

The background is an abstract composition of bold, expressive brushstrokes. Large, vibrant red strokes are scattered across the upper and right portions of the frame, while thick, black strokes are concentrated in the lower and left areas. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and contrast against a plain white background.

# Presence Makes a Way When There's No Way Forward

November 1, 2020

Wonderful Mercy Church



# Joshua 3:7-17 NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

The LORD told Joshua, “Today I will begin to make you a great leader in the eyes of all the Israelites. They will know that I am with you, just as I was with Moses. <sup>8</sup> Give this command to the priests who carry the Ark of the Covenant: ‘When you reach the banks of the Jordan River, take a few steps into the river and stop there.’”

## Joshua 3:7-17 NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

<sup>9</sup> So Joshua told the Israelites, “Come and listen to what the LORD your God says. <sup>10</sup> Today you will know that the living God is among you. He will surely drive out the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites ahead of you. <sup>11</sup> Look, the Ark of the Covenant, which belongs to the Lord of the whole earth, will lead you across the Jordan River!



## Joshua 3:7-17 NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

<sup>12</sup> Now choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. <sup>13</sup> The priests will carry the Ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth. As soon as their feet touch the water, the flow of water will be cut off upstream, and the river will stand up like a wall.”

## Joshua 3:7-17 NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

<sup>14</sup> So the people left their camp to cross the Jordan, and the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of them. <sup>15</sup> It was the harvest season, and the Jordan was overflowing its banks. But as soon as the feet of the priests who were carrying the Ark touched the water at the river's edge,



## Joshua 3:7-17 NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

<sup>16</sup> the water above that point began backing up a great distance away at a town called Adam, which is near Zarethan. And the water below that point flowed on to the Dead Sea until the riverbed was dry. Then all the people crossed over near the town of Jericho.

## Joshua 3:7-17 NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

<sup>17</sup> Meanwhile, the priests who were carrying the Ark of the LORD's Covenant stood on dry ground in the middle of the riverbed as the people passed by. They waited there until the whole nation of Israel had crossed the Jordan on dry ground.



# God's Favor

“Favor is the peculiar signature of God on your life that releases an influence upon you so that others are inclined to like you or cooperate with you, so you can carry and fulfil God’s purposes.”

[Lance Wallnau, *The Force of Favor*, 2008, CD #1, adapted]



# God's Favor

God's favor is stronger than whatever's holding you back—one touch of God's favor can turn any situation around



# Luke 1:7

THE VOICE TRANSLATION

Yet they had this sadness. Due to Elizabeth's infertility, they were childless, and at this time, they were both quite old—well past normal childbearing years.





# Luke 1:25

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

“The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

# Deuteronomy 34:10-12 NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. <sup>11</sup> He was unequaled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, <sup>12</sup> and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.







# God's Presence Makes A Way

- The presence of God makes a way forward when there's no way forward
- The priests carrying the Ark step into the waters of the Jordan and then they go forward when there is no way. Not figuratively, *literally*—until that moment, there was no way









Psalm 77:19 NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

Your road led through the sea, your pathway through the mighty waters— a pathway no one knew was there!





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