

I. God's Mission Requires Preparation & Patience (1-2a)

"Then Joshua rose early in the morning and they set out from Shittim. And they came to the Jordan, he and all the people of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. 2 At the end of three days..."

Hurry up & wait. Joshua had the obligation to be prepared, God had the right to take His time.

II. God's Mission Requires Unity & Leadership (2b-3)

A. It was an essential for the victory (2b) - "...the officers went through the camp and commanded the people..."

B. The primary focus is on God (3a) - "As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God..."

C. The secondary focus on the leaders (3b) - "...being carried by the Levitical priests..."

If you have the right leaders, they and God should be in the same place!

III. God's Mission Requires Consecration & Expectation (4-5)

A. Consecrated in the fear of the Lord (4) - "Yet there shall be a distance between you and it, about 2,000 cubits in length. Do not come near it, in order that you may know the way you shall go, for you have not passed this way before."

B. Consecrated in our assigned roles (5a, 6a) - "Then Joshua said to the people...and Joshua said to the priests..."

C. Consecrated in personal holiness (5b) - "Consecrate yourselves..." **The onus to do so is upon us!**

D. Consecrated in trust & expectation (5c) - "...for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you."

IV. God's Mission Requires Obedience & Discernment (6-7)

A. We see precise instructions carefully followed (6) - "And Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on before the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people."

B. We see God's timing arrive (7a) - "Today, I will begin..." **After 400 yrs. of slavery, 40 yrs. wandering, 3 days waiting**

C. B. We see how God raises up individuals (7b) - "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."