



Join the Israelites as they journeyed from the wilderness into the land that God had granted them. Each chapter will challenge you to move from a *fear stop* to a *faith step*. And once you've started taking those steps with God, there's no telling what great places He'll take you.

Interested in the whole book?
Select your preferred book seller:

[MOODY PUBLISHERS !\[\]\(d66ff64371a51729ac8c1cdaa685ba6f_img.jpg\)](#)[WALMART !\[\]\(e3f8612927870f2e0f9f5989e6dd3064_img.jpg\)](#)[AMAZON !\[\]\(003082e50e3009141f59bd5df831749f_img.jpg\)](#)[APPLE BOOKS !\[\]\(17413706fd4997a1a4bdf85c6864eee1_img.jpg\)](#)[GOOGLE PLAY !\[\]\(faf942dc3e59ce8eb64b4ac481eca7e0_img.jpg\)](#)[CHRISTIANBOOK.COM !\[\]\(cf531ed27e91483460120fcc057b3901_img.jpg\)](#)[BARNES & NOBLE !\[\]\(d3102649f02e825ddb76dc3de0190154_img.jpg\)](#)[LIFEWAY !\[\]\(4b7a79268f6ba26c1471d4232fffa85a_img.jpg\)](#)[TARGET !\[\]\(95b425611cbd2b8716a140cf67c81822_img.jpg\)](#)

Contents

1. Standing on the Edge	9
2. Giants, Grasshoppers, and a Thread of Hope	27
3. Rafts, Rivers, and Priests	45
4. Water-Crossing Miracles	59
5. Manna in the Wilderness	75
6. Behind the Walls	87
7. Victory and Defeat	99
8. Flip-Flops, Mountains, and Altars	109
9. Praying Big	117
10. Keep Going for the More	127
11. Possess the Land	143
12. The Promise Keeper	159
Acknowledgments	171
Notes	173



Standing on the Edge

I WAS SITTING CROSS-LEGGED on my a-little-bit-too-tiny bed in Kathmandu, Nepal, as I listened online to Beth Moore teaching. I had to sit cross-legged because I had the bed custom made when I first moved to Nepal, and the measurements somehow got lost in translation. The cutest bed looked like it could be in a Pottery Barn magazine, but it was doll-sized.

I am not doll-sized.

Beth Moore asked a question in this message that I could not get out of my heart: “Where does your mind spew?” I knew the answer instantly. I was afraid God would ask me to leave Nepal. I had said yes to serving Him overseas. I had done emotional good-byes at the airport. So emotional that the tiny airport in my town called security because so many were gathered around me crying as if they were sending me off to my funeral.

I was appointed to be a career missionary. When you take an assignment as a career missionary, you typically commit to a long-term career of service in missions overseas versus a short-term trip for a few weeks or a few years. I dreamed that I would live so long

in Nepal that someday they would name something after me like they did the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. I had placed my yes before the Lord, and here I was on the doll bed that day, realizing my greatest fear was that an obedient yes to God would mean no to what I thought I was to “do” for Him.

Let’s pause here. Maybe you are reading this and thinking, “One of the main reasons I don’t want to say yes to God is because He might call me to live in a remote village in the outermost parts of the world, and I would not have access to Amazon Prime when I need my favorite brand of coffee creamer.”

We all have different fears of placing our yes on the table before the Lord. Mine may be different than yours, but both of us can stand on the edge of the adventure to our promised land and want to say no because fear stops us in our tracks.

I had known for a while that the Lord was speaking to my heart that He had more than one place and people for me to serve. Every sermon I heard for months centered around obedience. We studied the life of Abraham. In Genesis 12, God told Abraham to go to a land that He would show him. As I prayed, I knew God was calling me to be willing to not stay in Nepal but keep going to the lands God would show me.

The more I prayed and tried to get brave enough to listen, the more I sensed a different direction in my life than remaining in one country as a missionary. I had known since I was a young girl and forced the kids to come to my Bible club on the playground that I came alive teaching God’s Word to others.

I had a counseling degree and a passion for people to experience healing and hope. What if I could travel the world inviting people to come alive in Christ through teaching His Word and providing counseling and written resources? What if this was my mission?

(Spoiler Alert: This yes to God was how Coming Alive Ministries formed!)

