

A grayscale photograph of a person standing on a beach, looking out at the ocean. The person is in the upper right corner, slightly out of focus. In the foreground, a series of footprints leads from the bottom center towards the person. The text is overlaid on the image.

# Go Over this JORDAN

a sermon note

ABRAHAM OSHOKO

# **“GO OVER THIS JORDAN”**

Personal Study notes on Stepping into My Assignment,  
May-June 2010

**SERMON NOTE**

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## **GO OVER THIS JORDAN**

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# HYMNS:

## ***STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS!***

Stand up! stand up for Jesus!

Ye soldiers of the cross;

Lift high His royal banner,

It must not suffer loss:

From vict'ry unto vict'ry

His army shall He lead,

Till every foe is vanquished

And Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up for Jesus

Ye soldiers of the cross;

Lift high His royal banner,

It must not, it must not suffer loss.

Stand up! stand up for Jesus!

The trumpet call obey;

Forth to the mighty conflict

In this His glorious day.

Ye that are men, now serve Him

Against unnumbered foes;

Let courage rise with danger.  
And strength to strength oppose.

Stand up! stand up for Jesus!  
Stand in His strength alone;  
The arm of flesh will fail you;  
Ye dare not trust your own.  
Put on the Gospel armor,  
And, watching unto prayer,  
Where duty calls, or danger,  
Be never wanting there.

Stand up! stand up for Jesus!  
The strife will not be long:  
This day the noise of battle,  
The next the victor's song;  
To him that overcometh  
A crown of life shall be;  
He, with the King of glory,  
Shall reign eternally.

***ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS***

Onward Christian soldiers!

Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus  
Going on before.  
Christ, the royal Master,  
Leads against the foe;  
Forward into battle,  
See, His banners go!  
Onward, Christian soldiers!

Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus,  
Going on before.

At the name of Jesus  
Satan's host doth flee;  
On then, Christian soldiers,  
On to victory!  
Hell's foundations quiver  
At the shout of praise:  
Brothers, lift your voices,  
Loud your anthems raise!

Like a mighty army  
Moves the Church of God:

Brothers, we are treading  
Where the saints have trod;  
We are not divided,  
All one Body we—  
One in faith and Spirit,  
One eternally.

Crowns and thrones may perish,  
Kingdoms rise and wane;  
But the Church of Jesus  
Constant will remain.  
Gates of hell can never  
'Gainst the Church prevail;  
We have Christ's own promise,  
Which can never fail.

Onward, then, ye people!  
Join our happy throng;  
Blend with ours your voices  
In the triumph song.  
Glory, laud and honor  
Unto Christ, the King;  
This through countless ages

Men and angels sing.

***I'M PRESSING ON THE UPWARD WAY***

I'm pressing on the upward way,  
New heights I'm gaining every day;  
Still praying as I onward bound,  
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."  
Lord, lift me up, and let me stand  
By faith on Canaan's tableland;  
A higher plane than I have found,  
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

My heart has no desire to stay  
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;  
Though some may dwell where these abound,  
My prayer, my aim, is higher ground.

I want to live above the world,  
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;  
For faith has caught the joyful sound,  
The song of saints on higher ground.

I want to scale the utmost height



And catch a gleam of glory bright;  
But still I'll pray till rest I've found,  
"Lord, lead me on to higher ground."

# LESSON ONE

## GOD'S OVERWHELMING PROMISES Josh.1:1-11

**“Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying...”**

**“Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord...”**

**T**his is instructive...no matter how long Moses lives, he will eventually die since there is no everlasting man of God. In the same way, Moses represents a generation. As long as Moses' generation is alive, all the upcoming next generations knew they have no problem as far as hearing God or even godly leadership is concerned.

Moses' generation was a miraculous generation. It was a generation that received its call directly from God [Ex.3:1-14], it was a generation that saw the power of God in its redemption from Egypt [Ex.6:6, Ex.7:4, Deut.26:8], it was a generation that repeatedly saw the power and the might of God [Ex.14:21-22], it was a generation that walked under absolute divine direction [Ex.13:21-22] and so on. Now, that generation is dead...

This is the same with our situation today. We remember men who shook the kingdom of hell and forcefully moved forward God's kingdom in their own generation and we consider them to be legends...we remember men who gave their generation a name in the halls of history and we wonder if we too can possibly do half of what they did...yet, in the plan of God, every new generation is supposed to outdo the previous. Judg.6:11-16.

**“Now, after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord...”**

The book of Joshua begins with a *now*. This is significant and we cannot afford to overlook it. Whereas, Moses' generation was mighty and great in its walk with God, I need to move beyond it since *now* implies that every mighty thing that happened in that generation happened in the past. Deut.34:10-12

But this is not always the case. We mourn the departure of a generation that walked with God and stay in that state of mourning till our own generation passes by—powerless and insignificant as far as the eternal purpose of God is concerned...Deut.34:8, Judg.2:7-10.

The days they mourned for Moses ended so that progress can be made by the new generation...but we don't end our own days of mourning for Moses. We moan and explain away why we are weak and bereft of spiritual power and wonder what Apostle Babalola, Charles Finney or E.W. Kenyon will do if they were here...

**“...Moses my servant is dead...”**

This was God's announcement to Joshua and it is what He's saying to us too today. The old generation is gone. There is a need for the new generation that had been properly disciplined to arise and take their place. It has come to pass in our own generation that God is saying: **“Moses my servant is dead.”**

God says this to us because He expects us to do something about it. The people can no longer be led by a *dead* Moses. This is why we need to do something about it.

