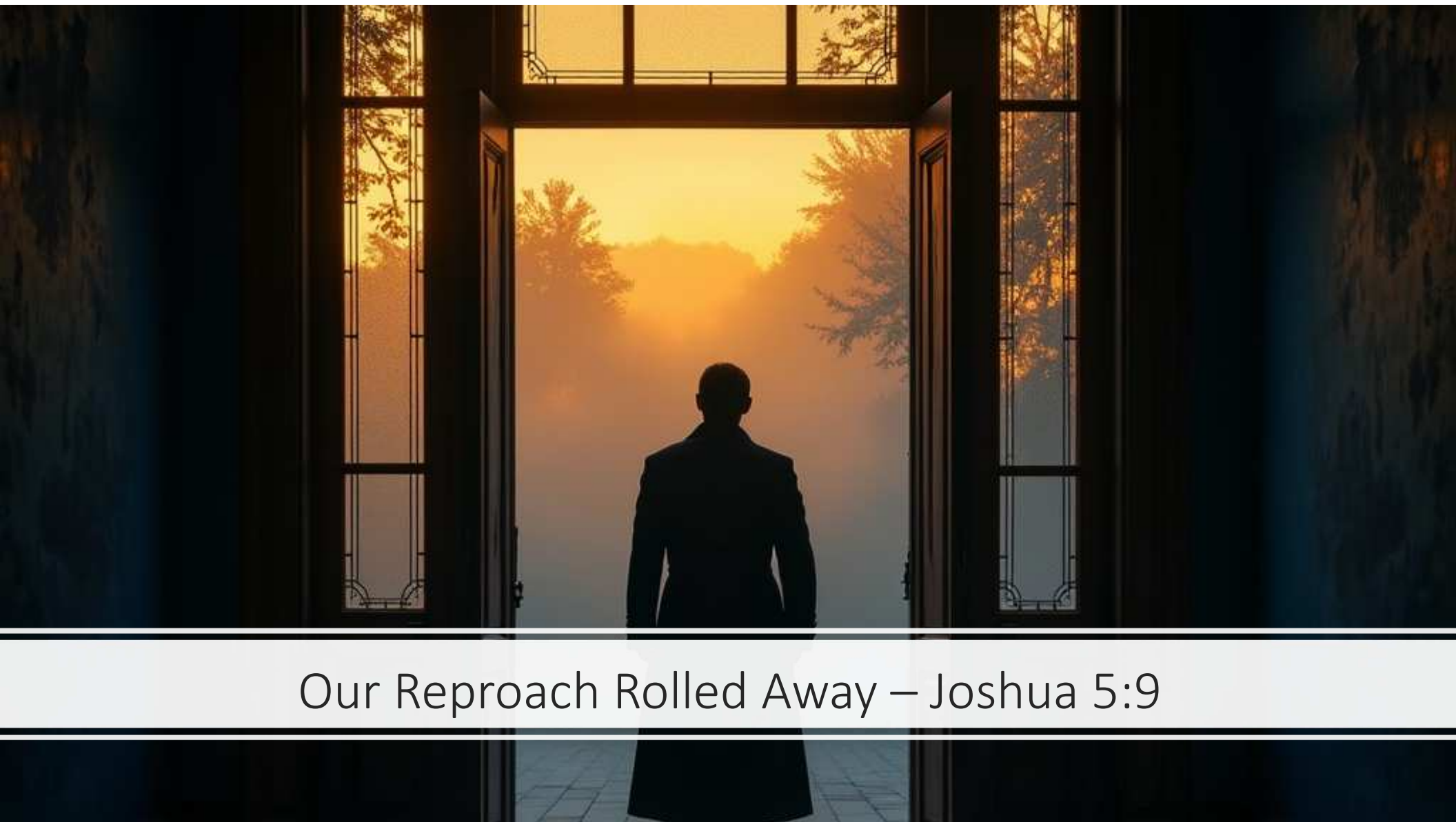




Our Reproach Rolled Away – Joshua 5:9

Our Reproach Rolled Away

- What a difference a single day brings
 - Many can remember the day your first child was born and came home
 - Maybe the day of your wedding, divorce, heart attack, job termination, death of a loved one

Our Reproach Rolled Away

- The Nation of Israel had several single events that determined their course
 - Standing before the Red Sea with the Egyptian army coming after them
 - **Exodus 14:21:22 NIV**, 21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, 22 and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

