

**“SPIRITUAL ALIGNMENT WITH GOD”**

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**The 'PRINCIPLE' OF  
BEFORE  
[Joshua 3-4]**

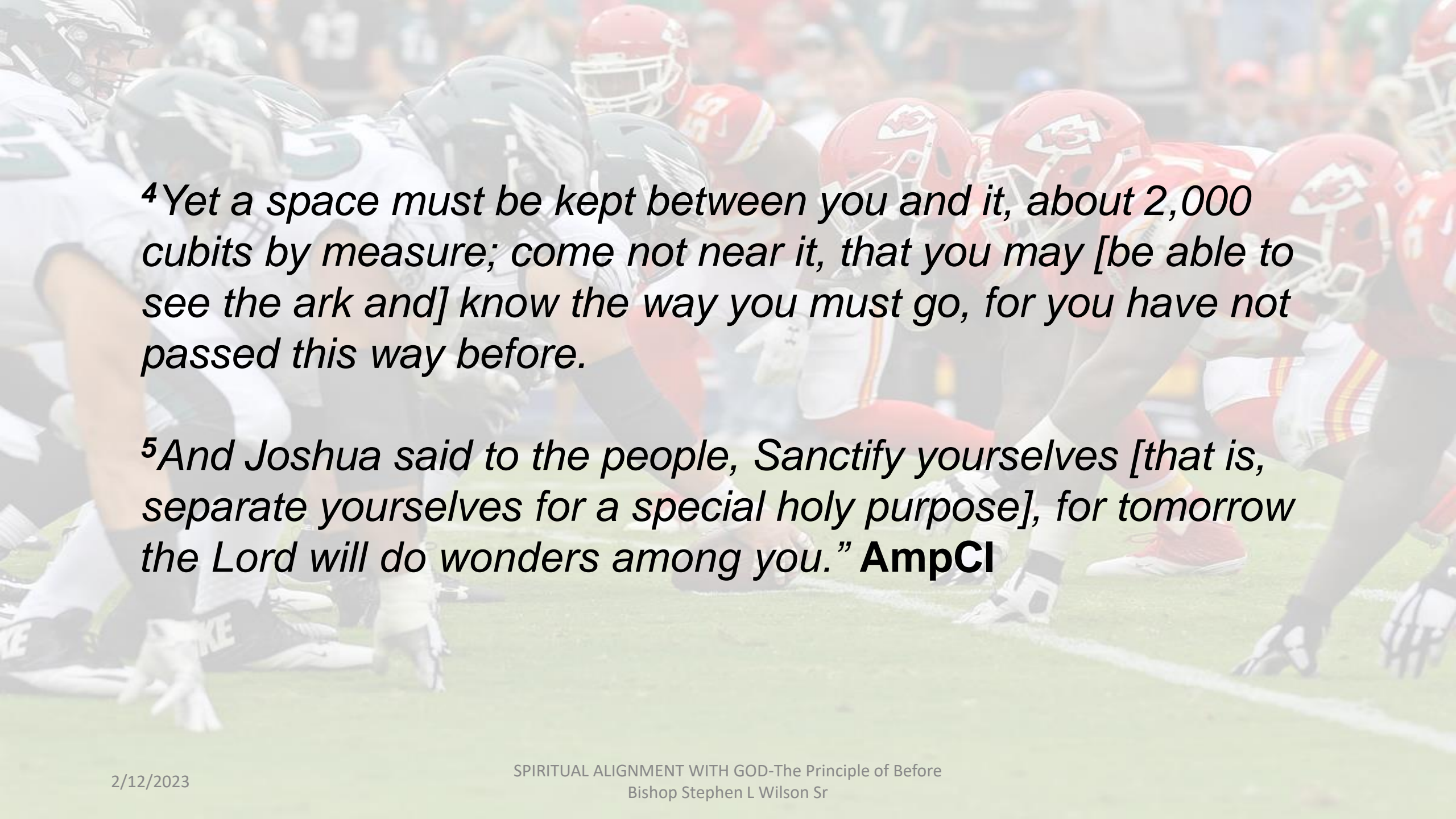


**(Joshua 3:1-5)**

*“Joshua rose early in the morning and they removed from Shittim and came to the Jordan, he and all the Israelites, and lodged there before passing over.*

