

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 8-14-16 AM NOTES
"LIFE IS A JOURNEY"
JOSHUA 1:10-11
2 in Series "Joshua: A Vision Fulfilled"

Type—a person, place, or event in the Old Testament that foreshadows something in the New Testament.

Matthew 16:4 "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah."

Numbers 21:9 "So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived."

John 3:14-15 "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life."

1 Corinthians 10:1-2, 5-6, 11 "For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea ... Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved... Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come."

Hebrews 3:7-12 "Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, 'Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, as in the day of trial in the wilderness, where your fathers tried Me by testing Me, and saw My works for forty years. Therefore I was angry with this generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart, and they did not know My ways'; as I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.' Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God."

Hebrews 3:17-19 "And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief."

"Traditional typology should be used with due caution. The early Christian church went to extremes on its typological use of the Old Testament. Yet this excess should not prevent the church from using typology where Scripture permits or suggests it."

—Dr. Marten Woudstra

I. Egypt

Romans 6:17b "...you were slaves of sin..."

Ephesians 2:1-3 "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest."

II. The Red Sea

Exodus 14:11-12 "Then they said to Moses, 'Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.'"

Exodus 14:13-16 "But Moses said to the people, 'Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent. Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward. As for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the sons of Israel shall go through the midst of the sea on dry land.'"

A. It Was Miraculous

Ephesians 2:4-9 "But God being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."

John 19:30 "It is finished!"

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

B. It Is Irreversible

1 John 2:19 "They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us."

C. It Is Necessary for Canaan

III. The Wilderness

Deuteronomy 1:2 "It is eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir to Kadesh-barnea."

Deuteronomy 1:26-32 "Yet you were not willing to go up, but rebelled against the command of the Lord your God; and you grumbled in your tents and said, 'Because the Lord hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites to destroy us. Where can we go up? Our brethren have made our hearts melt, saying, 'The people are bigger and taller than we; the cities are large and fortified to heaven. And besides, we saw the sons of the Anakim [giants] there.' Then I said to you, 'Do not be shocked, nor fear them. The Lord your God who goes before you will Himself fight on your behalf, just as He did for you in Egypt before your eyes, and in the wilderness where you saw how the Lord your God carried you, just as a man carries his son, in all the way which you have walked until you came to this place.' But for all this, you did not trust the Lord your God."

IV. The Jordan River

Matthew 16:25 "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."

V. Canaan

Luke 9:23 "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me."

First Baptist Church, 8-14-16 AM
Sermon 2: Life Is a Journey
Joshua 1:10-11
Series: Joshua: A Vision Fulfilled

The book of Joshua is a book of history, but it is more than that. It is a book filled with principles, illustrations, and “types” that are very much applicable to today. Let’s talk about *types* in the Scripture. Generally, a *type* is a person, place, or event in the Old Testament that foreshadows something in the New Testament.

We should never base doctrine on a type, but sometimes types are helpful in illustrating truth and thus making truth easier to understand. Jesus used Jonah as a *type* of His time in the grave and His promised resurrection on the third day. Matthew 16:4: “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah.” Jesus was using the Old Testament account of Jonah being in the belly of the fish for three days as an illustration of His being in the grave for three days, and just as Jonah was delivered after three days, Jesus rose on the third day.

Another type in the Old Testament is the serpent that was lifted up in the wilderness. Numbers 21:9: “So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.” John 3:14-15 “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.”

In 1 Corinthians 10:1-2, 5-6, 11, we see that the time of the Israelites’ delivery from Egypt, their crossing the Red Sea, their time in the wilderness, and their going into Canaan was a *type*, an illustration of New Testament truth. 1 Corinthians 10:1-2, 5-6, 11:

For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea ...

Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved...

Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

The book of Hebrews also uses the events of Exodus and the entering into the land of Canaan as a type or illustration of spiritual truth. Hebrews 3:7-12:

Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, as in the day of trial in the wilderness, where your fathers tried Me by testing Me, and saw My works for forty years. Therefore I was angry with this generation, and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, and they did not know My ways’; as I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’” Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

The writer of Hebrews continues in Hebrews 3:17-19: “And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.”

I think some people find types in the Bible that are not really there, but we must not let the abuse of types cause us to miss the types God put in Scripture to help us better understand and apply His truth. Old Testament Professor Marten Woudstra put it this way: “Traditional typology should be used with due caution. The early Christian church went to extremes on its typological use of the Old Testament. Yet this

excess should not prevent the church from using typology where Scripture permits or suggests it.” [Dr. Marten Woudstra, *The New International Commentary on the Old Testament – the Book of Joshua*, page 35]

One of the most helpful illustrations or *types* in the Old Testament is the account of Israel being set free from Egypt and entering the land of Canaan (the Promised Land). It seems that most every part of this journey is a great illustration of clear truth taught in the New Testament. My prayer is that the truths illustrated by these types will aid us in possessing our possessions that God has already given those who are His.

