

Crossing Over Trilogy: Book of Joshua, Chapters 1-5 (Slide 2)

Also Read: Exodus 11-15

I. Before the Crossing (Pre-Quel): Enslaved & Deserted

Exodus 1:11 KJV Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens.

A. What is slavery?

- Bondage = restriction, controlled movement
- Slavery is about control. Control is a by/product of fear and anger.
- Control ensures 'my' security at the expense of others.
- Enslavement is for the profit of another
- Enslavement is a by-product of war.
- Why was Joseph never a slave? **Because there is a difference between a slave and a servant.**

B. Making a Slave (Slide 3)

Exodus 1:11 NLT So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves.

In one sentence a nation was enslaved – how?

Exodus 1:11b NLT So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves. **They appointed brutal slave drivers over them, hoping to wear them down with crushing labor.** They forced them to build the cities of Pithom and Rameses as supply centers for the king.

- How are slaves made? You hurt them – by words or actions - and they will create their stocks from un-forgiveness and fear.
- Satan wants to enslave the world; he is/was the first human trafficker.

John 10:10 KJV The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly.

- Those Satan can't intimidate into slavery he will try trick into slavery (through temptation and subsequent sin) by telling you – its okay.

Genesis 3:4-5 KJV 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

- And some are willing servants (rebellion).

Hebrews 11:25 KJV Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to **enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;**

- All men have been slaves (to sin) at one point

John 8:32-34 NKJV 32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." 33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How [can] You say, 'You will be made free'?" 34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.

Psalms 51:5 KJV Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Slide 4 – Just because you are free does not mean Satan will stop lying to you.

C. Backdrop

At one point like Israel, we have all been enslaved to sin either through hurt, temptation, proclamation or as willing participants. **But then at some point we experience an emancipation from bondage – for us it's the physical act of baptism and deliverance**

Exodus 14:16, 22, 29 KJV 16 But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry [ground] through the midst of the sea. ... 22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry [ground]: and the waters [were] a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. ... 29 But the children of Israel walked upon dry [land] in the midst of the sea; and the waters [were] a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

Exodus 13:3 KJV And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the **house of bondage**; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this [place]: there shall no leavened bread be eaten.

- House(bayith) = structure, physical, tangible (a place to pass the night)
- Freedom without promise or direction produces wandering.
- Promise and direction – mental. Sometimes after we are delivered even though we have big picture promise and direction – we wander. **Slide 5**

Fast Forward through a lot of Wandering

D. Jordan River

Joshua 1:1-2 KJV 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, 2 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.

Slide 6, 7

- God is very purposeful in his directions (wait at this spot, cross here).
- **Because the river is lined by steep slopes, crossing could be very difficult and only accomplished at a few spots.**
- **Slide 8** Lowest river in the world and ends at the dead sea (starts at mt. Hermon in Lebanon).

- **Slide 9** It sits on a fault line, two tectonic plates African and Asian plates – but the African plate forms a divergent boundary with Egypt – meaning its pulling away from it in the south and pushing toward it in the north.
- It is a centermark for the promised land and because the plates are pulling apart, it is literally enlarging the existing territory.

Deuteronomy 19:8 KJV And if the LORD thy God **enlarge** thy coast, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers, and give thee all the land which he promised to give unto thy fathers;

1Ch 4:10 NKJV And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and **enlarge my territory**...

Jos 1: 4 KJV 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.

E. Wait for it....Wait for it... **Slide 11**

Jos 1:2, KJV 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.

Be strong and of very good courage...cuz these people is nuts.

Joshua 3:1 KJV 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.

- Three day waiting period after a 40 year experience.
- The 'desert' experience was to acclimate them to freedom, which is necessary to experience promise. In other words – it was a recovery period because trust had been broken (on both ends).
- Freedom in three areas
 - Physical freedom – **man**
 - Mental Freedom – **self**
 - Spiritual freedom – **God**
- Mental bondage comes from Satan's language and tends to be in the 'past' tense.
- Ex: I have always; I have never so I will never. (just because you haven't doesn't mean you won't). We talk ourselves back into slavery without Satan ever saying a word to us.
- Spiritual freedom comes from seeing ourselves as God sees us – it is a believe it when I see it choice.
- And God's language is future tense – difference is its waiting to be fulfilled. When Satan's words look into the future they are seeking what they can destroy.
- **3 days of waiting before crossing similar to three days of waiting for resurrection (Jesus, Lazarus).**

- Three days waiting was an incubation period for the word – like a baby in the incubator, the word was birthed through prophecy but delicate and had to grow in a protected environment to survive.

Lead in to Blockbuster: Why did Israel have to cross over the Jordan River specifically to enter the promised land? Why did they have to cross the Jordan River at the point they did?