*<sup>2</sup>After three days the officers went through the camp,*

*<sup>3</sup>Commanding the people: When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God being borne by the Levitical priests, set out from where you are and follow it.....*



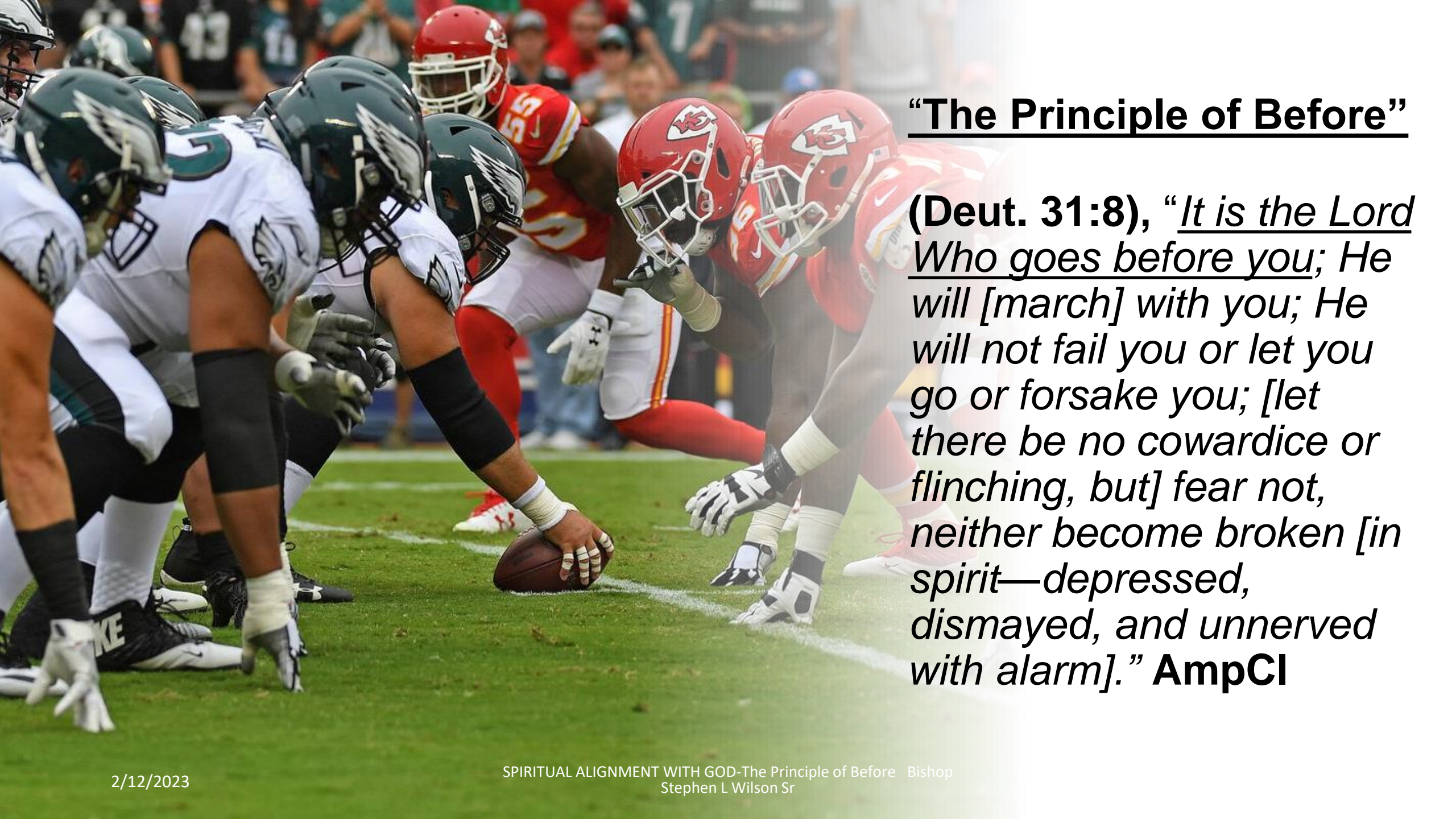
*<sup>4</sup>Yet a space must be kept between you and it, about 2,000 cubits by measure; come not near it, that you may [be able to see the ark and] know the way you must go, for you have not passed this way before.*