But I was afraid to listen to that leading. I had worked too hard to learn *this* language. To learn how to teach a Bible study and use the right word for fear in the Nepalese language, because there may or may not have been that one time I led a whole Bible study on fear and wondered why the women were giggling the entire time. (It turns out, the word for *diarrhea* and *fear* are *very* similar in the Nepalese language.) I had wrapped my identity up in being a single missionary willing to serve. What would people think? Fear of looking like a failure consumed me. Partner that with a fear of rejection.

Fear of the next and what this would mean for the now. Fear of what my supporters would say. Fear of the unknown. Fear of “am I hearing God right?”—because I thought I heard His voice tell me to come here in the first place.

You may not find yourself sitting cross-legged on a miniature-sized bed across the world, but you have experienced some fear stops. Fill in this blank.

I want to say yes to God but I am afraid of

We have some friends in the Bible who were on a journey of obedience to their promised land. They were following God with their yes and standing on the edge of their promised land.

Let’s become friends with this large group of people. The Israelites.

STANDING ON THE EDGE

Those poor Israelites. They had stood on the edge of their promised land—living once before. They were right there. So close. Let me catch you up in case you are new to the story. You might remember

that God's people had been living in Egypt and had been forced into slavery for four hundred years. But in His timing, God heard their cries and called Moses to lead the people out. The Israelites embarked on a miraculous journey toward freedom—toward their promised land.

God had this land of promise ready for them—and He had a plan for the journey of deliverance for them. He used Moses to lead His people on this crazy improbable journey. From the parting of the Red Sea to providing manna—a miraculous meal that fell from heaven every day to feed them—there were numerous miracles along the way.

You can read about all this in the book of Exodus.

I imagine the people might have wanted the journey to their promised land to take a shorter passage. I don't know about you, but when I pick a route on my GPS, I always click the fastest way to where I am going.

Have you ever gone on a camping trip? Can you imagine camping for years as you wandered around the wilderness on the way to this new home country you had been promised? Not just staying at one campsite, but putting up and pulling down and going on the move again. Imagine camping with all of your relatives (including Great Aunt Myrtle, who always liked to pinch your cheeks and ask you why you were not married yet), your closest friends, and that person who drives you crazy because she is constantly posting selfies on social media. I am sure there would be times when you wanted to say to Julie the Instagrammer, "Could you please stop trying to get the perfect picture of your manna and just eat it before it molds already?"

Cue the rise in the background music for dramatic effect as we come to Numbers 13. The people were on the edge of the promised land, Canaan. Let's join them.

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel. From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a chief among them."

Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan and said to them, "Go up into the Negeb and go up into the hill country, and see what the land is, and whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many, and whether the land that they dwell in is good or bad, and whether the cities that they dwell in are camps or strongholds, and whether the land is rich or poor, and whether there are trees in it or not. Be of good courage and bring some of the fruit of the land." Now the time was the season of the first ripe grapes. (vv. 1–2, 17–20)

Here is their chance to actually see their promised land. They come back with a report of trembling. Have you ever had someone ask you if you want the good news or the bad news first? They tell the good news first. The land is flowing with milk and honey.

However.

It's the *however* they added that changed everything.

"However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. . . . And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them." (vv. 28, 33)

Ten of the twelve spies brought only the bad news. Joshua and Caleb disagreed, believing the Israelites could take the land as the Lord had promised.

Because of their anxiety-ridden report from the ten, though,

panic spread quickly among the people. They lost sight of the Promise Keeper. They started to grumble among themselves and talk about how they wished they had either stayed in the slavery of Egypt or died in the wilderness. They said, “Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt.” They stood on the edge of their promised land, and their faith steps became fear stops.

These fear stops led to God telling the people that they would not see the promised land, that none who had seen what God had done for them in Egypt and as they traveled in the wilderness would get to go live in the land He has promised to them (Num.

14:22–23). Only Joshua and Caleb of their generation would enter the promised land. The others would keep wandering in the wilderness for forty years.

They stood on the edge of their promised land, and their faith steps became fear stops.

It can be easy for me to get all judgment on the Israelite people. Why did you blow it, friends? Why couldn't you

remember that the One who promised the promised land had the plan? Why did you let fear stop you?

But then I think about how fear stops me. I want to say yes to God. I want to take an obedient journey to the promised land He has for me, but I find myself stuck in fear along the way. Fears of rejection, fears of failure, concerns of “can I trust the character of God?” Feeling like a grasshopper looking at a whole bunch of giants. I can find myself grumbling and complaining. Bondage and my plan seem more comfortable. I, for one, want to stand on the edge of my promised land *and go in*.