II. The Crossing (Blockbuster) Joshua 3 Slide 12/13

- **First Picture shows Jordan at one point, second at a different point. This is why God had to be specific in where they crossed. Because we can be swallowed up in the process of crossing**
- **Slide 14 Look at the pictures on the monitor. What is the difference in these between the two sides of the river?**
- **They needed to see the promises in the spirit in order to move forward and to be completely free. Some of the blessings we are looking for are hiding in plain sight and it just takes an act of faithful obedience to walk into them.**

Jos 3: 15-17 KJV 15 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,) 16 That the waters which came down from above stood [and] rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that [is] beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, [even] the salt sea, failed, [and] were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho. 17 And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.

- **Jordan River is the deepest river on the earth as far as being under sea level and it feeds into the deepest spot on the earth – the dead sea.**
- The Red sea was a burial or death to physical enslavement of the Jews. It was a literal emancipation. But this generation had not seen the parting of the Red Sea.
- The Jordan river was a burial of a mental enslavement- it was a figurative emancipation. **Sunday Brother Chris said “we are freed by the blood of the lamb”. Last Friday there was a physical deliverance of our young people. Demons were literally cast out of bodies. There was a Red Sea death to bondage.**
- Next step was some time in the desert, off alone and away from the things that enslaved you to learn how to stop thinking like a slave to that sin. **Desert is like a fast – how often have we thought about follow up fasts?**
- Prior generation passed down a mentality of slavery to the generation about to cross over. When they were released from Egyptian bondage all they did was complain for years that what they thought would be instant require effort on their part. They had to walk to the blessing because as slaves **Crossing over had nothing to do with physical steps and everything to do with being ready to break the mentality of being a slave.**

- Crossing it was a rebirth experience for the nation. The three days on the riverbank they were impregnated with expectation.
- Crossing through the water was birthing process. They couldn't see where the ark was going because it went so far in front of them but it focused their vision from a place of death and bondage to a place of life and freedom.

A. Faithful obedience (Backstory)

Joshua 3:3-4 KJV 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. 4 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.

1. Instructions are given. Seemingly random instructions. **(back to the map and point out other spots they could have crossed).**
2. First instruction was for God to go in first. This was because we cannot precede the God into a blessing he created. We follow him into it. In this case they had to follow God into the land because it was occupied by enemies who wanted to kill what was being birthed. (Revelation 12:4)
3. They had to enter in obedience because the land was occupied by descendants of disobedience – Ham whose poor grandson Canaan got the curse (out of 4 other sons)
4. Each tribe occupying the land represented a different spirit of opposition to the promise (whole other bible study).

B. Unity

Promised Land was inhabited by contradictions to their nature and mandate. The people and culture was their total opposite – which is why God had to go first as the head and the body followed.

1. They all crossed over at the same time, they helped each other step into promise. Going back to EC preaching last week about us helping each other. God cleared the way and they had one job while crossing over (in order).
2. The priests (men!) were the ark bearers, they bore the presences of God so others could pass through to the promise. They literally stood still and saw the salvation of the lord- a people saved completely from an old way of life and walking into a new.

Joshua 4:10 KJV For the priests which bare the ark stood in the midst of Jordan, until every thing was finished that the LORD commanded Joshua to speak unto the people, according to all that Moses commanded Joshua: and the people hasted and passed over.

3. The warrior tribes already had their inheritance at this point but couldn't have rest in it until their brothers and sisters obtained their promise.

Jos 1:12, 14-15 KJV 12 And to the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, spake Joshua, saying, ... 14 Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle, shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side Jordan; but ye shall pass before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valour, and help them; 15 Until the LORD have given your brethren rest, as [he hath given] you, and they also have possessed the land which the LORD your God giveth them: then ye shall return unto the land of your possession, and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD'S servant gave you on this side Jordan toward the sunrising.

Lead in to Sequel: What changed after they crossed the Jordan river?

- They stopped missing things from their old life – from their slave life.
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III. After the Crossing (Sequel): Jericho – Break the Walls Down Slide 16

Joshua 4:13 About forty thousand prepared for war passed over before the LORD unto battle, to the plains of Jericho.”

- Once they crossed over into the promised land they now operated in power they previously didn't have.
- They raise out of the Jordan River with power of promise and the authority of fulfillment. In other words they were finally in the zone.
- First thing they did was circumcise themselves –
- Second thing they did was essentially fast from speaking.
- Third thing they did was start to tear down walls or blockages.
- IN prayer on Tuesday a few weeks ago and I heard Cleary – If you want it removed – **remove it**.
- At this point they could finally **see** what they had only heard about (through the word of God spoken to them) previously.
- Although the land itself looked no different from the side of the river they had just come from, they began to conquer and possess through obedience where they had not before.
- The time in the desert taught them obedience in freedom. They had been obedient as slaves, if not they would have risen up and revolted prior to Moses. Desert taught them obedience in freedom because freedom inherently brings power and promise.

BTW

Joshua 2:1-2 KJV 1 And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there. 2 And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither to night of the children of Israel to search out the country.

These guys were awful spies...and Rahab's house was on the wall that was flattened

Joshua 2:15 KJV 15 Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house [was] upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall.

Joshua 6:20 KJV So the people shouted when [the priests] blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.