



## Sermon – The Third Step – Crossover to Freedom

### Exodus 14

Preached at Cloverdale Baptist Church,

**Background:** We have covered the first two steps in God's plan for bringing the Children of Israel out of bondage. We have been looking at how God brings them out from a bad season to the promise of a new season. God's plan is a step by step process outlined in Leviticus 23. We can relate and believe that this same plan....God's plan, is the same plan we can use for Him to bring us up out of our own troubles and into a better season. We can trust in His plan for our personal lives and also in the life of this church called Cloverdale. We have covered the first two steps which are humbling by recognizing our need for Christ and crying out to God, and second, by repenting and moving in new direction and leaving behind old season of trusting in self and sin.

We believe that the plan and steps God takes Israel through, are the same steps and the same plan that he takes each of us as believers through....I believe it will also be the same steps and process we will need to follow to bring CBC from this current season into our best season. I believe this because we see that Jesus follows these same steps from the cross, to the grave, to the sky. Since Jesus follows the same plan, and we are followers of Jesus, we should follow the plan.

It is not just the plan for Israel, it is our plan as believers. It is not just the plan that Christ fulfilled, it is the plan for CBC.

What's next? Do your part for your church. Follow the plan as an individual, then we will see it revealed as a church. It starts with us/you.

Today, is crossover day. Time to move.

### Leviticus 23

**23 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the Lord, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts. <sup>4</sup> These are the feasts of the Lord, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. <sup>9</sup> And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>10</sup> Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: <sup>11</sup> And he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.**

Our story continues...

### Exodus 14

**14 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, <sup>2</sup> Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baalzephon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea. <sup>3</sup> For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in. <sup>4</sup> And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord. And they did so.**

God continues to execute His plan for His people. He purposely has Israel camp in a difficult position and you may be asking yourself why? He tells them in advance, even though you started this process with joy, there is a difficult time ahead....just letting you know. But it is part of the plan and in the end God gets the glory and everyone will know that He is God.

They were okay with this because they continued to follow the plan.

You might as well say amen because just about every Christian knows that even though you are following God's will and walking with Him, you still might have some difficult and scary moments ahead. There may be times when you face difficulty in relationships, tough times in church, tough time on the job. But be encouraged when trials come because:

- It is part of the plan.
- He knows what is best for the Kingdom.
- He will get glory because of what you are about to go through.
- It is a temporary challenge because he never told them to build a home there, are settle there, grow a garden there, put a mailbox there.....they are only going to camp there which means this trouble won't last....it has an expiration date.
- Just stick to God's plan.

**<sup>5</sup> And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us? <sup>6</sup> And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him: <sup>7</sup> And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them.**

Part of God's plan is to let them know the nature of the enemy and the way of the world. The devil doesn't you to be free. The devil will only allow you to go so far, but never be truly free. The world will only let you go so far. The world will always try and bring you back or keep you from going to where God desires and plans for you to be.

The devil and the world want you to serve them rather than God. When the things of the world become more important than the plans God has for your life, you will never truly be free.

**<sup>8</sup> And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with an high hand. <sup>9</sup> But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon. <sup>10</sup> And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were**

**sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the Lord. <sup>11</sup> And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup> Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.**

Part of God's plan is to allow you to see some scary stuff. They start the journey giving high-fives but now find themselves in a pickle. Fear interrupts the plan.

We may see somethings during this process that will cause us to cry out to God in fear. Notice, the enemy hadn't laid a hand on them yet, but they were still afraid. Fear is contrary to the plan of God.

Fear will cause you to:

- Speak against the leadership.
- Not be excited about the process or God's plans for you.
- Desire to return back into bondage and in the opposite direction of recovery.
- Start talking crazy, like it was better being in sin than being right with God. Better being in that bad season than transitioning into something better and greater.
- Fear will keep you from experiencing God.

Let me just pause right here and say this. Don't let what you see, scare you into not following the plan of God for your life. There are some scary things in the world today...stick to the plan. Scary prices, stick to the plan, scary neighborhoods, stick to the plan.