PUT ALL YOUR CARDS ON THE TABLE

I am not a card shark. I love to play games, but I forget all the different rules for card games. If you play a game with me where I have to bluff and pretend I have things in my hand that I don't—don't ask me to be your partner. I always giggle or turn bright red or blurt out, "That's not what I have!" If I were good at bluffing, I would be attempting to deceive my opponent about what was in my hand.

If I were to lay all my cards on the table, those around me would know what was actually in my hand. I looked up what it means to put all your cards on the table. The Cambridge dictionary online records the definition as this: "To be honest about your feelings and intentions."¹ What if I intend to lay the "Yes" card before the Lord? What if I let go of the other cards in my hand and place that one down?

Yes—I will take the journey with You to the promised land that You have for me. I will take obedient faith steps even when my doubt wants me to stop. I will not stand on the edge of the promised land and take back my yes because I see some giants, and I feel like a grasshopper.

But what do I do with the fears? The wanting to throw down the "no card" tantrums that can find their way to my heart. Or where I give up and run the other way. How do I handle the unknowns of the promised land? Let's stand at the edge and follow Joshua's journey as he leads the next round of the Israelites to the promised land.

TAKE TWO

Sure, they were uneasy. They had questions. But as we take a deep dive through this book, we will find that the Israelites spied out the promised land and, instead of letting their fear stop them, they continued in their yes steps, following as the Lord led until it was time for the next generation to take the faith steps into the land of promise.

Will we get it right always? No. Will we have *what* it takes? We don't, but we have *who* it takes. What does the future hold for our journey? Let's admit together that we have some fears. We have some questions. But I want to stand on the edge, throw down my yes, and get ready to do whatever it takes to go in. Can we throw our yes on the table? I cannot wait to hear *your* stories of how you move from fear to faith.

Lay down your yes card and tell the enemy you are calling his bluff. You are going to the promised land.

YOUR YES STORY

When did you first say yes to Jesus? How did you sense Him inviting you to Himself? And if you have not said yes to Jesus, today can be your day. Say “yes” to His invitation to forgive you of your sins, your inability to reach God in your own strength. Thank Him that He reached out for you instead, coming to walk on the earth and die through crucifixion on a cross. That small three-letter word “yes” can change everything. When you said yes to Jesus, you invited His glory into your story. That yes to eternal life changes everything about our everyday lives. Our yes gives us a salvation story, but it does not stop there. Accepting Jesus' invitation to life offers the opportunity for us to be a servant for His glory.

You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. (John 15:14–16)

Sometimes I can find it easy to trust Jesus with my eternal life but struggle to trust Him with my everyday life. If I place my yes on the table before Him, what will He ask of me? Will I have the requirements for the journey? And what if placing my yes on the table before Him takes me to a completely different destination than I had planned?

STANDING WITH JOSHUA

Let's fast-forward. Years had passed. Moses has died, and Joshua was put in place as the leader of the people. I imagine Joshua was nervous about his yes steps. There they were on the edge of the promised land again. Will it be second-verse-the-same-as-the-first? Or a different story this time? God said to Joshua,

“Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses.” (Josh. 1:2–3)

I believe God knew Joshua would be afraid. He tells him several times, “Be strong and courageous.” Joshua 1:9 says, “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

Scared or not, Joshua put his yes before the Lord. In Joshua 1:10–11, we find Joshua telling the people the next steps. He told them to get ready, because in three days they would cross the Jordan River and begin to take the land God was giving them.

I love how he casually mentioned crossing over the Jordan like it was no big deal to have a giant river-crossing ahead.

He is all in. The people are all in. They are standing on the edge and ready to go in.

Let's go along for the journey with them.

WHAT IS YOUR PROMISED LAND?

The Israelites knew what their promised land was. It was an *actual* land. They were people who had been rescued from the bondage of slavery in Egypt and were on a journey to take the land that God had promised them.

What is your promised land? Besides heaven, of course. Because that is the ultimate promised land, but what about here on earth? Unlike the Israelites, we are not a large people group camping through the wilderness following a pillar of fire and a cloud. But we do find ourselves at crossroad decision points. Some choices feel like big massive life-changing decision points. Some are smaller everyday choices.