**“Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, *even* to the children of Israel.”**

## **A QUICK CONTRAST BETWEEN THE DEATH OF MOSES AND THE DEATH OF JOSHUA**

**“Moses my servant is dead”**

When Moses died, there was a Joshua from the next generation that God could talk to. Surprisingly, Moses had so trained and hooked Joshua for God such that even after the death of Moses, this man continued with God to the point of his own death [Josh.24:15].

However, when Joshua and his generation died, the people stopped serving God—which means his influence died with him and he couldn't hook men for God the same way he was hooked by Moses till the day he [Joshua] died. Judg.2:7-10

Why? What happened? What did Moses know and practiced that Joshua forgot and didn't practice? The answer is discipleship. Moses focused on discipleship but Joshua

focused on membership. This is a pit we must avoid. In Deut.34:9, the Bible says that Joshua was filled with the spirit of wisdom and all Israel obeyed him because Moses had laid hand on him.

However, this is beyond a mere laying on of hands since Moses literally poured his own life into Joshua's life. This was what brought Joshua the respect he enjoyed. [Compare Josh.24:19-23 & Judg.2:7-10 with Deut.32:44-47.]

**“... now therefore arise...”**

In view of the fact that the old godly generation has passed away, God is saying to me and you today to arise and take their place. 1Sam.3:1-11

**“... go over this Jordan...”**

Here, God said, **“go over this Jordan”**; He didn't even say go over *river* Jordan instead He said **“go over this Jordan”** signifying that there is a *Jordan* every man who will become anything useful in the hand of God must cross or go over.

What then does *this Jordan* mean?

It means a limitation. It is a border and a barrier.

Many times, we have a wrong perspective of ourselves, thinking that although God can use anybody—but that obviously doesn't include me! However, a man's inadequacies is one of the principal reasons why God calls and uses such a man—so that it can be clear who the doer of the work is and why it can never be man on his own. See Ex.3:10-11, Judg.6:14-15, Jer.1:4-7, 1Cor.1:26-29, Jer.9:23-24, Phil.2:13.

**“... go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people...”**

In all the examples cited above [the lives of Moses, Gideon, Jeremiah and the Christian], we find out that all God needs first of all is for one man to go over his own limitations, barriers and boundaries. Once that is done, we automatically become leaders God can trust to take care of His people ...

**“... Therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou and all this people, unto the land which I do give them, even to the children of Israel.”**

When we have gotten over our inadequacies and incompetence and have trusted God to work in us both to will and to do His good pleasure, then we will be ready to take possession of the lands that the Lord has graciously prepared and made ready for us to inherit...

What does it actually mean in New Testament terms to *take possession*?

**“Ye are the salt of the earth... Ye are the light of the world...”** Matt.5:13-14

Two principal illustrations are given by the Lord here to explain what happens when we begin to take possession of the lands for Him:

1. We are the salt of the earth
2. We are the light of the world

### **1. Taking possession as the Salt**

The function of the salt is two-fold: it is a preservative and it is a seasoning.

We must understand that the world around us is in decay...beneath Satan's proud world system is the decay of sin and its consequences which even the prince of darkness himself has no power to stop. This is why immediately after the church departs from this world at the time of the rapture, society will break down and anarchy will begin... 2Thes.2:7-12 [AMP]

The sinner's life can only go from bad to worse; therefore when we bring them the message of the Cross and they are converted, they become *preserved* from the wrath to come... 1Thes.5:9

We must have such a compelling inner life that puts an end to the decay in the lives of people around us by their coming in contact with us. Acts 8:26-39, 2Kgs.5:1, 8-14.

As a seasoning, the Christian shows the worldly man the true perspective or taste of what it's like to be truly alive in the purpose of God. The life of the true Christian will always inspire the heathen of the true essence of life. 1Thes.1:6-9

### **When salt is no longer salty**

**“Salt is good. But if the salt has lost its saltiness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves and have peace with one another”** Mk.9:50

When salt becomes insipid or flat, it will no longer be useful either as a preservative or as a seasoning. Salt loses its savour when left on bare floor or when exposed to the sun, air or rain. All these only point us to the fact that the moment we stop living in obedience to the Lord Jesus, we will lose our actual worth. We may still have the outward form of godliness but we would have lost the power thereof...Jn.15:1-6, Matt.7:24-27.

## **2. Taking Possession as the Light**

When the Lord Jesus said: “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden...”, He is affirming to us that wherever a Christian is found, such a one is strategically placed by the Lord in a position of dominion over the forces of darkness there. When you get to any place as a Christian [whether your father’s house, your school, your street etc], this must be said about you:

**“The people who sat (dwelt enveloped) in darkness have seen a great Light, and for those who sat in the land and shadow of death Light has dawned.”** Matt.4:16  
AMP

Majority of people in the church today are lights hidden under a basket. They have not been positioned in their inner lives in such a way that everyone coming in contact with them can be lighted...yet even we must understand that there is a light that we ourselves must have if we will ever become and remain lights to our own world... Ps.119:105, Isa.60:1-3, Ps.36:9, Jn.1:4.

**“Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.”**

The Lord didn’t say he will give me every place I step upon. He said He has *given* me! It is in past tense! It is not what will happen, as far as God is concerned it is what has happened. I only need to enforce it by taking possession.

**“Rise ye up, take your journey, and pass over the river Arnon: behold, I have given into thine hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land: begin to possess it, and contend with him in battle.”** Deut.2:24

Satanic spirits that hold lands in bondage to their own will are not saying they will not surrender... they will only surrender to me if I am certain of my rights as a Christian.

On the side of God, everything is ready. I only need to go in and take possession by contending with the enemy in battle. Deut.2:24-25, Matt.28:18-20.