Let me say this to CBC, don't let what you see, scare you into thinking we made a mistake. Don't let fear, cause us to go back to the way it was. Keep pressing forward.

**<sup>13</sup> And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. <sup>14</sup> The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. <sup>15</sup> And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: <sup>16</sup> But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. <sup>17</sup> And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. <sup>18</sup> And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.**

Fear is not part of the plan. God doesn't give us a spirit of fear. How do I know that fear is not part of God's plan, because Moses tells Israel to fear ye not. Stand still and watch God move.

God's plan for Israel consists of:

- No fear.
- Stand on the promises of God and don't dare turn back from following the plan.

- Saying goodbye to a problem(s) because after God gets through, you won't see that problem again.
- After they get in position they get to watch God fight for them. When we trust God, He fights for us.
- The battle belongs to God, not us. Stop fighting what you can't handle, give it to God.
- God will make a way through an unlikely scenario to allow them to move forward.
- You may not see it coming, but it is on the way.
- We may have to stretch ourselves in the direction God wants us to move.
  - Stretch in service, prayer, giving, praise, attendance, in faith
- After you stretch, what looked and seemed hard will be easy.....there won't be a mess.
- In the middle of a scary situation, things are going to be easier.
- God getting glory from your difficult situation.
- People who don't know Him now, will know Him as the great I AM.

That is the plan.

If that was the plan for Israel, then that's the plan for you and I and that's the plan for CBC. When we do our part and follow these first two steps and stand, what looked scary before.....doesn't look so bad now. What was causing me trouble before, when I stretch myself in prayer, God fights my battles. The plan for CBC is that when God brings us into our next better season, people will look at this church and see the glory of God.....people will what God is doing here and confess and understand that God is the great I AM and step into this same plan.

**<sup>19</sup> And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: <sup>20</sup> And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night. <sup>21</sup> And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup> And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.**

God's plan for the Children of Israel was to demonstrate His power and protection. He put them in this situation to reveal:

- If you no longer see God in front of you, he probably is taking care of what's coming up behind you. Don't worry about your past, God will get in the middle of it to protect your ministry, your worship, your praise, and your next season. He has your back.
- The enemy really can't block your light.
- We get to participate in the miracle. Moses had to stretch himself in the direction he wanted God to move.

- CBC, I hope you don't think that just a few people here are going to participate in our next move. Young and old came out...of Egypt....everyone gets to play in our next moves.
- He moves in an unlikely way; makes a way out of no way. I don't think anyone there expected Him to deliver like that.
- What was once a problem and a blocker, now became an answer and a wall of protection.
- What was once a difficulty to get around is now easy and not messy.
- God's plan doesn't involve a mess.

CBC, if this move gets messy, it isn't His plan.

**<sup>23</sup> And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. <sup>24</sup> And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the Lord looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, <sup>25</sup> And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the Lord fighteth for them against the Egyptians.**

God's plan for Israel was to reveal to them the nature of the enemy; a spiritual scouting report.

- The enemy doesn't want you to enjoy your new season.
- The enemy wants to follow you into future.
- Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.
- God will take care of your problem and your past....that is part of the plan.
- The enemy and your problem is in trouble.
- Your problem and the world, others will know that God is on your side....that is the plan.

If this is the plan for Israel, then God's wants this for us too. How do I know? Because Jesus followed this same plan when he went to the cross, was buried in a tomb, and rose again on the third day. Jesus resurrection corresponds to the Red Sea crossing because Israel crosses over on the third day of their journey. That is not an accident or a coincidence, it was planned.

So this is our plan as believers. Since Jesus followed and fulfilled this same plan, and we are followers of Jesus, the plan is for us to rise up and get past some of the problems that have been holding us back.

- The world is not your friend. Some things from your past that held you down need to be left behind.
- You can't take bad things from your past, into your next season...that is contrary to His plan.
- Let God deliver you from the problems you can't deliver yourself from.
- God is going to fight your battle; the battle belongs to Him, you just need to obey and stick to the plan.
- Things go a lot smoother and easier when you know what's coming and how the story ends.