I. Egypt

This *type*, this illustration, this example of our journey into possessing our possessions begins figuratively in Egypt. Egypt is an illustration, a type of a person who is spiritually dead and enslaved to sin. In other words, Egypt in many ways illustrates what it means to be unsaved, unregenerate, and lost with a human spirit that is dead to God. For about 400 years, the Israelites had been enslaved in Egypt. It was not that there were no pleasant times in Egypt; they grew up, courted, married, and had the happiness of family, but the hard thing about Egypt was that they were enslaved. They had no freedom. In speaking of our lostness, we read in Romans 6:17b: “...you were slaves of sin...” Those alive at the time of the Exodus had been born into slavery.

Do you see why we say that Egypt is a type of being lost, of being unregenerate? Because we were descendants of Adam, we were born with a spirit that was dead to God and a will that was enslaved to sin. Our condition is described in Ephesians 2:1-3:

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Oh, what a picture the Israelites’ slavery in Egypt is of those without Christ today. Just as the Israelites, we were born into this slavery. Every natural born descendent of Adam is born in Adam, spiritually dead and a slave to sin. For the Israelites, no amount of hard work could free them from this slavery to Egypt. They may have been raised to the rank of supervisor over other slaves, but they were still slaves themselves. That is life in Egypt – enslaved to sin with no hope. Such is the life of those lost without Christ; when it comes to our own resources, there is no hope to escape Egypt.

II. The Red Sea

It was the crossing of the Red Sea that marked the final leaving of Egypt. The Red Sea then is a picture, a type of salvation. Had there been no Red Sea experience, there would have been no promised land.

Let’s review what happened at the Red Sea. God called Moses to go back to Egypt where he had been born and raised to bring out of slavery the descendants of Abraham. When Pharaoh refused to let the slaves go, God unleashed on Egypt a series of plagues that culminated in the death of the firstborn in every Egyptian family. After this devastation, Pharaoh *said* that the Israelites could leave the slavery of Egypt. However, after they left, Pharaoh’s heart was hardened and he set out to bring them back. The Israelites found themselves in a humanly impossible situation. There were impassable mountains on both sides of them, the Red Sea in front of them and the pursuing Egyptian army coming quickly from behind them. The people panicked and turned on Moses. Exodus 14:11-12: “Then they said to Moses, ‘Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.’”

The people were still in bondage to the Egyptians. Listen to Moses' answer. Exodus 14:13-16:

But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent. Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward. As for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the sons of Israel shall go through the midst of the sea on dry land.'"

Most who have a church background know what happened next. God miraculously parted the Red Sea and all the Israelites crossed over on dry land. When the Egyptian Army followed, the sea closed in on top of them and they were drowned. Notice some of the ways that the Red Sea is a type of salvation.

A. It Was Miraculous

Salvation is not accomplished by human effort. It is not "making a change in your life." It is not a pledge to try to do better. It is not just joining a church. Salvation is God doing a work in a person that only God could accomplish. When you really begin to understand salvation, you marvel at this amazing accomplishment by God. We were dead in our sin (see Ephesians 2:1-3). We were without hope. The first two words of Ephesians 2:4 are "But God" – we were helpless and hopeless, "but God." Hallelujah! Let's read what God did in Ephesians 2:4-9:

But God being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Jesus "paid it all" when on the cross He took our sin and paid the debt that we could never pay and then cried out in John 19:30: "It is finished!" Those who have their spiritual eyes opened and their spiritual ears unstopped see the truth, they are drawn to Jesus, and repenting of their sins, they trust in Him alone for salvation. Here is the description of the miracle that has happened in every person who has been reconciled to God: 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." True salvation, like Israel's deliverance from Egypt, is miraculous.

B. It Is Irreversible

The Red Sea closed behind them. There was no going back to the slavery of Egypt. This illustrated the blessed doctrine of the security of the believer. A person who turns back to Egypt, to the world gives evidence that they never passed through the Red Sea. A "decision" can be reversed; a new birth is irreversible. 1 John 2:19: "They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us."

C. It Is Necessary for Canaan

We will see in a moment what Canaan is a *type* of (hint: it is not a type of Heaven). There was no way to get to Canaan except by going through the Red Sea. Everything that your regenerate heart longs for is in Canaan and yet there is no entrance to Canaan apart from crossing the Red Sea.

III. The Wilderness

God's perfect purpose for delivering His people from Egypt was not for them to spend forty years in the wilderness! His perfect will was to bring them out of Egypt that He might bring them into Canaan. In the wilderness, God gave them the Law that they might know their identity in relation to Him, and also know how to please Him. The Law was also for them to understand how much God loved them. God is not a "killjoy." He is the giver of true joy. When God says "You shall not" - He is saying, "Stay away from this because it will harm you." When He says, "You shall" - He is saying, "Do this to know true joy!" In addition to the Law, He gave them the Tabernacle so that they might know how to worship Him. I think there is an example here of the need to disciple new believers who have come to Christ in the basics of their new identity in Christ, how to please God, and how to worship Him. The wilderness is not a place to settle down and be at home. Allow me to give you a geographical fact that might surprise you. The distance from where God gave Israel the law to the promised land was only an eleven-day journey! Deuteronomy 1:2 "It is eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir to Kadesh-barnea." It was at Kadesh-barnea on the border of the promised land that Moses sent in the twelve spies before going into the land of Canaan.