The Lord Jesus didn't send me out first. He sends me out only after saying that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him. Authority here means: The legal right to give commands and the ability to enforce compliance.

END OF 1<sup>ST</sup> RETREAT

**“Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.”**

Jesus is the most powerful Person alive and there is no controversy. 1Pet.3:22, Matt.28:18, Phil.2:9-11, Acts 2:36, Acts 10:36 [TLB].

He said *every place*...and if I am wondering what gives Him the right to hand over *every place the soles of my feet tread upon*, it is the right of ownership...Ps.24:1, Col.1:16, Jer.27:5, Num.33:53, Dan.4:17.

Also, the right of conquest. Matt.28:18, Col.2:15, Phil.2:9-11.

**“From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.” v.4**

The Lord is also very specific of the extent of the border of the land of Israel northward, westward, southward and eastward. They are to occupy the whole Palestine. However, the boundary of the lands the church of Jesus is to occupy is also well specified. Matt.28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Acts 5:28, Acts 26:12-20, Acts 10:37, Acts 8:1, 5-8; Acts 13:47.

END OF 2<sup>ND</sup> RETREAT

**“There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” v.5**

**“There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life...”**

This promise is pregnant with meaning. Here, the Lord has destroyed before us, every opposition the enemy could ever muster against us. Lk.10:19, Isa.54:15, Ex.15:14-16, Josh.21:44-45, Rom.8:31, Ps.105:14-15, Zech.2:8, Isa.7:5-7.

**“...as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee...”**

The first question here is, how was God with Moses? If I can fully understand this from scripture, then I can fully understand how God will be with me. Ex.3:10-12, Ex.4:10-12, Ex.33:12-17.

Yet, regardless of whatever Moses experienced, the Christian has even a more sure promise and the certainty of a higher experience! Matt.28:18-20 [AMP], Mk.16:20, Jn.14:16

**“I will not fail thee nor forsake thee...”**

As we said earlier, the promises of God here are exceedingly overwhelming. The Lord is saying, as I have asked you to go out and labour on my behalf, I will not fail you, neither will I forsake you. The promises here points clearly to the faithfulness of God. Num.23:19, Rom.3:3-4 [TLB], Jn.14:6 [AUV].

**“Be strong and of a good courage...only be thou strong and very courageous...”**

A man must be strong and courageous if he ever hopes to achieve all that God has set out for him to achieve. There will definitely be giants and Anakims in the land...all the towns, villages and cities the Lord will be sending us to are already in the hand of several spirits and fallen angels. They are all defeated already at Calvary, and we will view them as defeated if only we are strong. Num.13:27-33, Num.14:1-9; Deut.2:24-25, 30-34, 36; Deut.3:21-22, Col.2:15.

**“This book of the law shalt not depart out of thy mouth...”**



If we desire to succeed in what God is asking us to do for Him, then the Word of God must always be in our mouths. It must have the supreme place in our lives. We must never think or act contrary to the Word, this is what it means that the Word is in our mouths.

But if the Word will depart from our mouths, it's because it has already departed from our hearts...hence the next command says: **"...but ye shall meditate therein day and night..."** thus, the key to speaking and acting on the Word is a heart that is ablaze with the Word. Deut.17:18-20, Lev.6:12-13.

**"...but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein..."**

The key therefore is meditation. By definition, meditation is continuous and profound contemplation on a subject of a deep nature. It is thinking deeply about God's Word, humbly and reverently begging the Holy Spirit its deeper meaning as it relates to our lives and circumstances today. Ps.1:1-3, Dan.2:22

**"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."** v.9

The opening of this verse reassures confidence that we are not going out on our own. If heaven sends us, then all the powers of heaven is backing us even today...Judg.6:14-16, Lk.10:1-9, 17-20; Matt.28:18-20, Ps.114:1-8.

**"Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it."** Joshua 1:10-11 (KJV)

One phrase that comes out so strongly to me in what Joshua told his officers to tell the people is this: **"...Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan..."**

*Victuals* here simply mean provisions for a journey. Obviously when one is going on a journey, he will pack everything he needs. However, the journey that Israel is undertaking is such that:

1. They are going into battle to capture lands God has given to them as an inheritance.
2. They are not returning again to this side of Jordan.

**In our own experience, how is this related to us?**

- a. We are standing up to obey the command of our Lord and Master who told us to go into the entire world to make disciples of every nation. Matt.28:18-20, Mk.16:15-20
- b. We are not returning to a *normal life* again. The calling the Master has placed upon our lives is now the only life we have. 2Cor.5:15, 18-20, 1Pet.4:1-2

Thus, one does not go on such a journey of life changing proportions arbitrarily. One must count the cost and prepare provisions that are adequate and needful for the journey of this magnitude.

Three victuals, provisions or necessities readily come to mind:

1. The Provision of Divine Presence
2. The Provision of adequate food
3. The Provision of adequate clothing

**1. THE PROVISION OF DIVINE PRESENCE**

Divine Presence in ministry simply means God is personally present with you and working with you as you labour for Him. Any work a man wants to do *for* God must be done *with* God. If not, it is a waste of time and it will be clearly unacceptable as God cannot be served with human hands. Matt.28:18-20, Mk.16:15, 20.

Even though this is the ideal thing, most times, several people who seemingly labour for God lack this pre-requisite victual: Divine Presence. You must understand that God must be personally and presently present with a man for him to achieve any result of eternal impact. Judg.6:16, Mk.16:20, Jn.5:30, Jn.15:4-5.

However, Divine Presence must be cultivated.