*<sup>5</sup>And Joshua said to the people, Sanctify yourselves [that is, separate yourselves for a special holy purpose], for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” **AmpCl***

**Principle:** *a general or basic truth on which other truths can be based..... a proposition or value that is a guide for behavior or evaluation.*

**“The Principle of Before,” manifests itself in everyday life. It denotes a series of progressive stages necessary to reach fulfillment:**

- There are battles ***before*** victory .
- There are struggles ***before*** celebration.
- There are steps ***before*** arrivals.
- There is practice ***before*** perfection.
- There is ***matriculation*** before graduation.
- There is ***preparation*** before accomplishment!



## “The Principle of Before”

**(Deut. 31:8),** “It is the Lord Who goes before you; He will [march] with you; He will not fail you or let you go or forsake you; [let there be no cowardice or flinching, but] fear not, neither become broken [in spirit—depressed, dismayed, and unnerved with alarm].” **AmpCI**

# I. The Spiritual Significance of Crossing the Jordan River -

**(Numbers 20:2-5)**, *“Now there was no water for the congregation, and they gathered together against Moses and Aaron.*

*<sup>3</sup> The people contended with Moses, and said, “If only we had perished when our brothers perished [in the plague] before the LORD!*

*<sup>4</sup> Why have you brought up the assembly of the LORD into this wilderness to die here, we and our livestock?*

*<sup>5</sup> Why have you made us come up from Egypt, to bring us to this wretched place? It is not a place of grain or of figs or of vines or of pomegranates, and there is no water to drink?” Amp*

**A two-week flight from Egypt turned into a 40-year multi-generational saga.**

## Have you ever experienced a wilderness in your life?

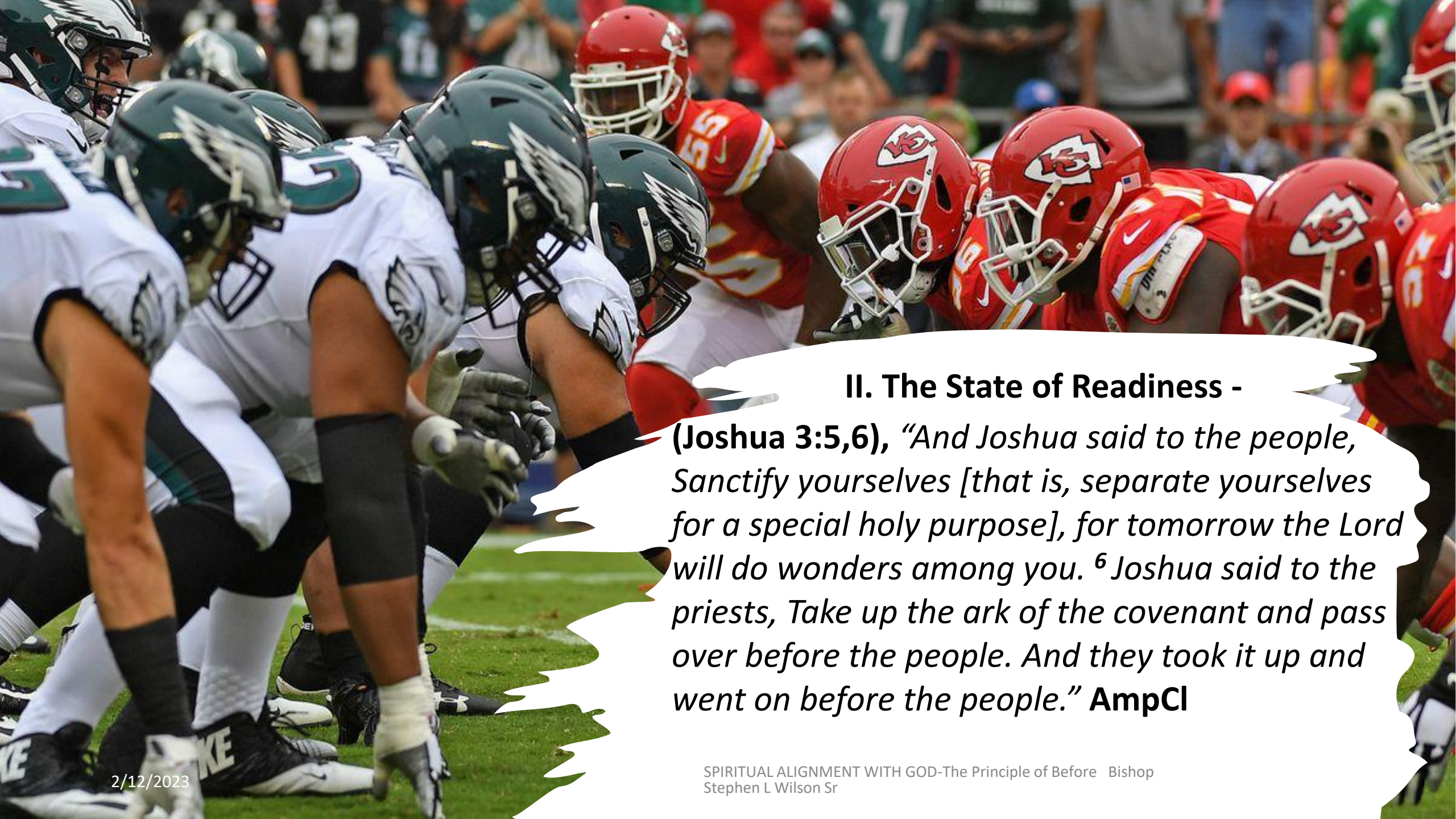
- **Metaphorically speaking**, many can relate to being in a place in life where they feel/felt stuck... no matter what we do and no matter how many times we “recalculate the route”, it gets us right back to where we started.
- Or perhaps we are experiencing a lack of fulfillment in our relationships, , parenting, health, career, or our destiny and purpose and life.
- Maybe you have given up hope of things ever changing for the better.....
  - The end result being, you have decided to tread those same well-worn, familiar paths of bitterness, hopelessness, cynicism and defeat.

