



ENTERING  
the promised LAND



# **BREAK-THROUGH WORD FOR US**

## **Exodus 23:20-21, 30**

**20** Behold, I send an Angel  
before you to keep you in the way and  
**to bring you into the place**  
which I have prepared.

**21** Beware of Him and obey His voice;  
do not provoke Him ...  
for **My Name is in Him.**

# Exodus 23:30

## <sup>30</sup>Little by little

I will drive them out from before you,  
until you have increased,  
and you inherit the land.



Crossing the

*River Jordan*

## **Joshua 3:1 - 17**

**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.

**2** So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp;



## **Joshua 3:1 - 17**

**<sup>3</sup>and they commanded the people, saying, “When you see the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it.**

## **Joshua 3:1 - 17**

**4** Yet there shall be a space Between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before."



## **Joshua 3:1 - 17**

**5** And Joshua said to the people,  
“Sanctify yourselves,  
for tomorrow the LORD  
will do wonders among you.”

## **Joshua 3:1 - 17**

**6** Then Joshua spoke to the priests, saying,  
“Take up the Ark of the Covenant and  
cross over before the people.”  
So they took up the Ark of the Covenant  
and went before the people.

## **Joshua 3:1 - 17**

**<sup>7</sup>And the LORD said to Joshua,  
“This day I will begin to exalt you  
in the sight of all Israel,  
that they may know that, as I was  
with Moses, so I will be with you.**

## **Joshua 3:1 - 17**

**8**You shall command the priests who bear the Ark of the Covenant, saying, 'When you have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan, you shall stand in the Jordan.'"

## **Joshua 3:1 - 17**

**9** So Joshua said to the children of Israel,  
“Come here, and hear  
the Words of the LORD your God.”

## **Joshua 3:1 - 17**

**10** And Joshua said, "By this you 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 3:1 - 17**

**11** Behold, the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan.

**12** Now therefore, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man from every tribe.

## **Joshua 3:1 - 17**

**13** And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap.”

## **Joshua 3:1 - 17**

**14** So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant before the people,

## **Joshua 3:1 - 17**

**15** 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)*

## **Joshua 3:1 - 17**

**16** 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 3:1 - 17**

**17** Then the priests who bore the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.



# Background

- The Promised Land was the Goal.
- When the Israelites left Egypt, they were looking forward to their dream of a Land Flowing with Milk and Honey.

# Background

- The Journey to the Promised Land was not easy.
  - The 12 spies (Numbers 13 – 14)
  - Unbelief caused the Israelites to wander in the desert for 40 years.
- [Hebrews 3 - 4]

# Background

- Except for Joshua, Caleb and all the men born in the wilderness, the rest of the men who came out of Egypt died in the wilderness, Moses being the last.
- Joshua and Caleb
  - followed God fully
  - Men of a different spirit

# Background

- They now stand at the bank of the Jordan River looking across to the Promised Land.
- The Jordan River is the line separating the Israelites from the Promised Land.
- To reach the Promised Land, they had to cross the River Jordan.

# Background

- Most of the year, the Jordan River was only a mere stream that was easily forded.
- However, during the harvest season, the river transformed from a small stream into a mighty river that would overflow and flood the surrounding plain.

# Background

Guess WHEN God chose  
for the Israelites to cross the River?

At the **FLOOD STAGE !!!**



# Background

Will this generation cross over?

**OR**

Will they be as rebellious as  
their fathers had been?

**Crossing** the **River Jordan**

To **Entering** the **Promised Land**

**Lesson Principles**

# Crossing River Jordan to the Promised Land

I. **KNOW** what is the Promised Land.

# The Promised Land is :-

1. the **PATH** of Life.
2. the **PRESENCE** of Joy.
3. The **PLEASURES** at  
the Right Hand of God.

**Psalm 16:11**

# The Promised Land is where :-

1. We find **STRENGTH** to cope with *stress*.

2. We have His **PEACE** to calm every *anxiety / worry*.

3. There is no *fear* as we are perfected in **HIS LOVE**

The Promised Land is where

**WE HAVE HIS WORD**  
**WE HAVE EVERYTHING!**

(2 Peter 1:3 – 4)

**Provision**

**Protection**

**His Presence**

**His Joy**

**Wisdom**

**His Love**

**Abundance of Grace**

**Peace**

**Favor**



The Promised Land is where

We know the keys to **VICTORY!**

We have the strength to **OVERCOME!**

For every circumstance and situation!

**The Right Hand of God is!**  
**The Place of Answered Prayers!**  
**Pleasures Forevermore!**

# Crossing River Jordan to the Promised Land

I. KNOW what is the Promised Land.

II. Making the DECISION -  
COMMITMENT

# The Lord has spoken :-

- Now is the time to enter the Promised Land.
- The Kingdom of God is a Theocracy.
- The Lord works through His under-shepherds.

# The Lord has spoken :-

- The Vision-Direction is released through His leaders.
- Importance of the Church-in-Action Groups.
- Elders-Deacons-Pastors-COs-CSs-CGLs..