## **How to cultivate Divine Presence**

a. Come under the absolute control of the Holy Spirit. This is done by unquestionable and prompt obedience and response to the Word of God. Rom.8:9, Gal.5:22 [TLB], Gal.5:16 [TLB, GNB]

b. Learn to daily commune with the Holy Spirit. Communion means fellowship, intimate and confidential friendship where you do everything together. 2Cor.13:14, Jn.14:16-17, 26; Jn.16:13-14, 1Cor.2:9-13.

3. Run from all forms of sin [in thought, speech and action]. Nothing else repels God like sin. Josh.7:

## **2. THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE FOOD**

As we Cross over Jordan, we can no longer feed on the type of food we have been feeding on... we must step up in our spiritual diet so that we do not fall on the wayside because of inadequate provision of proper food. A fully grown man cannot feed on baby food. There are different types of food. Some are liquid, semi-solid, solid, meat, strong meat and bones. If we must grow appropriately, then we must feed appropriately. 1Cor13:11, 1Cor.3:1-4, Heb.5:12-14, Heb.6:1.

### **What type of food do we need now?**

Food specially prepared for a long journey. Not perishable but imperishable food that even after 25 years of walking with God, we will still be going in the strength of such food. 1Kgs.19:1-8, Jn.6:1-15, 22-27.

## **3. THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE CLOTHING**

Our clothing must be two-fold as we are crossing the Jordan. First, we must be clothed with the person of the Lord Jesus and secondly, we must be clothed in complete armour if we will not become casualties. Rom.13:14, 1Jn.2:6, 1Pet.2:21-23, Eph.6:12-18.

In putting on the armour of God for this journey, it must be our own armour. There is a great danger in going in someone else's armour [or understanding]. 1Sam.17:38-40, 1Jn.1:1-3, Acts 19:11-17, 2Pet.1:16-19

# LESSON TWO

## CROSSING THE JORDAN Josh.3:1-17

**“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.”**

**J**oshua rose up early in the morning... if a man will be most useful to God, he must come early. David, Samuel, Paul, Joseph, Daniel, Jeremiah and Amos all came early... early in the morning of their lives. When will you come? Amos 7:14-15, Mk.1:35.

**“...And they removed from Shittim and came to Jordan...”**

Shittim (or Acacia Groves) was the last camp of Israel before they got to the Jordan. The Bible says *“They came to Jordan, he and all the children of Israel...”*

Everyone was there. Joshua didn't come alone. Remember that Jordan signified two things: the limit and the boundary that separates Israel from the Promised Land.

In the same way, you and I must come to the Jordan today. Our Jordan is anything and everything that is a limitation in our lives. It is that thing we look at and we say, if God will use anybody, it can never be me!

We all need to come to Jordan early, that we may attempt to Cross over everything that limits all we were meant to be!

Every human being that became something useful in the hand of God came to this Jordan...

Abraham – Gen 17:15-17, Rom.4:17-21

Sarah – Gen.18:9-14, Heb.11:11

Moses – Ex.3:10-12, Ex.4:10-12

Gideon – Judg.6:11-16

Peter – Matt. 26:31-35, 69-75, Jn.21:14-17 (TLB)

Paul – 2 Corinth.12:7-10

The early believers – 1Corth.1:26-29.

*“... and (they) came to Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over...”*

We need to camp before each of our Jordan today. You need to confront every single thing that limits you as far as answering divine call is concerned.

Is it fear? Inferiority complex, over confidence, doubt or lack of either skill or anointing? Remember, God’s best instruments are weak instruments 2Corth.4:7

“And it came to pass after three days, that the officers went through the host; And commanded the people, saying when ye see the ark of the Lord your God, and the priest the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place and go after it.”

The ark here symbolizes the presence of God while the priest symbolizes the disciplers who are to point us to Christ... when we see our leaders (especially the ones over us), saying this is the direction the Lord is leading us to go.

**“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.”** Joshua 3:3 (KJV)

Now even as we are encamped before each of our *Jordans*, the Lord didn’t leave us alone there as he has appointed leaders whose examples we are all to follow as they bear the presence of God in their own lives and they confront their own *Jordan* in a bid to Cross it. By following their example, we can develop strength and confidence in crossing our own *Jordan*... 1Cor.11:1, 1Cor.4:16 [MSG], Phil.3:17 [MSG, NIRV], 1Thes.1:6

**“...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.”**

The Ark of the Covenant, as we said before depicts Divine Presence... thus, the Lord is telling you today, when you see your leaders who are clearly carriers of God's presence, rise up from where you are and follow them! As you follow, you will see that how they overcame and crossed over their own *Jordan*. But how do you recognize a carrier of the presence of God? It is by their lifestyle that is a clear imitation of the life of our Master, Jesus—not necessarily based on the show of spiritual gifts... Matt.7:15-17 [MSG], Matt.12:33, Lk.6:43-47 [MSG]

Joshua 3:4 (KJV) **“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.”**

**“Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure...”**

There must be space between you and whoever is leading you...it is important. This space is what will not make you become familiar such that you now begin to despise the brother or sister that God has set over your life. You must be close to your leaders, yes...but you must never become familiar with them. Understand that God has set them over your life...you are not mates. Gal.4:1-2, Rom.13:1-4

**“...come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go...”**

Zeal is good, but learn to defer to those God has placed ahead of you. Many times when you *come near* (i.e. voicing your opinion when you should keep quiet and learn or questioning their authority instead of asking questions about what you don't understand) you will most probably be humbled by God to just prove to you that seeing a revelation in the Word of God that you have not tested is not the same thing as revelation plus experience in walking with God. Ex.32:7, 15-18; 2Kgs.6:15-17, Acts 15:1-11.