Our Reproach Rolled Away

- The Nation of Israel had several single events that determined their course
 - The Egyptian army still coming after them after Israel passed through the Red Sea
 - **Exodus 14:30-31 NIV**, 30 That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. 31 And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Our Reproach Rolled Away

- The Nation of Israel had several single events that determined their course
 - At this point, the Israelites were free from the nation of Egypt
 - Freed from their slavery to Egypt
 - Standing before a new life
 - But they were not free from the effects or stigma of being slaves under intense abuse in Egypt
- Please understand we today could have our own type of Egypt experience from things in our past that keep us pinned down
 - Maybe it was abuse, moral sins, failures, rejection, expectations

Our Reproach Rolled Away

- The Nation of Israel would have carried many of the markers found in domestic violence survivors today
 - Unsure of what to do next or how they will survive
 - Overwhelming fear and dread – what will Egypt do next
 - Questioning their decision - leaving the familiar for the unknown, are we strong enough
 - Rewriting their experience – maybe it was not as bad as I remember, things about Egypt I will miss
 - Rejecting and judging of those they thought were friends

Our Reproach Rolled Away

- The Nation of Israel had several single events that determined their course
 - In other words, they brought Egypt out with them
 - Some brought their personal home idols
 - Some brought out their belief system
 - Most still thought and responded as Israelites living as Egyptians
 - We see it in the way they responded to God and Moses
 - Most veterans returning from war bring a portion of the war back home with them

Our Reproach Rolled Away

- You see this at various pressure points in Israel's journey
 - **Numbers 13:30-33 NLT**, 30 But Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. "Let's go at once to take the land," he said. "We can certainly conquer it!" 31 But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. "We can't go up against them! They are stronger than we are!" 32 So they spread this bad report about the land among the Israelites: "The land we traveled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. All the people we saw were huge. 33 We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that's what they thought, too!"

Our Reproach Rolled Away

- What happened to the Red Sea crossing?
 - What happened to manna appearing?
 - What happened to water from a rock?
 - What happened to receiving The Law?
 - What happened to the promises of God?
- It would take God 40 years to get most of the Egyptian thinking out of the nation

Our Reproach Rolled Away

- Now we find in our Scripture text, Israel has crossed the Jordan River at flood stage, the same way they crossed the Red Sea—God provided
 - But the question, “What now” remains
 - How can I learn to live as free people under God’s promises
 - God gave Joshua three commands and one declaration to move the Nation away from Egypt and into the Promised Land provided

Our Reproach Rolled Away

- **Joshua 4:4-7 NLT**, 4 So Joshua called together the twelve men he had chosen—one from each of the tribes of Israel. 5 He told them, “Go into the middle of the Jordan, in front of the Ark of the Lord your God. Each of you must pick up one stone and carry it out on your shoulder—twelve stones in all, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. 6 We will use these stones to build a memorial. In the future your children will ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ 7 Then you can tell them, ‘They remind us that the Jordan River stopped flowing when the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant went across.’ These stones will stand as a memorial among the people of Israel forever.”

Our Reproach Rolled Away

- **Joshua 4:9 NLT**, 9 Joshua also set up another pile of twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan, at the place where the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant were standing. And they are there to this day.
- **Joshua 5:2 NLT**, At that time the Lord told Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise this second generation of Israelites.”
- **Joshua 5:9 ESV**, And the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” And so the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.

Our Reproach Rolled Away

- Many born-again children of God carry their own burdens from their time in their personal Egypts
 - Be it abuse, addictions, moral failures, past lifestyles
 - Things they have done, and things done to them
 - Remembering them brings shame, others anger, others loss of confidence
- Just like Israel, God understands you and He longs to bring peace and freedom to your Egypts just as He did for Israel
 - **John 8:36 ESV**, So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

We can't move on from our personal Egypt until we cross over the threshold of faith

- **Joshua 4:9 NLT**, 9 Joshua also set up another pile of twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan
 - A threshold is place of beginnings and of change
 - It is a point of transition into something new and a letting go of something familiar
 - You walk over a threshold when coming inside from outside
 - You leave the outside there and come in and experience the inside

We can't move on from our personal Egypt until we cross over the threshold of faith