As I write this book, I am writing for the reader who is at a crossroads. Are you wondering about your next steps? Decisions like should I say yes or no to this relationship? Should I consider a job change or stay where I am? Should I put my kids in this type

of schooling? Should I go to this school? Should we change churches? Can I say yes to this ministry calling? What about the crazy amount of decisions that come with being a parent? Or the heartbreaking decisions that come with caring for an aging parent? You are not just making decisions for yourself—

Big and little moments: we stand at the crossroads of decisions. We wonder what will lead us to the promised land. Promised land—living is a life of following Him.

you are making decisions for others. What about the empty-nester figuring out her purpose in life now that the kiddos have flown the nest?

Standing in the now and trying to make the best decision for the next—that is a crossroads. The list of choices could go on and on. Even daily little decisions. Today, will I make that phone call I have been dreading, or not? Will I make the healthy food choices that I have been desperately trying to make, or eat my feelings in the brownie batter that I was preparing for Bible study tonight? Might as well add here, will I choose to exercise and take care of my body even though I want to stay snuggled in my bed instead?

Big and little moments: we stand at the crossroads of decisions. We wonder what will lead us to the promised land. Promised land—living is a life of following Him. It is obedience to Him. It is following the path marked out by Him.

*You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Ps. 16:11)*

The Hebrew word for path here in Psalm 16:11 is *ōrāh*, which means *the way or course of conduct*.² This sounds like promised land—living to me. Knowing the way I should go, and finding the fullness of joy in His presence as I go. Standing at the edge of the next steps as I wait in the now, placing my yes before Him to follow Him on the path of life.

The crossroads I am standing at today:

Now the question is: How do I know which way will lead to my promised land? What if I make the wrong choice? I want to say yes to God, but how will I know which way to follow God?

On their journey to the promised land, we are told in Numbers 9 that the Israelite people had set up the tabernacle, which was covered by a cloud. And then, in the evening it looked like fire covering it. Let's talk about how amazing that is.

How would you feel about approaching a church that was covered with a giant cloud? And then as evening came, that cloud morphed into a what looked like fire that encased the building? Are you picturing Disney World effects? That's what is playing on the movie of my mind right now.

So it was always: the cloud covered it by day and the appearance of fire by night. And whenever the cloud lifted from over the tent, after that the people of Israel set out, and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the people of Israel camped.

Even when the cloud continued over the tabernacle many days, the people of Israel kept the charge of the LORD and did not set out.

At the command of the LORD they camped, and at the command of the LORD they set out. They kept the charge of the LORD, at the command of the LORD by Moses.

(Num. 9:16–17, 19, 23)

They followed the presence of God. Are you thinking what I am thinking? Sure. This sounds great when you have a giant fluffy cloud and pillar of fire to follow! Where is my cloud? Where is my fire? (Well, I have started a few fires in my day accidentally, but I am not sure the presence of God was there telling me where to go. Especially that one time I burned down the only outhouse in a village.)

We may not have a cloud or a pillar of fire, but we do have some powerful promises.

“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” (John 14:25–26)

We have the person of the Holy Spirit:

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.” (John 16:13)

We have the power of God’s Word:

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Heb. 4:12)

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. (2 Tim. 3:16)

We have the person and power of Jesus. The power of Jesus, which broke the chains of sin and death to come to our rescue and take us to our ultimate promised land, the heaven He left to walk the streets of earth. And we have the people of God to help us discern the path of God. Those are some powerful p’s!

WHAT IF I MAKE THE WRONG CHOICE?

There are times we fear making the wrong choice because we worry that we are not hearing from God. What if I am making this decision, but I am hearing God wrong? What if I am just listening for what I *want* to hear God say instead of discerning *how* He is leading? What if I make the wrong choice? Does the Lord set options before us that we really could choose either and still find our promised land?

Let's start with the fear of hearing God wrong. There is a *big* difference between that and not waiting to listen to the Lord and instead coming up with our own plan or not seeking the Lord for His plan.

Are you afraid you are not hearing God's direction clearly or correctly? That you will miss it? I love the promise found in James 1:5: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him." What a promise for this fear of making the wrong choice!

Let's talk about when we know the choice that we need to make, and we willingly choose the other.

Raise your hand, if like me, you have been there and done that, and thought the old sounded better than the new God was doing. Looked to something else or someone else for protection instead of God's direction. The Hebrews did that when they got to complaining and thinking they'd been better off in Egypt.

Here is the key to those wrong choices.

*For thus said the LORD GOD, the Holy One of Israel,
"In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."
But you were unwilling. (Isa. 30:15)*

Returning. Returning to the one who took us from Egypt in the first place. Verse 18 in that same chapter says, “Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you.” What an incredible God that we have. A God who is waiting to be gracious to us even when we are wandering around in our own choices, not looking for His direction or protection.

