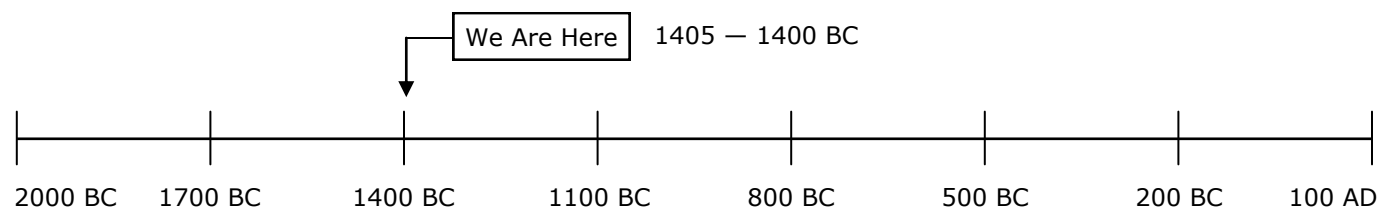


Crossing the Jordan



Helpful Resources

Maps of Canaan Invasion (p.103) and Divided Canaan (p.105), What Will You Have to Show? (p.159)

Making Sense of It All

- The Big Picture

After 40 years of wandering, the Lord prepared the people to enter Canaan. After defeating the kings east of the Jordan River and settling their land, the tribes camped at Mt. Nebo and awaited their orders. Moses, who was now close to the end of his life, finalized his ministry with some last-minute instructions to the people.

Love the Laws: Moses urged Israel to honor God's laws in their new land. He reminded them that not only their success but their survival as a nation depended on their ability to obey the law that He had established (*Deut. 28-29:1; 30:11-20*). Every succeeding generation would be bound to the covenant and to following those divine regulations (*Deut. 29:14, 15*). In order to drill the covenant into their hearts and minds, God asked them to do the following:

1. **Set Up Stones** (*Deut. 27:1-10*): Just as the Israelites set up Masebah before, to remember something that God had done, so now God commanded that large stones be set in place on Mt. Ebal (central Canaan), on which to inscribe all of the laws (*Joshua 8:30-35*).
2. **Pronounce the Promises** (*Deut. 27:11-14*): God asked the tribes to divide in half and stand on Mt. Ebal and Gerizim (central Canaan), to proclaim both the blessings and the curses of God's covenant (*Joshua 8:30-35*).
3. **Read It Often:** God told Moses to put His laws into the Ark for safe-keeping (*Deut. 31:9, 24-26*). However, He also commanded that every seven years the laws be read before the people; even kings were to copy the law themselves and read it constantly (*Deut. 31:9-13*). Parents also were asked to talk of them with their children at all times (*Deut. 6:6-9*).

The Song (*Deut. 31:19, 22, 30-32:47*): Moses taught a song to the people to give them a personal reminder of their covenant with God.

Fear the Lord (*Deut. 31:14-29*): Although a healthy fear of God is good, it was not enough to keep the people obedient to His laws for long. For His people to follow His laws in a more effective way, God would have to indwell and enable them with His Spirit.

Passing the Torch (*Deut. 31:1-8, 14-29*): Moses commissioned Joshua before God and the people, then he climbed to the top of Mt. Nebo, where God allowed him to view the land of Canaan before his death (*Deut. 32:48-52; 34:1-12*). It is believed that Moses wrote *Psalms 90*, which is about the brevity of life and the importance of using wisely the time God gives.

After Moses' death, Joshua took the Israelites into Canaan. Here are some highlights:

Crossing the Jordan (*Joshua 3:1-17*): The power of God was evident as He stopped the Jordan River from flowing, so that the people could cross into Canaan. Again, Joshua set up Massebah (memorial stones) at Gilgal (*4:1-5:1*). The entrance into Canaan was on the very day that Israel left Egypt, the Day of Passover, 40 years later (*4:19; 5:2-12*).

The Fall of Jericho (*6:1-27*): As the people obeyed God's strange instructions, they watched as He pulled down the wall of Jericho and saved Rahab for her part in helping the Israelite spies (*2:1-24*). Rahab became the mother of Boaz, forefather of David, and part of the lineage of Christ (*Matt. 1:5*).

The Sin of Achan (*7:1-26*): Again, obedience to God was key to Israel's success, as the greed of Achan led to Israel's defeat at the little town of Ai. Achan and his family were killed for his greed, a reminder that one person's sin affects those around him.

North and South: Even though kings allied against them, Joshua and the Israelites destroyed every enemy in their wake, and, as a result, secured the land of Canaan.

- Prophetic Passages
 1. **Israel's Fall** (*Deut. 28:15-29:1; 30:1-10*): Similar to earlier prophecies, the Lord foretold of the nation's fall, His judgment, and, then, its final, faithful return to Him.
 2. **Jericho's Curse** (*Joshua 6:26*): Joshua cursed the ruins of Jericho so that whoever rebuilt it would suffer the loss of his two sons; Hiel fulfilled this curse (*1 Kings 16:34*).
 3. **Noah's Curse** (*Gen. 9:25, 26*): Noah's curse on Canaan became a reality, as the tribes there were either destroyed or made subservient to the people of Shem (Israelites).
- Pictures of Christ
 1. **The Rock** (*Deut. 32:4*) Although Moses was speaking of God, he was describing His Son who will come, the Chief Cornerstone who is "just, faithful, and can do no wrong."
 2. **Commander of the Lord's Army** (*Joshua 5:13-15*): Here is a theophany, a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ; Joshua responded appropriately in worship.
- Personal Application
 1. **A Love for the Law**: We too should be reading God's Word regularly, as a delight not a duty, impressing it on our hearts and minds and inspiring a love for it in our children.
 2. **When It's All Said and Done**: In *Psalms 90:1-12*, Moses reminds us that we don't have long to live on earth; that being said, he implores God's people to consider what it is that we want to be said of us after our days are done. Read the poem following this review.

The Bottom Line

Strive to live a life of *faithfulness* and *obedience* to God.

Questions to Consider

1. When all is said and done, what will you have to show for your life? Will God be pleased?
2. Is God different in the Old Testament compared to the New Testament? Explain.
3. Name the gods that Americans worship today. Why is it foolish to worship them?

What Will You Have to Show?

For all the years God's given thee,
With little time to go,
Have you wondered what He'll see?
What will you have to show?

Will wealth be all you've lived here for?
Will health be all you know?
Will you be marked by quests for more?
What will you have to show?

Will length of days be evident?
Will ducks be in a row?
Will time be well and wisely spent?
What will you have to show?

Have you made a difference here?
Have you more seeds to sow?
When death has dried each fallen tear,
What will you have to show?

Have you served your faithful Lord?
Or have you more to grow?
Have you His kindness oft' ignored?
What will you have to show?

Your deeds will fade along the way;
Your words will melt like snow.
When all you are has passed away,
What will you have to show?

When all is spoken, all is done,
And it's time for you to go,
When heaven's gates are finally won,
What will you have to show?

What will you have to show
When heaven's Judge you meet?
You knew Him as your Savior, though
You hid Him on the street.

Your life with Him a secret kept;
Not one would ever know.
You had one life to live except
What will you have to show?

*Written by
Aaron Ferguson*

Psalm 90:10, 12

"As for the days of our lives, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years, yet their pride is but labor and sorrow, for soon it is gone and we fly away. So teach us to number our days, O Lord, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom."

Ephesians 5:15-17

"Therefore, be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is."

“Be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time because the days are evil. Do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is.” *Eph. 5:15-17*