**“...that ye may know the way by which ye must go...”**

Have enough faith and trust in God. Don't come near the way Adam and Eve did after *their eyes opened*...God put leaders ahead of you so that you will not suffer from lack of direction even as you will be confronting your own personal Jordan. Know that God will speak to you about your own personal life but He will speak to your leader about the collective work you're doing together... Ex.25:22, Acts 20:28.

**“...for ye have not passed *this* way heretofore.”**

**“You have never before been where we are going now, so they will guide you...”**  
Joshua 3:4 (TLB)

The more we study, the deeper the reality should sink into us that godly leadership cannot be ignored without grave consequences...in fact, in most occasions when men rebel or reject godly leadership, God considers it as personal affront, insisting that such individuals have directly rejected He Himself. Ex.14:1-11, 1Sam.8:1-8, 2Tim.4:10.

The simple truth is, God will never place over you a man or woman that is not a leader to you—especially in experience when it comes to walking with God. Give the respectable distance God has placed over your life for your own safety...remember **“...you have not passed this way before.”** [RSV] 1Jn.1:1-3, 2Pet.1:16-18, Acts 4:19-20.

**“And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.”** Joshua 3:5 (KJV)

**“And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves...”**

Consecration must precede the wonders of God in the life of a person. Without setting yourself apart, even if God will use you, your *usefulness* will be limited. 2Tim.2:19-21, Ex.3:3-6, Jn.13:1-11

**“...for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.”**

We will be shocked if God tells us all now what he intends to achieve with our lives. As we focus on sanctification today, divine manifestations will be a certainty for tomorrow. All the powers of hell and even heathenism itself could not withstand the conquering power of Christianity. Pagan religions shrank back in the advance of Christianity and begged secular powers to rescue them—yet the whole Greco-Roman civilization was swallowed up in the tidal wave of Christianity...this is what happens when the Lord moves and does wonders amongst us!

Three thousand souls were saved at once, then five thousand just right after that...yet, they had no P.A. system, bogus billboards or even fine auditoriums. All they had was

the Lord who works wonders! He is all we equally have even now as we step out in His name. Mk.16:20, Acts 4:33, Acts 5:12, Acts 2:41, Acts 4:4

**“And Joshua spake unto the priests, saying, Take up the Ark of the Covenant, and pass over before the people. And they took up the Ark of the Covenant, and went before the people.”** Joshua 3:6 (KJV)

It’s time for every leader here to lead! Head towards your own *Jordan* in the sight of all these disciples. As Jesus became our example in all things [including suffering], now go with God and confront everything that looked like an impossible barrier in your own life up till now.

Every weakness that has weakened your walk with God up to this point, it’s time to confront them with God. Only as you succeed will your followers have absolute confidence in you, knowing that, even though you are compassed about with weaknesses as they are, you are a genuine servant of God who has learnt to deal with his challenges by clinging to nothing but the person, presence, and power of the Lord. Zech.4:7, Isa.45:1-3, Ps.24:7-10, Ps.114:1-7.

**“And thou shalt command the priests that bear the Ark of the Covenant, saying, When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan.”** Joshua 3:8 (KJV)

From verse 7 to this verse 8, it is the Lord who began to speak again to Joshua, giving His own strategy on how Jordan will be crossed. Then he commanded Joshua to tell the priests, bearers of the Ark, what they must do once they get to the River Jordan itself: **“When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan.”**

Two things readily come to mind here:

1. As a leader, I must come to my *Jordan* [the barriers and limitations of my life, by which I thought God can never use me], not as I used to come before, coming alone. This time, I must come with the Ark—I must come with Divine Presence. Phil.4:13, Phil.2:13.
2. As I arrive with Divine Presence, I must enter into my *Jordan*, standing still, to see if my weaknesses and personal limitations will not give way to God. My limitations can’t



limit God and my barriers can't bar Him... whatever He plans to achieve with my life is what He will achieve with nothing stopping or restraining Him. Ps.46:10, James 1:6-8, Ex.14:13

**“And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, Come hither, and hear the words of the LORD your God. And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you, and *that* he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites, and the Perizzites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Jebusites.”** Joshua 3:9-10 (KJV)

Here, I challenge you to come near... this is how you will know two things:

1. That God is present with us and in each of us. Matt.28:20
2. That He will certainly help us to conquer lands and conquer before us the armies of darkness that holds men to in bondage in every city and town. Mk16:20

How shall we know these two things?

**“Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth passeth over before you into Jordan. Now therefore take you twelve men out of the tribes of Israel, out of every tribe a man.**

**And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, *that* the waters of Jordan shall be cut off *from* the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap.”** Joshua 3:11-13 (KJV)

**“When the priests who are carrying the Ark touch the water with their feet, the river will stop flowing as though held back by a dam, and will pile up as though against an invisible wall!”** Joshua 3:13 (TLB)

How each of us here will know that God is with us and He's committed to what He is asking us to do is by this: The Lord will cause every of our weaknesses to flee before His presence as He leads us across, into His plan for our lives... and surprisingly, you will discover that you are now more than capable to be able to do the things you thought impossible! Ps.114:1-8.

**“And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people; 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,)”** Joshua 3:14-15 (KJV)

It would not have been a great miracle if Israel had attempted to cross the Jordan at normal times... but God, in order to show both Israel and her enemies that He is God, waited until it is summer when the winter months are passed and the snows of Mount Lebanon in the North, the source of the Jordan become melted and Jordan swells until it overflows its banks, becoming dangerous and absolutely not fordable.

It is the same with God and the way He deals with our weaknesses and the barriers and the inadequacies that threatens the sufficiency of God in our lives... the Lord waits until our *Jordan* is in full strength, He waits until we and the people around us lose hope and declare that it is impossible to be used by God then at that point, He calls us and leads us the very overflowed *Jordan* and holds us by the hands as we cross with Him!

