

The Journey Begins

Exodus 13:17-22

Pastor Scott Totten

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When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." ¹⁸So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle. ¹⁹Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the Israelites swear an oath. He had said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place." ²⁰After leaving Sukkoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. ²¹By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. ²²Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people. Exodus 13:17-22 (New International Version)

Take-Home Truth: The godly path is not always the direct path.

#1: GOD SOMETIMES TAKES US ON A WANDERING PATH TO THE GOOD PLANS HE HAS FOR US.

. . . "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10b (NIV)

#2: THE REASON FOR THE WANDERING PATH IS BECAUSE OF OBSTACLES ON THE DIRECT PATH THAT WOULD KEEP US FROM REACHING THE PROMISED LAND.

*"In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps."
Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)*

#3: GOD WILL ENCOURAGE US ALONG THE WANDERING PATH.

RULE #6: BE FLEXIBLE.

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."
Genesis 50:19-20 (NIV)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 (NIV)

