

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

# TAKING NEW GROUND

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# ONLY THE ARK

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<sup>1</sup>Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. <sup>2</sup>After three days the officers went throughout the camp, <sup>3</sup>giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. <sup>4</sup>Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before.

Joshua 3:1-17



But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it.” <sup>5</sup>Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.” <sup>6</sup>Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people.” So they took it up and went ahead of them.

Joshua 3:1-17



<sup>7</sup>And the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. <sup>8</sup>Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: ‘When you reach the edge of the Jordan’s waters, go and stand in the river .’” <sup>9</sup>Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God. <sup>10</sup>This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites.

Joshua 3:1-17



<sup>11</sup>See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. <sup>12</sup>Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. <sup>13</sup>And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the Lord-the Lord of all the earth-set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.”

Joshua 3:1-17



<sup>14</sup>So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. <sup>15</sup>Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, <sup>16</sup>the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

Joshua 3:1-17



<sup>17</sup>The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

Joshua 3:1-17

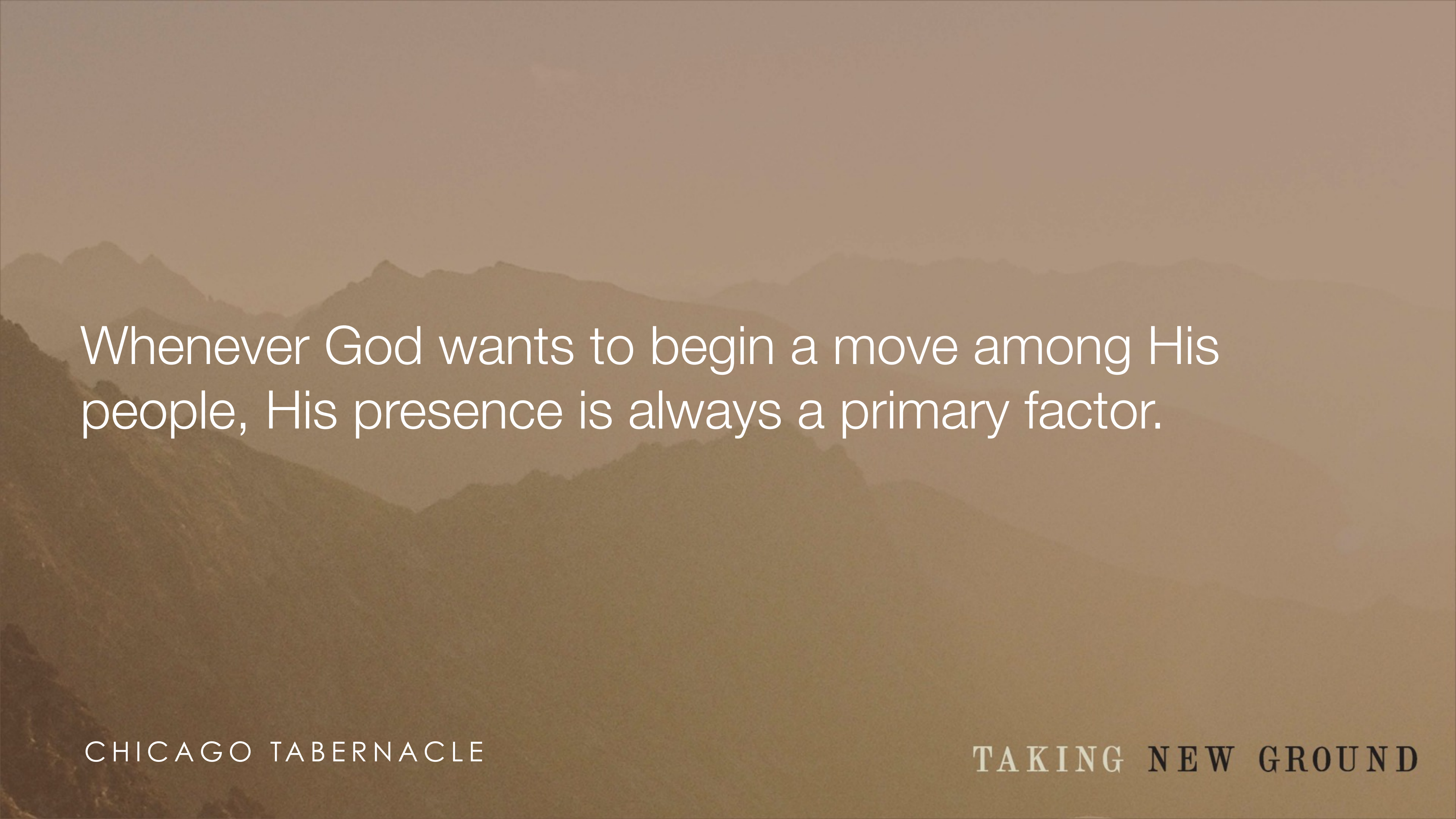




## **Definition of the Ark: The Manifest Presence of God**

- The Ark was God's saving, guiding and powerful presence
- The Ark was God's discernable presence






Whenever God wants to begin a move among His people, His presence is always a primary factor.

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In order to take new ground in 2015, you must remember that it starts with a burden to be connected to God's manifest presence.





Some Christians have to stop using Sundays as the only means for entering into God's presence.