- I believe God is making a threshold with these stones that will be covered over with water
- Some get caught at the threshold
 - Israel was caught at the threshold when looking to enter the Promised Land the first time
 - All they could see was their Egyptian Slavery not their Almighty God
 - The result was 40 years of walking in the wilderness simply because they would not trust God and step over the threshold

We can't move on from our personal Egypt until we cross over the threshold of faith

- Others get caught just on the other side of the threshold just far enough in to experience the beginning of the other side
 - It's like coming inside to air conditioning but just standing in the doorway keeping the hot air still at your back
 - That really just dilutes the experience of air conditioning
 - You sort of get some refreshing coolness but not all as the indoors promises
 - It's not what you were expecting

We can't move on from our personal Egypt until we cross over the threshold of faith

- Will you choose this day to allow God to take you by the hand with His promises and move forward
 - Spooky? Yes, Hard? Yes, Confusing? Yes
 - Remember, God promised Israel the Land of Canaan and He got them there in spite of their carrying their Egypt
 - It was easier for Israel to cross the Red Sea with the Egyptian army driving towards them
 - Now the perceived enemies are in awaiting them
 - But they had to say, “Yes Lord”, and continue moving forward

We can't continue moving and occupying our freedom without keeping God's history fresh in our minds

- **Joshua 4:6 NLT**, 6 We will use these stones to build a memorial.
 - Memories fade and become not as formative the farther we get from our Egypt experiences
 - That can be a good thing not to experience the pain
 - But we will also forget the importance of the presence and work of God in our lives

We can't continue moving and occupying our freedom without keeping God's history fresh in our minds

- **Psalm 103:1-5 NLT**, Let all that I am praise the Lord; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name. 2 Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget (*let fade*) the good things he does for me.
 - 3 He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. 4 He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies. 5 He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle's!
 - We need to keep going back and remembering and praising God
 - **Hebrews 13:8 NLT**, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Repentance is always a part of recovery

- **Joshua 5:2 NLT**, At that time the Lord told Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise this second generation of Israelites.”
 - This generation was not ready to occupy God’s promise land
 - **Genesis 17**, God established circumcision as the permanent physical sign of His everlasting covenant with Abraham and his descendants

Repentance is always a part of recovery

- **Joshua 5:2 NLT**, At that time the Lord told Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise this second generation of Israelites.”
 - By commanding that all males be marked on the eighth day, God required a visible token of separation, faith, and the promise of a chosen nation
 - The physical act set the Israelites apart from surrounding pagan nations, physically symbolizing a consecrated or "holy" lifestyle
 - God is calling the nation back to His eternal covenant with Abraham
 - And the way back is always through obedience to His Word

Allow God to roll your Egypt onto the mighty shoulders of Jesus

- **Joshua 5:9 ESV**, And the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.”
 - Reproach means to criticize, blame, or express disapproval of someone (*or yourself*)
 - There is much God could criticize, blame and disapprove of the nation in the wilderness

Allow God to roll your Egypt onto the mighty shoulders of Jesus

- **Joshua 5:9 ESV**, And the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.”
 - In Jewish mindset this reproach would have been passed on to the next generation
 - “He is the son of Hitler or Khomeini”
 - This generation would not be able to overcome their Egypt while carrying the weight of reproach and neither can we
- We were created by God for the perfection of the garden
 - We were not created to carry the weight of our Egypt

Allow God to roll your Egypt onto the mighty shoulders of Jesus

- **Joshua 5:9 ESV**, And the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.”
 - Why roll and not forgiven?
 - Some of our Egypts may not be a result of sin, we’re bearing a burden forced upon us by others or events of life
 - Roll carries the idea of moving little at a time - momentum
 - Roll carries the idea of moving it over to someone or someplace else
 - Roll carries the ideas of moving it completely over

