

A dramatic landscape featuring a mountain peak and a valley. The scene is overlaid with a rainbow and several diagonal, semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of purple, blue, and orange. The text is centered over the mountain peak.

WHEN GOD GOES AHEAD

J o s h u a 3 : 3 - 4

Joshua 3:3 and they commanded the people, saying, “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God with the Levitical priests carrying it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it. ⁴ However, there shall be between you and it a distance of about 2,000 cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you shall go, for you have not passed this way before.”

Joshua 1:1 Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying, ² "Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. ³ Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses."

Numbers 13:1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses saying, ² “Send out for yourself men so that they may spy out the land of Canaan, which I am going to give to the sons of Israel; you shall send a man from each of their fathers’ tribes, every one a leader among them.” ³ So Moses sent them from the wilderness of Paran at the command of the LORD, all of them men who were heads of the sons of Israel.

Numbers 13:30 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, “We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it.”³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us.”

God Goes Ahead to Guide Us

Joshua 3:2 At the end of three days the officers went through the midst of the camp; ³ and they commanded the people, saying, “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God with the Levitical priests carrying it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it.”

God Goes Ahead to Guide Us

John 6:68 Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

Psalm 121:1 I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? ² My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

God Goes Ahead to Prepare Us

Joshua 3:4 “Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it...”

God Goes Ahead to Assure Us

Joshua 3:4b “for you have not passed this way before.”

Exodus 33:13 “Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people.”¹⁴ And He said, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”¹⁵ Then he said to Him, “If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.”

God Goes Ahead to Fulfill His Promises

Joshua 3:5 And Joshua said to the people, “Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.”

God Goes Ahead to Fulfill His Promises

Joshua 3:14 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.

God Goes Ahead to Fulfill His Promises

2 Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. ²¹ Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, ²² who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.