This is why the Lord waited until the world was civilized under the high education and social system of the Greco-Roman world then He called twelve illiterates and asked them to take His message all over the world [Acts 4:13, Jn.7:15]

This is why the wisdom of Egypt was useless in interpreting the dream of the king until an illiterate slave who was nothing other than a shepherd in his own father's land arose with the gift of God and He used divine wisdom to build silos that held stored grain that didn't spoil or expire for fourteen years! Gen.41:1-45

**“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), 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.”** Joshua 3:15-16 (NKJV)

There is something of great importance in this.

# LESSON THREE

## PREPARED FOR WAR

### Hymns

#### ***STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS***

Stand up! stand up for Jesus!

Ye soldiers of the cross;

Lift high His royal banner,

It must not suffer loss:

From vict'ry unto vict'ry

His army shall He lead,

Till every foe is vanquished

And Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up for Jesus

Ye soldiers of the cross;

Lift high His royal banner,

It must not, it must not suffer loss.

Stand up! stand up for Jesus!

The trumpet call obey;

Forth to the mighty conflict

In this His glorious day.

Ye that are men, now serve Him

Against unnumbered foes;  
Let courage rise with danger.  
And strength to strength oppose.

Stand up! stand up for Jesus!  
Stand in His strength alone;  
The arm of flesh will fail you;  
Ye dare not trust your own.  
Put on the Gospel armor,  
And, watching unto prayer,  
Where duty calls, or danger,  
Be never wanting there.

Stand up! stand up for Jesus!  
The strife will not be long:  
This day the noise of battle,  
The next the victor's song;  
To him that overcometh  
A crown of life shall be;  
He, with the King of glory,  
Shall reign eternally.

***CHRISTIAN SEEK NOT YET REPOSE***

Christian, seek not yet repose,  
Hear thy gracious Savior say;  
Thou art in the midst of foes:  
Watch and pray.

Principalities and powers,  
Mustering their unseen array,  
Wait for thy unguarded hours:  
Watch and pray.

Gird thy heavenly armor on,  
Wear it ever night and day;  
Ambushed lies the evil one:  
Watch and pray.

Hear the victors who o'ercame,  
Still they mark each warrior's way;  
All with one sweet voice exclaim,  
Watch and pray.

Hear, above all, hear thy Lord,  
Him thou lovest to obey;  
Hide within thy heart His word:

Watch and pray.

Watch, as if on that alone

Hung the issue of the day;

Pray, that help may be sent down:

Watch and pray.

### ***ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS***

Onward Christian soldiers!

Marching as to war,

With the cross of Jesus

Going on before.

Christ, the royal Master,

Leads against the foe;

Forward into battle,

See, His banners go!

Onward, Christian soldiers!

Marching as to war,

With the cross of Jesus,

Going on before.

At the name of Jesus

Satan's host doth flee;  
On then, Christian soldiers,  
On to victory!  
Hell's foundations quiver  
At the shout of praise:  
Brothers, lift your voices,  
Loud your anthems raise!

Like a mighty army  
Moves the Church of God:  
Brothers, we are treading  
Where the saints have trod;  
We are not divided,  
All one Body we—  
One in faith and Spirit,  
One eternally.

Crowns and thrones may perish,  
Kingdoms rise and wane;  
But the Church of Jesus  
Constant will remain.  
Gates of hell can never  
'Gainst the Church prevail;



We have Christ's own promise,  
Which can never fail.

Onward, then, ye people!  
Join our happy throng;  
Blend with ours your voices  
In the triumph song.  
Glory, laud and honor  
Unto Christ, the King;  
This through countless ages  
Men and angels sing.

**“And the children of Reuben, and the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh, passed over armed before the children of Israel, as Moses spake unto them: About forty thousand prepared for war passed over before the LORD unto battle, to the plains of Jericho.”** Joshua 4:12-13 (KJV)

**“The Reubenites, Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over armed for battle ahead of the Israelites, just as Moses had instructed them. About forty thousand battle-ready troops marched past the LORD to fight on the plains of Jericho.”** (NET)



One of the clearest things to be seen is the fact that the nation was armed for war as they crossed over. They knew they were not crossing over Jordan for a holiday... the Devil doesn't bother himself with a man that is still on the other

side of Jordan, but once a man crosses over, the Devil and his angels engage such a man fiercely in battle.

This is the danger then...in these days when men are more concerned about overcoming their enemies, breakthrough, success and prosperity, they have forgotten that we are at war...which faster way is there to die like when a man doesn't even know he's in a battlefield? 2Cor.2:11, Eph.6:11

If we will be prepared for battle as we have crossed over to the other side of Jordan, there are certain things we must know and pay close attention to:

1. Know your enemies
2. Know your weapons
3. Know and put on the armour of God

## **1. KNOW YOUR ENEMIES**

In this lesson, we are going to be taking a thorough look at the enemies we will confront as we attempt to obey the commands of our Master who ordered us to go out and make disciples for Him from every nation...

**“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.”** Ephesians 6:12 (KJV)

**“For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies—the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world.”** (TLB)

**“For our fight is not against any physical enemy: it is against organisations and powers that are spiritual. We are up against the unseen power that controls this dark world, and spiritual agents from the very headquarters of evil.”** (Phillips NT)

The word *wrestle* in the phrase “**for we wrestle...**” in the Greek is *pale* and it means To struggle; to wrestle; to fight against, grapple, scuffle, tussle. Practical Word Studies explains it like this: *"In the word 'wrestle' [pale], Paul uses a Greek athletic term. Thayer defines as follows: 'a contest between two in which each endeavors to throw the other, and which is decided when the victor is able to press and hold down his prostrate antagonist, namely, hold him down with his hand upon his neck.'* When we consider that the loser in a Greek wrestling contest had his eyes gouged out with resulting blindness for the rest of his days, we can form some conception of the Ephesian Greek's reaction to Paul's illustration. *The Christian's wrestling against the powers of darkness is no less desperate and fateful"* Practical Word Studies in The New Testament.

