

Red Sea Crossing

Exodus 13-14

Exodus 13:17-21

Israel's Wilderness Detour

¹⁷ When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through *enemy* territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, "If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." ¹⁸ So God led them in a roundabout way through the wilderness toward the Red Sea. Thus the Israelites left Egypt like an army ready for battle...²¹ The LORD went ahead of them. He guided them during the day with a pillar of cloud, and he provided light at night with a pillar of fire. This allowed them to travel by day or by night...

Exodus 14

Then the LORD gave these instructions to Moses: ² "Order the Israelites to turn back and camp...there along the shore..."³ Then Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are confused. They are trapped in the wilderness!' ⁴ And once again I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will chase after you. I have planned this in order to display my glory through Pharaoh and his whole army. After this the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD!" So the Israelites camped there as they were told.

⁵ When word reached the king of Egypt that the Israelites had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds. "What have we done, letting all those Israelite slaves get away?" they asked. ⁶ So Pharaoh *and...*the Egyptians caught up with the people of Israel...

¹⁰ As Pharaoh approached, the people of Israel looked up and panicked when they saw the Egyptians overtaking them. They cried out to the LORD, ¹¹ and they said to Moses, "Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? Weren't there enough graves for us in Egypt?...¹² Didn't we tell you this would happen while we were still in Egypt?...It's better to be a slave in Egypt than a corpse in the wilderness!"

¹³ But Moses told the people, "Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the LORD rescue you today..."¹⁴ The LORD himself will fight for you..."

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the people to get moving!" ¹⁶ Pick up your staff and raise your hand over the sea. Divide the water so the Israelites can walk through the middle of the sea on dry ground...

¹⁹ Then the angel of God, who had been leading the people of Israel, moved to the rear of the camp. The pillar of cloud also moved from the front and stood behind them.

²⁰ The cloud settled between the Egyptian and Israelite camps. As darkness fell, the cloud turned to fire, lighting up the night. But the Egyptians and Israelites did not approach each other all night.

²¹ Then Moses raised his hand over the sea, and the LORD opened up a path through the water with a strong east wind. The wind blew all that night, turning the seabed into dry land. ²² So the people of Israel walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground, with walls of water on each side!

²³ Then the Egyptians—all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and charioteers—chased them into the middle of the sea. ²⁴ But just before dawn the LORD looked down on the

Egyptian army from the pillar of fire and cloud, and he threw their forces into total confusion. ²⁵ ...“Let’s get out of here—away from these Israelites!” the Egyptians shouted. “The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt!”

²⁶ When all the Israelites had reached the other side, the LORD said to Moses, “Raise your hand over the sea again. Then the waters will rush back and cover the Egyptians and their chariots and charioteers.” ²⁷ So as the sun began to rise, Moses raised his hand over the sea, and the water rushed back into its usual place. The Egyptians tried to escape, but the LORD swept them into the sea. ²⁸ ...Of all the Egyptians who had chased the Israelites into the sea, not a single one survived...³¹ When the people of Israel saw the mighty power that the LORD had unleashed against the Egyptians, they were filled with awe before him. They put their faith in the LORD and in his servant Moses.