## Joshua 1:16 - 18

<sup>16</sup>So they answered Joshua, saying,  
"All that you command us we will do,  
and wherever you send us we will go.

<sup>17</sup>Just as we heeded Moses in all things,  
so we will heed you.

Only the LORD your God be with you,  
as He was with Moses.

## **Joshua 1:16 - 18**

**18**Whoever rebels against your command and does not heed your words, in all that you command him, shall be put to death.  
Only be strong and of good courage."

## Crossing River Jordan to the Promised Land

- This was a defining moment for Israel.
- This was a time of commitment, a time of ending an era and entering another.
- There is a sense of uncertainty that accompanies every change.



## Crossing River Jordan to the Promised Land

- On the other side of the river were walled cities, defending armies and even giants.
- 40 years prior, Israel was presented with the same choice to make a transition and they refused!
- This time, Joshua was ready to move them forward.

# Personal Application

We too, must take decisions  
at the various transitions  
of our personal lives.

We too, must take decisions at the various transitions of our personal lives:-

- ✓ PSLE / O Levels / ITE
- ✓ College / Poly / University
- ✓ National Service / Working Life / Career
- ✓ Friendship / Being Single / Marriage / Family

We too, must take decisions at the various transitions of our personal lives:-

- ✓ Young Adult / Adult / Mid-Life / MellowGreen Senior
- ✓ Children – Primary-Secondary-Poly-College-Tertiary-Adults
- ✓ Home – Downgrade? Financial Freedom? etc ...

# Corporate BBTC Application

We too, must make decisions  
at the various transitions  
of our church life

We too, must make decisions at the various transitions of our church life :-

- ✓ Decision at Bethesda Katong to establish BBTC
- ✓ The difficult years of the early nineties
- ✓ Transition of the small groups to now the Church-in-Action Groups – CGs

We too, must make decisions at the various transitions of our church life :-

- ✓ Change in the Worship Format
- ✓ Full-time Pastoral Staff
- ✓ Evolving Core Values
- ✓ Spiritual Renewal Weekends
- ✓ Leadership Retreats



We too, must make decisions at the various transitions of our church life :-

- ✓ Church Camps with bonding and spiritual focus
- ✓ Leadership Structure based on functions and portions

We too, must make decisions at the various transitions of our church life :-

- ✓ **The Building Expansion Project**
- ✓ **The decision to add level 3+**
- ✓ **BBTC – IDMC – Building Depth & Extending Breadth**

# Crossing River Jordan to the Promised Land

- I. KNOW what is the Promised Land.
- II. Making the DECISION – COMMITMENT.
- III. Focus your eyes on GOD.

## Joshua 3:3a

and they commanded the people,  
saying, “When you see the Ark  
of the Covenant of the LORD  
your God ...

**The Ark** represents

**the Presence of the LORD**

**Exodus 33:14 - 15**

**14** And He said, "**My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.**"

**15** Then he said to Him,  
"If Your Presence does not go with us,  
do not bring us up from here."

## **Exodus 33:11**

So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face,  
as a man speaks to his friend. And he would  
return to the camp, but his servant Joshua  
the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart  
from the tabernacle.

## **Hebrews 12:2**

looking unto Jesus,  
the author and perfector of our faith

**The Lord has promised to always  
guide us :-**

a. by His **WORD**

b. by His **SPIRIT**



## Matthew 22:29

Jesus answered and said to them,  
“You are mistaken,  
not knowing the **Scriptures**  
nor the **Power of God.**

a. By His **WORD**

## **1 Peter 2:2 - 3**

<sup>2</sup>as newborn babes, desire the pure **milk**  
**of the Word**, that you may **grow** thereby,  
<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have **tasted** that the Lord  
is gracious.

The **GOAL** of the intake of the **MILK**  
of the Word is to **EXPERIENCE** the reality  
of the Promises of God / Word in your life.

a. By His **WORD**

## **Matthew 4:4**

But He answered and said, "It is written,  
'Man shall not **live** by **bread** alone,  
but by **every word that proceeds**  
**from the mouth of God.**"

The **GOAL** of the intake of the **BREAD**  
of the Word is to regularly hear  
what the Lord is **SPEAKING** to you  
in your daily living.

a. By His **WORD**

## Hebrews 5:14

But **solid food** belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by **reason of use** have their **senses exercised** to **discern** both good and evil.

The **GOAL** of the intake of the **MEAT** of the Word is to sharpen **DISCERNMENT** as you **APPLY** the Word to the situations of your life.

a. By His **WORD**

## **High Quest**

QT – TAWG – Devotional Time

What has the Lord been speaking to you?

What is He drawing your attention to?