The Bible is clear on who our enemies are. Our number one and the most ruthless and dangerous enemy is Satan the Devil [See 1Pet.5:8]. However, contrary to the belief of several unsuspecting Christians, the Devil sits over a vast empire with literally hundreds of thousands of fallen angels and countless number of demon spirits.[Matt.25:41, Mk.5:1-9] We normally refer to this satanic empire as the Kingdom of Darkness or the Dark Kingdom. [Lk.11:18].

The organizational structure of that kingdom is what the Lord showed us in Ephesians 6:12.

### **Organizational Structure Of The Kingdom Of Darkness**

Satan's kingdom is primarily organized into four levels of authority under he himself as the god-king. They are the Principalities, the Powers, the Rulers of the Darkness of this world and finally, the Spiritual wickedness in heavenly places. Beneath all these fallen angels and demon spirits are human beings who serve the Devil: witches, wizards, ogbanje, girls possessed with marine spirits and other men involved in occultism. Every unsaved human being is a citizen of that kingdom [Ps.51:5, Matt.7:13].

#### **i. The Principalities**

**“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities...”**  
Ephesians 6:12 (KJV)

**“For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies—the evil rulers of the unseen world...” (TLB)**

They are a class of the high ranking order of angelic beings but obviously not the highest. Although, in Satan’s kingdom, they occupy the highest position as Satan’s executive cabinet who rules with him over the whole realm of his government [Eph.6:12, Col.2:15], there are still mightier angels on God’s side who serve in a higher capacity [Col.1:16, Eph.1:21].

## **ii. The Powers**

**“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against...powers...” (KJV)**

**“...those mighty satanic beings...”**

They are next in line to the Principalities. These are also fallen angels but who serve the will of Satan and his principalities. They oversee vast segments of the satanic government. [Col.2:15].

## **iii. Rulers of the Darkness of this world [Age]**

It is very important for us to understand that the Devil has loyal fallen angels who rule over every nation for him [ ]. This is an imitation of God who has loyal angels who rules over every level of the social order such that there are even angels who guard and protect little children (why else do you think children don’t get hurt when they should have been hurt?

You should not be surprised that over every continent, nation, state, local government, town, street and even home, the Devil has loyal servants [fallen angels and demons] who faithfully carry out his will. This is because earthly organizational structures are merely reflections of what exists in the spirit realm.

2. Know your weapons

3. Know and put on the armour of God

## 2. KNOW YOUR WEAPONS

**“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;” 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (KJV)**

**“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh...”**

**“For although we are human, it is not by human methods that we do battle...” (NJB)**

Many of us Christians, even though we are human, have forgotten that we don't wage war and fight spiritual warfare the human way. They pray against perceived *human enemies*...our enemies are not human beings but powerful spirit beings that will stop at nothing to make sure we are defeated and led back again as slaves under sin... [Eph.6:12]

**“...For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal...”**

**“...We live in this world, but we don't act like its people or fight our battles with the weapons of this world...” (CEV)**

Since our enemies are Satan and his hosts, we must understand that the weapons that will affect them are not physical weapons. Many Christians today *command* spirits to *die* or *die by fire*. Such evil spirits don't take them serious because they themselves are not respecting spiritual laws. Spirits don't die since they are immortal [ ]. They can be cast out [ ], they can be bound [ ], and they can be commanded to leave a location to another specific location [ ]. But they can't be commanded to *die*.

Our weapons are not physical. They are not knives, guns, missiles or bombs. They are spiritual weapons.

**“...But mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds...”**

It doesn't matter since how many years the Devil has supremacy over a city or town. If we understand and apply our weapons appropriately, we can pull down every satanic stronghold. No matter how mighty. Josh.6:1-2, Deut.2:24, 31-36; Josh.1:3.

**“...Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2Cor.10:5 KJV)**

This is how powerful our weapons are. We will now take a closer look at what these weapons are...

### **The spiritual weapons of the Christian**

1. The Name of Jesus
2. The Blood of Jesus
3. The weapon of Prayer
4. Angelic Protection
5. The Presence of God
6. The Armour of God

#### **1. THE NAME OF JESUS**

**“For this reason God raised him to the highest place above and gave him the name that is greater than any other name. And so, in honor of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees, and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**  
Philippians 2:9-11 (TEV)

**“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**  
Philippians 2:9-11 (KJV)

**“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him...”** We need to understand that because of what the Lord Jesus achieved for us on the Cross of Calvary, God has

highly exalted Him. Now, the phrase, “...**God also hath highly exalted him...**” in the original language means “*to exalt to the highest rank and power, to raise to supreme majesty.*” It refers to a super-eminent exaltation. So, this verse can actually read, **“Wherefore, God has exalted Him to the highest rank and power [He has raised Him to supreme majesty, He has super-eminently exalted Him]...”**

Thus, our number one weapon is the name of Jesus who God has exalted to the highest realms of power, honour and dignity in the whole universe after His finished work on the Cross of Calvary [see 1Pet.3:22].

