and the blessings of God if he is on the sideline.

I know this is a carnal example, but he is the middle line backer. He is the short stop. He is the point guard, the one of which the whole game revolves around. The problem is we put him on the bench. And the game of life is going the wrong direction. We call a time out and say, "Come on, sixth man, why don't you get in the game?"

Do you know what Jesus is saying to you? If you had me as a starter, we wouldn't be in this mess to begin with.

So the person for power, the person for the Promised Land has got to be the person of Jesus Christ in everything, which leads us to the last part, the promises that God has.

And back in Joshua chapter three I want you to look in verse four and five. It says: 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. And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you.<sup>10</sup>

Do you know why I love that passage of Scripture? Tomorrow the Lord will work. He did not bring up past failures. He did not bring up past mistakes. Do you realize the Israelite people collectively have been in captivity for 400 years in Egypt? They rebelled against God in the wilderness. They do not have a good track record of life. And I bet you don't either.

Let me tell you what the devil tries to do in your life. He tries to get you to live in the past so you never live the future for the Lord. And all he does is get you, well, do you remember when you did this? Do you remember when you did that? Do you remember when you were addicted to this? Do you remember when you struggled with this? Oh, I don't think God could use that.

He used Saul and he became Paulo, guys. I think you are ok. He used Simon and he became Peter.

He says, "Tomorrow."

You know, Ephesians chapter three verse 20 says: "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."<sup>11</sup>

The Holy Spirit. When the powerful presence of the Lord is in your life, what is it? He wants to do more with your tomorrow than you ever messed up in your past. He does not stand at the bank and say, "Well, based on what you have done in the past, this is as good as it's going to get."

He says, "Tomorrow, I will do wonders."

He was foretelling the future. Tomorrow. Why? Because they were positioned right. Why? Because they had the right people, the right person in their life. He said, "Because you have this line up, tomorrow I am foretelling you this is going to go well. The waters are up high. He says, "Tomorrow this will happen."

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<sup>10</sup> Joshua 3:4-5.

<sup>11</sup> Ephesians 3:20.

It is foretelling that the Lord will do wonders among them.

Now let me tell you something. I am going to get real fancy with you for a moment. I will do a bunch of just a fancy word talk. Are you ready? Here we go. We are going to get real theological. Do you know what the Bible means when it says he will do wonders among you? He will do wonders among you. That is what it means, things that you can't explain, things that you take a step back and go, "I would have never done it that way before."

You take a step back and go, "Wow. God had to pull that off because I could not have done that."

And so when this promise of the power of God in their life, it is not just the fact that the next day, not just the fact that the water... it was foretelling, but it was also forth telling which means to proclaim the truth.

And I want you to turn over to Joshua chapter four, one of the great passages of Scripture. They had gone over the River Jordan. They had passed through the river Jordan. They are in the Promised Land. They haven't fought Jericho yet. They are about to. They haven't fought the other battles. They are about to. Before a battle is waged, before a piece of land has been conquered, according to Joshua chapter four the Lord tells them that of every one of the 12 tribes, go get a rock so that the next generation can know what God did in your life.

Now I am going to speak real honestly with those of you who are not a generation under 25 years of age. Maybe you are a parent. Maybe you are a grand parent, both biologically and adopted to many around you. And I am going to ask you a very hard question. If someone pressed you on the matter. If some one came up to you and said, "Tell me what God has done in your life," do you have a stone? Do you have a rock? Do you have the ability to say, "Son, daughter, child, cousin, whoever it may be, friend, neighbor, coworker, there was a time in my life where I was so hooked on substance I couldn't get off of it. God delivered me. There was a time in my life where I thought a relationship would never be repaired and it was. There was a time in my life where I had no doubt and I was deaf and I was dumb and I was having all kinds of trouble that God showed me light. There was a time in my life where the waters of life were so high I didn't know what I was going to do, but God dried them up in my life."

Let me ask you, adults. Where is your stone?