Allow God to roll your Egypt onto the mighty shoulders of Jesus

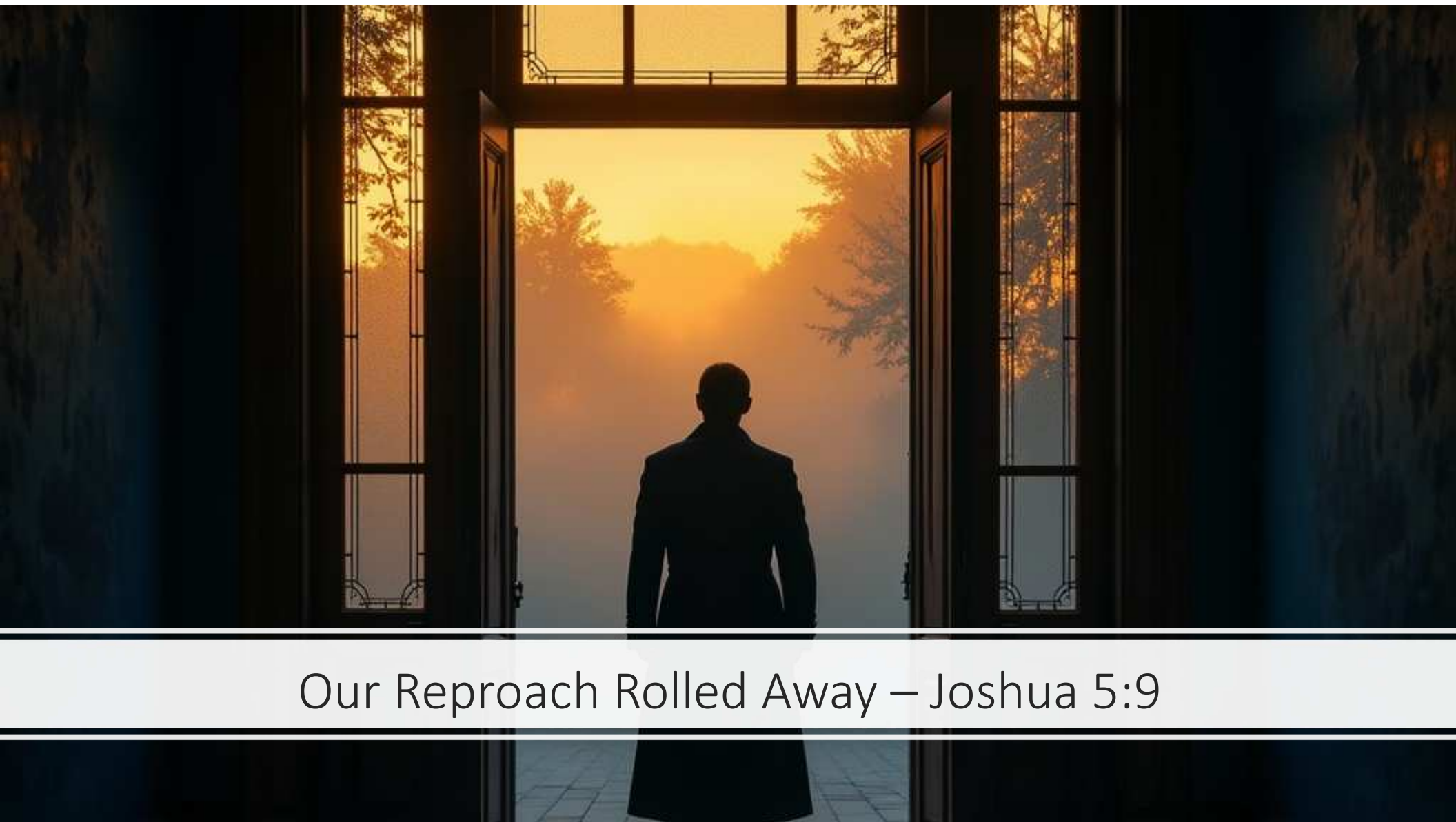
- **Joshua 5:9 ESV**, And the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.”
 - We must be careful not to allow it to roll backwards
- Our sin debt was rolled over onto Jesus Christ on the cross
 - In the same way, allow your Egypts to be rolled over onto Jesus who is strong enough to carry them for you

Our Reproach Rolled Away

- Randy how?
 - Trusting God to remove shame and to calm the emotions of the events
 - Walking in the righteousness of Christ
 - Responding to insults with grace
 - Looking to God for vindication
 - Rest or be at peace in your new identity in Christ
 - Enduring unjust blame with patience
 - See yourself through the eyes of Christ rather than your Egypt

Our Reproach Rolled Away

- Randy how?
 - Believers are made holy and blameless through Jesus, meaning human criticism or labels do not define your true standing before God
 - **Ephesians 3:19 NLT**, May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.



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