# Getting to a Place of Spiritual Crossing Requires: Applying The 'PRINCIPLE' OF “BEFORE.”

(Deut. 31:8), ***“It is the Lord Who goes before you; He will [march] with you; He will not fail you or let you go or forsake you; [let there be no cowardice or flinching, but] fear not, neither become broken [in spirit—depressed, dismayed, and unnerved with alarm].”*** **AmpCI**







## II. The State of Readiness -

*(Joshua 3:5,6), “And Joshua said to the people, Sanctify yourselves [that is, separate yourselves for a special holy purpose], for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you. <sup>6</sup> Joshua said to the priests, Take up the ark of the covenant and pass over before the people. And they took it up and went on before the people.” AmpCI*

## The State of Readiness:

### A. The obstacle that stood in their way –

- They were confronted with a “test of their faith.”
  - “The Principle of Before” must be applied! (Deut. 31:8), “It is the Lord Who goes before you; He will [march] with you; He will not fail you or let you go or forsake you; [let there be no cowardice or flinching, but] fear not, neither become broken [in spirit—depressed, dismayed, and unnerved with alarm].” **AmpCI**

## The State of Readiness:

### B. The “Miracle” that Opened the Way:

- **The promise that God would work miraculously tomorrow was contingent on the people's willingness to consecrate themselves today:**

*(Joshua 3:15,16), “And when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were in the brink of the water—for the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest—*

*<sup>16</sup> Then the waters which came down from above stood and rose up in a heap far off, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan; and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt [Dead] Sea, were wholly cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho.” AmpCI*

### III. “SPIRITUAL ALIGNMENT WITH GOD” - The 'PRINCIPLE' OF BEFORE' (Application)

- **We have to consecrate today before blessings tomorrow-**
  - Holiness(consecration) precedes honor.
  - Cleanliness(sanctification) before usefulness.
  - Penance(godly sorrow) before power.
- **We have to wait on God's Timing - then step out by Faith-**
  - When we get to the crossing moments of life, we can trust His timing and His wisdom.
  - God was ready, willing, and able to perform an amazing miracle.
    - The promise hinged on the people's faith!!
  - **As the people marched**, somewhere along the way, **God intervenes.**