

## 5. *Crossing the Jordan*



Now, if you're not familiar with the term "Crossing the Jordan," it will be of no real importance to you at all, at least not yet, anyhow. For me, it means everything. In Biblical typology, it's known as a foreshadowing of a greater reality that has to do with our born-again experience, our coming spiritual war, and then possessing our spiritual inheritance promised to all born again believers in Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament book of Exodus, God's people of Israel were slaves in Egypt, which again in typology would represent the New Testament world system, which we all live in today, that is always at war with God and His Biblical world system, good versus evil.

Living in Egypt at that particular time in world history would have been a brutal, cruel life for a Jewish person. It was a life subjected to bitter pain and suffering caused by 400 years of slave bondage to a

ruthless “Taskmaster” known as Pharaoh. Pharaoh in typology is a type of Satan, reigning and ruling with an iron fist over his world kingdom. And we all know how Satan feels about God’s people; he hates us all with a passion. Why? Because we were created in God’s own image and in His likeness. Satan also hates God, who in the beginning held him in high esteem as one of his highest-ranking angels. Somewhere along the line, though, sin entered into Satan’s heart, and he esteemed himself even higher than the true eternal God who created him, causing him to fall, and fall hard, as a result of that sin.

It’s called pride, and pride always comes before the fall! Then Satan, who was also called Lucifer, was cast out of heaven with a third of all the angles, who were deceived by Lucifer and chose to follow him under false pretenses to an absolute certain doom. Satan was then cast down to Earth, where he is called the god of this world. He hates everything we are and everything we represent in this world; not just what we represent now, but what we represent for all eternity as children of the living God. We represent everything he defrauded himself of and everything he will never have again, no matter how bad he wishes he could. I’m talking about life, love, and worship. It’s about God’s eternal blessing and heavenly bliss prepared beforehand and lavished on all who love, trust, and obey Him. It’s a time of eternal

adoration, where the saints of God gather together as one and cast their crowns at the feet of Jesus, praise and worship Him, and Him alone, for all eternity.

Imagine this, an eternal celebration taking place in a golden city as big as our moon called the “New Jerusalem,” a holy city coming down out of heaven from God, and having the glory of God. Her brilliance is like a costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. It is a beautiful image, to say the least, and I can hardly wait to see it. A great complement to the glory revealed in a vast and glorious universe, a conglomeration of brilliant stars, planets, and galaxies, all masterfully suspended in their place, and so vast that even NASA can’t say for sure how big the universe really is. It’s the glory and power of God revealed by the works of His very own hands and on display for the entire world to see and marvel at for all eternity!

Well, you can see how Satan could get excited about all that, but his problem back then, and still today, was that there is only one God and ruler of the universe, and that person is Jesus Christ, who will share His glory with no one, and that’s exactly what happened; Satan wanted God’s glory for himself. He exalted himself above God, at least in his own mind, and wanted to be God and rule the universe. He wanted to be the center and object of all universal power and worship but instead fell to the lowest

depths possible. He went from being blessed above all the angels to cursed forever and damned to hell, a place of eternal conscious existence forever separated from God. A place described as a lake of fire that burns with brimstone and sulfur forever without end, and where the worm never dies, a reference to the torment and suffering that waits. Satan's not happy, and until the completion of God's eternal redemptive plan for humanity and creation, he continues to run to and fro throughout the Earth like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. His mission is to steal, kill, and destroy anything and everything in his path, including, and especially, us, the human race (John 10:10). In other words, we are the target of his bitter revenge toward God. He is the root cause of all pain, sin, suffering, and bondage. Whether it's a forced slavery in Egypt thousands of years ago or slave bondage to drug and alcohol addiction in America or around the world today, it makes no difference—you fill in the blank. It's all brought on by our own disobedience when we are tempted and carried away and enticed by our own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death (James 1:14–15).

The only hope we have is to humble ourselves, pray, and cry out to Jesus for forgiveness and deliverance, and then never to look back again no matter

what. *“Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for me with all your heart. And I will be found by you,” declares the LORD, ‘and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,’ declares the LORD, ‘and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile’ (Jeremiah 29:12–14).”*

You see, it’s God, and God alone, who has the power and means necessary to deliver an entire human civilization, or even a single individual like you or me, from the hands of the Taskmaster, and it’s God alone who can regenerate a ruined life and turn it around for His own glory. And only God can give you or me a future and a hope!

Well, just to the north of Egypt was the land of Canaan, named after the grandson of Noah, the famous ark builder. Again, the land of Canaan in the Old Testament also has a spiritual application for the New Testament believer today. In typology, the land of Canaan, otherwise known as “the Promised Land,” is symbolic of our New Testament “born again” experience that begins the moment we accept Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior and are born again. That is the time and place where we cross the spiritual Jordan, symbolic of water baptism and our baptism into the family of God. It’s the place where we cross