

## Crossing Over

**2 times the Israelites were to cross over into the promised land. The first time they got afraid and did not enter. The second time they entered victoriously.**

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**Deuteronomy 6:10-12** "So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, <sup>11</sup> houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant--when you have eaten and are full-- <sup>12</sup> then beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

- God promises Israel the Promised land.
- God warns them that when they are blessed not to forget what He has done.

**Joshua 1:2** "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them--the children of Israel.

- God reminds them of His promise

**Both times the Israelites had the same promise. God's promise never changed.**

**God fully expects us to take advantage of His promises** - When the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers... then beware, lest you forget the LORD.

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**Numbers 13:1-2** And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a leader among them."

- God directs them to check out the land. See what's there.

**Numbers 13:17-20** Then Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them, "Go up this way into the South, and go up to the mountains,<sup>18</sup> and see what the land is like: whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, few or many;<sup>19</sup> whether the land they dwell in is good or bad; whether the cities they inhabit are like camps or strongholds;<sup>20</sup> whether the land is rich or poor; and whether there are forests there or not. Be of good courage. And bring some of the fruit of the land." Now the time was the season of the first ripe grapes.

- God tells them exactly what to look for. And He sent them at a time when they would see a huge blessing.
- He never asked them to see if it was possible. Only to see what is there.
  - We are the ones who decide to look at what is possible. Not God.

**Joshua 2:1** Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there.

- They also sent out spies to see what crossing over would be like.

**Joshua 2:14** So the men answered her, "Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the LORD has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you."

- These spies did not look at what was possible, only at what was there. And they spied with the knowledge God has given them this land.

**At some point in taking hold of God's promises to us we may look at what is involved in actually taking hold of it. We are spying on our destiny.**

**But when we look at our future – look at it with the promise of God. Not at what is possible.**

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**Numbers 13:25** And they returned from spying out the land after forty days.

**Numbers 13:27-29** Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.<sup>28</sup> Nevertheless the

people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. <sup>29</sup> The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan."

- They saw the blessings that God promised, but they also saw the obstacles that they were not expecting.
- Why didn't God tell them what they would see (the obstacles)?

**Joshua 2:23-24** So the two men returned, descended from the mountain, and crossed over; and they came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all that had befallen them. <sup>24</sup> And they said to Joshua, "Truly the LORD has delivered all the land into our hands, for indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us."

- Were the same obstacles there? Yes.

#### **Their response to those obstacles:**

**Numbers 14:4** So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."

**Joshua 3:1** Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over.

**Both had the same obstacles and the same blessings. But what was the difference? Why did one not enter and the other enter?**

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**Numbers 13:30-33** Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it. <sup>31</sup>" But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." <sup>32</sup> And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which

we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature.<sup>33</sup> There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

- They saw themselves as the enemy sees them
- They did not see themselves as God sees them

**Joshua 2:9-11** and said to the men: "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you.<sup>10</sup> For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.<sup>11</sup> And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

- They saw themselves as God sees them

**The first set of spies could not actually know how the enemy viewed them. They saw themselves as they perceived that the enemy viewed them.**

- This is a trick of the enemy. He is actually afraid of us, but he wants us to believe that he is powerful and to be feared. He does not want us to know the truth of our authority and position in Christ.

**The second set of spies saw themselves and the enemy as God sees**

**Our victory lies in:**

- **The ability to see the obstacles and the enemy, but to see them as God sees them.**
  - **To know His promise is true**
  - **To see ourselves in regards to our authority and position in Christ**
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