If we must understand this weapon, then we must thresh further...what is a *name*? And what is included in a name? Name here denotes office, rank and dignity. Thus, we can continue the verse by saying:

**“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him [that is, God has exalted Him to the highest rank and power [He has raised Him to supreme majesty, He has super-eminently exalted Him], and given him a name [the Office, the Rank and the Dignity] which is above every name [office, rank or dignity] ...”**

So, in reality, when we pray and cry “In the name of Jesus!” actually, what we are saying is, **“Because of the Office, Rank and Dignity that the Lord Jesus now occupies in His exaltation, we want this and that to be done”.**

**“...And so, in honor of the name [the Office, the Rank and the Dignity] of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees...”**

So, using the name of the Lord in warfare paralyzes all the machinery of the kingdom of darkness, since they must put aside whatever they are doing presently to bow down willfully or forcefully in acknowledgement of the Office, Rank and Dignity of the Lord, especially in the mouth of an authorized user.

[Who is an authorized user of this name? —One who has confessed the lordship of Jesus and believes He is raised from the dead. One who lives daily following the Master and living solely for Him. John 1:12, Jn.3:15-18, 1Jn.2:6, 1Pet.2:21, Rom.10:9-10; Don't be a son of Sceva! Acts 19:13-16]

But what is the present Office, Rank and Dignity of the Lord Jesus?

## 1. The Office of the Lord Jesus

### i. He is the High Priest of the Believer. Heb.4:14-16, Heb.7:11-28, Heb.10:19-22

A High Priest is a man who represents other human beings before God by offering their gifts to God and sacrifices for their sins [Heb.5:1-10, Heb.7:25-28 AMP]. There are different words used to describe the purpose of Christ as our current and permanent High Priest. Here however, we will just focus on two:

**a. He is the Advocate of the Believer.** Rom.8:34, 1Jn.1:7-9, 1Jn.2:1-2, Heb.7:25, Heb.9:24. Basically as our High Priest, the Lord Jesus is our advocate. This means He intercedes and pleads for us before God every time we stumble into sin and quickly run back to God in prayer through the name of the Lord Jesus. What we are actually doing is invoking the Office of the Lord as our High Priest and the Atoning Sacrifice for our sin.

We must not forget that we have an accuser who appears before God to point out each of our shortcomings [Rev.12:10, Job 1:8-12; Job 2:1-7]. Satan will tempt us to sin, then when we yield, he quickly runs to God's throne room in heaven asking that the Christian be released into his own power since he's now a sinner like him (the Devil).

It is at this point that we experience the advocacy aspect of Our Lord's ministry on our behalf as a High Priest—as long as such Christian is quick to repent and is sorrowful for his or her sin [Heb.4:14-16, Heb.7:25], if not, there is nothing for the Lord Jesus to present before God as the Devil will quickly point out that such Christian is even going on in sin without remorse such that the Devil then wins the case [Heb.10:26, Num.15:30, 2Pet.2:20-22, Gal.5:1].

The other being when we pray to God to over anything. We are praying through our High Priest who offers our prayers to God [Jn.14:13-14, Jn.16:24, 26]. Since Jesus pleases God completely, once we pray according to the will of God, He asks God for what we have prayed for as if He prayed over it personally [Jn.11:41-42, Matt.3:17]. This is what makes us powerful in prayer [James 5:16].

Remember, in spiritual warfare, the Devil needs you to be sinning secretly and constantly before he can catch you. However, learn the grace of immediate repentance whenever you stumble into sin [1Jn.3:5-10 AMP]. Don't delay or postpone your



repentance! The more the time you give before returning to God, the farther the Devil will drive you away from God.

**b. He is the Mediator of the Believer.** Heb.1:1, Deut.5:23-31, 1Tim.2:5-6, Jn.14:6, Heb.8:6, Heb.9:15 AMP] A mediator is a go-between. He is someone who stands between two parties or persons as the organ of communication and the agent of reconciliation. Man has sinned before a Holy and Just God and thus, he is cut off from ever being able to approach God by himself unaided [Isa.59:1-8]. The Devil loved it when men are trapped in this hopeless condition for no one can save mankind from the power of the Devil but God Himself [Lk.11:21-22 AMP].

This is why the Devil works very hard to keep people in sin—because when there is sin in the life of a person, the Devil has every legal right, spiritually speaking, to keep such a person in perpetual bondage [Jn.8:34, 1Jn.3:8-10 AMP, Jn.8:44 ].

However, the Mediator must Himself possess the nature and attributes of Him towards whom He acts (i.e. God), and should likewise participate in the nature of those for whom He acts (i.e. men, sin apart); only by being possessed both of deity [Jn.1:1-3, 14] and humanity [1Tim.2:5] could He comprehend the claims of the one [Rom.3:23, Ezek.18:4, Rom.6:23] and the needs of the other [Matt.9:36, Heb.4:14-16, Heb.7:25]; further, the claims and the needs could be met only by One who, Himself being proved sinless, would offer Himself an expiatory sacrifice on behalf of men [1Jn.3:5, Jn.8:46, 2Cor.5:21, Heb.7:26, 1Pet.2:22].

In spiritual warfare therefore, when we use the name of our Lord Jesus as a principal weapon, either in defence for offense, we will definitely pull down strongholds and batter the defences of the enemy beyond repair [2Cor.10:4-5, phil.2:9-11, Col.2:14-15]. This is why the Devil fights fiercely, struggling to make sure Christians don't come to the knowledge of the truth as far as the benefits of our salvation is concerned; for he knows that once you know the truth, you cannot be managed or handled by he and his army anymore [Jn.8:32, 36]!

## **2. The Rank of the Lord Jesus**

i. He is seated at God's Right Hand

- ii. He is exalted above all creation, animate and inanimate
- iii. All Created beings are now particularly under Him

### **3. The Dignity of the Lord Jesus**

**“And so, in honor of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees, and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION & SERMON NOTES:

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