We read what happened in Deuteronomy 1:26-32:

Yet you were not willing to go up, but rebelled against the command of the Lord your God; and you grumbled in your tents and said, "Because the Lord hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites to destroy us. Where can we go up? Our brethren have made our hearts melt, saying, 'The people are bigger and taller than we; the cities are large and fortified to heaven. And besides, we saw the sons of the Anakim [giants] there.' Then I said to you, 'Do not be shocked, nor fear them. The Lord your God who goes before you will Himself fight on your behalf, just as He did for you in Egypt before your eyes, and in the wilderness where you saw how the Lord your God carried you, just as a man carries his son, in all the way which you have walked until you came to this place.' But for all this, you did not trust the Lord your God."

Because they would not believe God and go in to the promised land and possess their possessions, God told them that with the exception of Joshua and Caleb (who pleaded with the people to trust God and go in to possess their possessions) every Israelite twenty and older would die in the wilderness. The wilderness wanderings of the Israelites are a type of the believer or the church that refuses to step out in faith and possess what God has given them. For the next almost forty years, every day spent in the wilderness could have been spent in Canaan. Every time they ate the manna and crunched on the sand in their mouth, they could have been in Canaan – the land that flowed with milk and honey (a phrase that communicated a land of agricultural riches and a land of plenty). They were afraid to trust God and move ahead and unable to go back to Egypt. They were stuck in the wilderness with its boredom, monotony, and spiritual dryness. The wilderness is a horrible place.

There is an application here to individual believers, but I want to make special application to a church, to this church which is of course made up of individual believers. I believe that the vision our elders will be sharing with the church may be our Kadesh-barnea. As I have said multiple times over these last few weeks, the vision God gives will call on us to go way out of our comfort zones. It will involve taking on some "giants" and some "fortified cities" (Deuteronomy 1:26-32).

What happens to a church that decides to stay in the wilderness? They wander in circles. There is no joy; there are no supernatural victories; there is nothing unexplainable about them. They run programs, marry the young, bury the dead, and never see God supernaturally at work. A word that comes to mind when I think of a wilderness church is "barren." The dictionary defines that word as, "producing no valuable results or interesting effects; producing no fruit." A wilderness church is a church that does not seek God's vision, does not stand before Him in total submission, and does not see Him bring about results that can only be explained by, "Look what God has done." In short, a wilderness church is a church that

seldom, if ever, sees the supernatural power of God at work in changing lives and meeting the needs of the church and individuals in the church. Its baptismal waters are seldom stirred and most attendees are just attendees only. Children grow up in these wilderness churches never, or at least seldom, seeing the power of God at work. Lord, deliver us from becoming a wilderness church!

IV. The Jordan River

A great deal of our theology is learned from hymns. Unfortunately, the hymns that refer to the Jordan River as physical death and Canaan as heaven are not quite accurate. Canaan is not a type of heaven. There were battles in Canaan, but in heaven, there are no battles. There was sin and failure in Canaan, and there is no sin or failure in heaven. The Jordan River stood between the wilderness and Canaan. I think we would be well, in “hermeneutical” bounds, to say that the Jordan River, where the Israelites crossed to go into Canaan, the promised land, would be a type of a church. The individuals in that church, taking up their cross and reckoning on our death with Christ, surrendering without reservation to the Lordship of Christ in all of life, and then walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the vision God gives. The Jordan is a picture of what the fulfillment of Matthew 16:25 looks like, “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”

We are delivered from the slavery of Egypt (lostness and spiritual death) when we cross over the Red Sea. Then we choose, individually, and as a church, to refuse to wander around in the “miserable” wilderness of trying to make our lives comfortable, predictable, and without a challenge so big that without God we can’t pull it off. This kind of life will not happen until we reckon on the truth of Galatians 2:20: “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.” As we count as true by faith our crucifixion with Christ and allow Him to be our very life, confess our identity in Christ (accepted in the Beloved loved with an everlasting love by God Himself, and chosen by Him from before the foundation of the world), we cross the Jordan and find ourselves in Canaan. Here is a good summary: On the cross, Jesus assumed our identity in sin that at the Jordan we might reckon on the fact that we are in Christ and assume His identity, His righteousness, and indeed, His very life.

V. Canaan

As I said earlier, Canaan is not a picture of heaven. Canaan goes by many names in Christian literature – the Spirit filled life, the exchanged life, the victorious life, and the Christ life. Don’t get the idea that for an individual Christian, or for a church, that Canaan is a “cushy” life with no challenges. It is a life of constant challenges! Satan goes into a whole new level of warfare when we, as individuals, and we as a church, get serious about joining God where He is at work. Life in Canaan involves daily dying. Luke 9:23: “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.” In Canaan, there will be times of failure, but the pattern will be victory and growth – genuine growth in individuals and in the church.

Conclusion

God brought us out of Egypt that He might bring us into Canaan where we experience His victory, His everlasting love, His acceptance, His enabling, and His fellowship. There are battles – sometimes it seems to be constant battles, but there truly is victory on Jesus.