**<sup>26</sup> And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. <sup>27</sup> And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.**

Part of God's plan is to not only let us participate in the miracle breakthrough, but also to celebrate the victory.

- Obedience is still a key component of the plan. Stick to the plan.
- We still are called to stretch ourselves in the direction God wants us move. Sometimes obedience is a stretch...but there are plan benefits awaiting us.
- What was once an obstacle (the Sea) is now the very thing that God uses to keep them straight and to defeat the enemy.
- The Lord fights the battle and turns the obstacle into a weapon against the enemy. What was blocking their way, God turned into a tool for the enemy's destruction.

What does this mean for us today? We get plan benefits.

- Somebody knows that some of the things we had to go through, mistakes we made in the past, what we had to suffer through and put up with in one season, is the very thing that keeps us straight today.
- Somebody may know that the trials and struggles and mistakes that God brought us through is now the story that He uses to deliver others.
  - We overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony.
- God will use what we went through for His glory to help others be free. Others are covered under the plan....it has riders and beneficiaries.

**<sup>28</sup> And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. <sup>29</sup> But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. <sup>30</sup> Thus the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. <sup>31</sup> And Israel saw that great work which the Lord did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord, and his servant Moses.**

How do I know this is our plan and this is our story? Because it was the same plan Jesus followed and it works. I'm a follower of Jesus. We are getting up from some stuff in just a little while.

Why the Red Sea, they needed to face that problem so they could be completely free and not entangled in the land.



Your obstacles are part of the plan and specifically designed to help you stick to the plan. No deviation to the left or to the right. Similar problem today, as we are trying to get through some things as a country and instead of using the obstacle to keep going straight, we keep leaning to the left or to the right. Politics can cause you to shift and stray from the plan.

Notice again the plan features.

- The steps to baptism is part of the plan. Everybody gets baptized under the plan.
- The plan protects you from the enemy making a mess of your life or messing up your journey.
- It might have been hard at first, but the plan makes life easier. The burden is lighter.
- The plan allows you to look back, but not go back. The look back features show you the problem that was on you and hindering you and keeping you in bondage before are no longer there.
- You can see that your past can't bother you again.
- The plan features a free wash.
- You get to see what God did for you. This part of the plan provides you new life, new start, new hope, new freedom.

I know how the story ends....Google didn't tell me, the feasts did, Israel did, Jesus did, and the Gospel did. I'm coming out.

- Jesus is following the same plan that God had for Israel. Since I'm a follower of Jesus, I'm under the same plan.
- It all starts and ends with Jesus and I submit to you CBC this is not only the same recovery plan for CBC, it is the same step each of us must take.....we have to bury the past.
- He is the same God yesterday, today, and forever.

Our part of the plan consists of:

- Following and obeying the instruction for these first three steps.
  - Identify the need for change. Pick up your cross and follow Jesus. Be crucified with Christ....believe in the work he did for you. Turn to Him. Apply the blood and accept His forgiveness for your sins.
  - Bury or put down self and turn to trusting in Him. Make that move.
  - Place your hope in Christ. Christ lives in you and by faith, follow Him in your new walk. Don't bring the past with you.
- Fear not.
- It is not just about you, others will be blessed by what you go through.
- Stretch yourself in obedience and don't worry about the past.
- Expect Him to fight for you and deliver you.
- When you get your break through, don't play in the water. Don't bring the past hurt with you.

How to apply God's plan to CBC?

- You do your part in following the first three steps.
- Let's do these same steps and follow the same plan for CBC.



- When we start with needing Jesus, he will Passover us in judgment and save us.
- When we obey, He will give us instruction for how to move forward.
- It may look scary, may look like the odds are against us, but God will take care of our past.
- Expect Him to move in ways we never could have imagined.
- It may look difficult at first, but once He opens the door and we start moving, it will go pretty easy.
- It won't be messy....if it does get messy, we start over and follow the plan again.
- We will have a new story that tells of His glory.
- When people see us tomorrow, they will see the glory of God and know that He is God.
- This has little to do with our love for CBC...it is all about the glory of God.
- The problems and mistakes of our past, we will never see again, as long as we stick to the plan.
- We please God.