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# The Manifest Presence

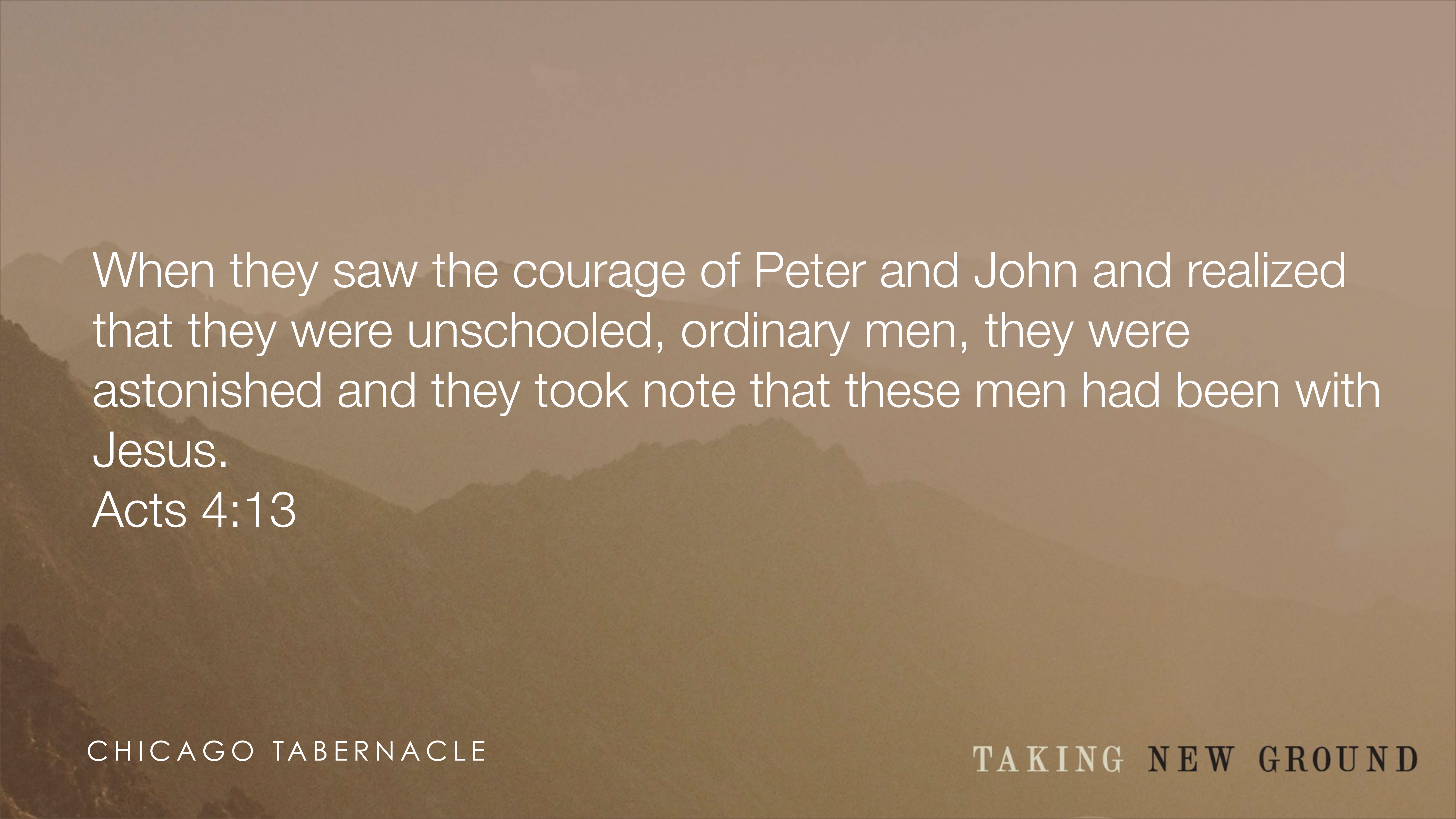
- I. IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: "*Follow the Ark*" Joshua 3:2
- II. IN THE GOSPELS: "*Follow Me...*" Matthew 4:19
- III. IN THE SPIRIT: "*Abide in Me*" John 15:5-8



“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not abide in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you abide in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

John 15:5-8





When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13



## **Only the Ark Must Lead**

...giving orders to the people: 'When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it.

Joshua 3:3



# Only the Ark Can Stop the Flow of the Flesh

Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing.

Joshua 3:15-16



# Only the Ark Can Stop the Flow of the Flesh

It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

Joshua 3:15-16



# Only the Ark Can Stop the Flow of the Flesh

The Scriptures tell us, "The first man, Adam, became a living person." But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit.

1 Corinthians 15:45



# **Only the Ark Can Stop the Flow of the Flesh**

We inherited a fallen nature in the first Adam, but in Christ, the life-giving Spirit empowers us to crossover into the promised abundant life!



# Only the Ark Can Help Us Cross Over Into Victory!

Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the Lord your God. This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you...

Joshua 3:9-11, 17



# **Only the Ark Can Help Us Cross Over Into Victory!**

The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

Joshua 3:9-11, 17




# Only the Ark Can Help Us Cross Over Into Victory!

Victory is a Package Composed Of:

- Being led by God
- Stopping the flow of Adam
- Crossing over into our Promise Land






“Crossing over” means walking into the details of  
God’s amazing plan.

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Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do AMAZING things among you.”

Joshua 3:5





In order to see the “amazing things” in 2015, we need  
to separate ourselves to the presence of God!

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