



"The Future All Unknown." Joshua 3:4.

Joshua 3:4;

Yet there shall be a space between you and it, ( the Ark ), about two thousands 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.

*irreverent familiarity with sacred things not the best way to obtain guidance in the way of God*

1-The setting:

1-When the Israelites heard the evil report of the ten spies, and rebelled against Moses, God said of all of them under twenty, "Your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years."

2-During that period the people must have become very familiar with the desert.

a-Its principal geographical features would be known by heart to men who frequently crossed old tracks and re-trod old paths.

3-Crossing the Jordan:

a-The way would be strange and altogether new.

b-It would be new, not merely in a geographical sense, but altogether, to most of them, a totally fresh kind of experience.

c-Time has strange paths and new experiences as well as territory so we need to keep the teaching of God always in mind.

1-"The New Year" upon which we have entered may bring new perplexities; therefore we should seek afresh the Divine guidance.

1-Financially, socially, spiritually, the new days ahead may form a very labyrinth and maze about us.

a-Jonah was by no means the last of the race who think more of the prestige of the prophet than of the fate of the city. He is led well and wisely who prays---"Shew me thy ways, O Lord, teach me thy paths;" for "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him, and He will shew them His ways/covenant." Psalms 25:4;14.

*Robie -  
5 PM coming  
features of*

2-This New Year may bring new afflictions; therefore we should each cultivate a closer union with God.

1-"Growing up into Him," who is our strength in days which are calm, we are not likely to fail in the day of tempest and storm.

3-The New Year may bring new temptations, and therefore calls on us to "watch and pray."

1-As we get older we are apt to grow into a careless feeling of security. Men sometimes say,

"I have stood, I do stand;  
Therefore I shall stand."

Christian history  
should rather teach us to put it,

"I have  
stood, I do stand; therefore I may grow  
careless and fall."

2-Three examples:

a-It was long-~~tried~~ Moses who sinned at  
Meribah. *number 20:1-13*

b-It was after David had so long behaved  
himself wisely before Saul;

After he had  
brought the ark back to the city of  
David;

After he had written many a sweet  
song for Israel, and volunteered to  
build the temple;

That he turned adulterer  
and murderer.

c-It was long after his noble confession  
and when he had for years delighted in  
the teaching and love of the Saviour,  
that Peter said, "I know not the man."

4-Finally, the New Year may reveal a new life  
and fresh inheritance; therefore we should  
be prepared for death.

1-Our cold river, the river of death, may  
have to be crossed. Shall we find on the  
other side the New Jerusalem, and one of  
the many mansions ready for us? Shall we  
meet with all the redeemed and take our  
part in the New Song?