Are you reading those paragraphs above feeling like you have been wandering around trying to find your way back to the bondage of your past, yet you have a sense of hope that God has more for you in your present and future? Return to Him.

You could take a moment even now and pray. Tell God that you have been seeking shelter in the wrong places. Maybe it is in a person. Perhaps it is in a place. Perhaps it is what felt comfortable in your past. Thank Him that He longs to be gracious to us. Then ask Him for the strength to make the *right* choice. “Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it” (Isa. 30:21).

MOUNT NEBO

I am freshly back from a life-changing journey where placing my yes on the table took me to the Middle East on a short-term trip with Coming Alive Ministries to serve for a few weeks, ministering to refugees displaced by war.

So freshly back that I still have that major jet lag fog so I feel like when I turn my head, it takes a while for my brain to catch up to my body, and I am waking up at three in the morning ready to go.

Did you know that you can claim jet lag as an excuse for anything you do or say that doesn't make sense for at least two weeks? At least that is what I tell myself!

Even in the jet lag fog, I wanted to write this section because I did not want too much time to pass before telling you what it was

like to stand on Mount Nebo. The Mount Nebo that Moses stood on and looked over the promised land.

This trip contained a great deal of fear for me. It just so happened that at the time this trip was planned, things in the Middle East heated up more than usual. The daily news was not portraying a picture that this was a time to be hopping on a plane and going. I had to do a great deal of extra praying for discernment because I was daily getting

I do not want to just look at the promised land God has for me with my eyes. I want to stand in it, dance in it, bring glory to God as I walk in it.

the emails/texts/calls of people telling me they did not think I should go.

As I prayed, I sensed God saying, “go afraid,” so I went. I found out that on our day off, we would have the chance to journey from the plains of Moab to the top of Mount Nebo. The place where

Moses looked over the land that had been promised. You can read a description of what he saw in Deuteronomy 34:1–4.

I stood on this mountain and tried to imagine looking at all this through Moses’ eyes. I was grateful for the helpful signs for the folks like me who cannot tell east from west or north from south.

I tried to lick my finger and stick it up in the air because I remember my dad telling me that’s how you could find the North, but let’s be honest, I had no idea what I was doing.

The sign showed which direction Jericho was. The place where Joshua’s spies would go first to spy out the land. I looked out over the promised land and wondered what it must have felt like for Moses to know he was not going there. The team I was serving with circled up and read from Deuteronomy 34. We discussed how we felt about the fact that Moses did not get to go in.

It is hard to struggle with this. To understand the consequences of fear and disobedience. Fear and disobedience had stopped them. Friends, I do not want to just look at the promised land God has for me with my eyes. I want to stand in it, dance in it, bring glory to God as I walk in it.

What if my yes is what keeps me on the journey toward the promised land He has for me? What if your yes is what keeps you on the journey toward the promised land He has for you?

Let's place our yes on the table and continue the journey to the promised land.

I want us to do this adventure together. I would love for you to grab a piece of paper or whatever your creative mind comes up with and write the word YES. I have written YES in the sand before, the dirt, on my mirror, on a journal page—as a reminder of my yes I am placing on the table.

I would love for you to write your yes and take a picture and post it on social media using #myyesisonthetable so that we can pray over each other on this adventure of yes to God.

MY YES IS ON THE TABLE

MY YES PRAYER

Jesus, I am here. I do not want to hold my cards tight and let the enemy see me bluffing.

I want to lay my hands open and lay one card on the table.

The Yes card.

I want to say yes to You. Yes to where You say go, do, in the big and the small. I want to take the yes journey to the promised land that You have for me.

Lord, here are my hands and my heart. Take my yes and do more than I could ever ask or imagine.

I pray You help me say yes, even when afraid. Even when I stand on the edge of the promised land and there are obstacles in the way. I say yes Lord, yes.

HEART WORK

Read Joshua 1, Deuteronomy 34:1–4, and Isaiah 43.

What is God speaking to your heart as you read?

What is one fear stop currently on your heart?

What faith step will you pray about taking?

Interested in the whole book?
Select your preferred book seller:

MOODY PUBLISHERS 

AMAZON 

APPLE BOOKS 

GOOGLE PLAY 

WALMART 

TARGET 

LIFEWAY 

BARNES & NOBLE 

CHRISTIANBOOK.COM 