Share and Minister in a sub-group of CG

Transparency - Depth

From January 2007 !

b. By His **SPIRIT**

**Ephesians 5:15 - 18**

<sup>15</sup>See then that you **walk circumspectly**, not as fools but **as wise**, <sup>16</sup>**redeeming the time**, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>Therefore do not be unwise, but **understand** what the **Will of the Lord** is. <sup>18</sup>And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but **be filled with the Spirit**

b. By His **SPIRIT**

This is through

(1) Developing our **PRAYER**  
**COMMUNION**

(2) Strengthening our **ALTAR OF**  
**THANKSGIVING, PRAISE AND**  
**WORSHIP**



# Crossing River Jordan to the Promised Land

- I. KNOW what is the Promised Land.
- II. Making the DECISION – COMMITMENT.
- III. Focus your eyes on GOD.
- IV. CONSECRATE yourself.

## Joshua 3:5

And Joshua said to the people,  
“Sanctify yourselves,  
for tomorrow the LORD  
will do wonders among you.”

# 1 Peter 2:9

But you are a **chosen** generation,  
a **royal priesthood**, a **holy** nation,

His own **special** people,

that you may proclaim the praises of Him  
who called you out of darkness  
into His marvelous light

## 1 Peter 1:15 - 16

<sup>15</sup>but as He who called you is holy,  
**you also be holy in all your conduct,**

<sup>16</sup>because it is written,  
**“Be holy,** for I am holy.”

To **CONSECRATE** means

- To be Holy
- To be Special to God
- To be Set Apart
- To be Separate

What is permissible for Non-Christians  
and Nominal Christians  
is not permissible for you.

What **was** permissible for you  
in the past may not be permissible for you  
as you cross the River Jordan  
into the Promised Land.

# Crossing River Jordan to the Promised Land

- I. KNOW what is the Promised Land.
- II. Making the DECISION – COMMITMENT.
- III. Focus your eyes on GOD.
- IV. CONSECRATE yourself.
- V. CROSS OVER your River Jordan.



## Joshua 3:6

Then Joshua spoke to the priests, saying,  
“Take up the Ark of the Covenant and  
**cross over** before the people.”  
So they took up the Ark of the Covenant  
and **went** before the people.

## Joshua 3:14

So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with the priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant before the people

## Joshua 3:15 - 17

**15** 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*)

## Joshua 3:15 - 17

<sup>16</sup>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 - 17

<sup>17</sup>Then the **priests** who bore the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD **stood firm** on dry ground in the **midst of the Jordan**; and **all Israel crossed over** on dry ground, until all the people had **crossed completely over** the Jordan.

**James 1:22**

Obey - Apply - Do the Word

# What is Your River Jordan?

**Laziness**

**Career**

**Money**

**Fears**

**Habitual Sin**

**Stronghold**

**Children**

**Your Job**

**Fear of Man**

**Spouse**

**Bad Job Situation**

**Broken Marriage**

**Grief**

**Financial Debts**

# What is Your River Jordan?

- This is the place you either **CROSS OVER** or settle for being just **short** of where God wants you to be.
- The River Jordan is the symbol of **Death and Resurrection.**



# What is Your River Jordan?

- **What must die in your life ?**

which part of you, your possessions,

your relationships, your activities ...

in order that you press deeper in your walk with God and grow in your faith to inherit the Promises of God.



# This is a transition from

- Natural Life
  - Tree of Knowledge
  - Walk by Sight
  - Remain in Comfort Zone
  - Worried and anxious of things and issues of this life
- 
- Spiritual Life
  - Tree of Life
  - Walk by Faith
  - Crossing Over
  - Seeking first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness

# Promise of God

## Isaiah 43:1 – 2a

<sup>1</sup>But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel : “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. <sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you ... And thru’ the rivers, they shall not overflow you ...

# Conclusion

## The Moses Generation in the Wilderness

Spent 40 years in the wilderness,  
led by a Pillar of Cloud by day  
and a Pillar of Fire by night

# The Moses Generation in the Wilderness

Afraid of the  
Unknown

Fear of the Giants

Fearful of Change

Complaining and  
Murmuring

Doubt God even  
when they had  
witnessed God's  
Power

Wandering in the  
Wilderness

# The Joshua Generation

They Embraced Changes and Transitions

**They crossed  
the River Jordan**

**They ate new food -  
no more manna**

**They let go of  
the past**

**They followed the Ark**

**They entered  
the Promised  
Land of their own  
inheritance**

**They enjoyed the new  
wine in new wineskin**

**They had never been  
in this way before  
(Joshua 3:4)**

# The Joshua Generation

They Embraced Changes and Transitions

**They live by the Spirit**

**They keep in step with the Spirit**

(Galatians 5:25)

**They expect God to do  
amazing things**

# Conclusion

**What kind of people are we?**

**THE MOSES GENERATION  
IN THE WILDERNESS**

**OR**

**THE JOSHUA GENERATION**

# Conclusion

The difference between :

Moses

Generation

Live by Sight

Joshua

Generation

Live by Faith



# Conclusion

## Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

# Conclusion

- I. KNOW what is the Promised Land.
- II. Making the DECISION – COMMITMENT.
- III. Focus your eyes on GOD.
- IV. CONSECRATE yourself.
- V. CROSS OVER your River Jordan.

# Conclusion

## 2 Kings 2:13 – 14

**13** He [Elisha] also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan.

**14** Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "Where is the LORD God of Elijah?" And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.