

GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

God's Guidance: Your Daily Miracle

Exodus 13:17-22

God Guides us Away from Trouble

Exodus 13:17-22 ¹⁷ *And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt:* ¹⁸ *But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt.*

- The children of Israel had been in bondage for over 400 years
 - They lived a life of slavery under Pharaoh's rule in Egypt
 - God hears the cries of Israel and sends Moses to be the deliver to deliverer his people from bondage
 - Israel has its first taste of freedom and God comes to lead them to the Promised Land
- The *easiest and the quickest* way to get to the Promised Land, was to go along the coastline of the Mediterranean Sea *through* the land of the Philistines
 - It would have been a *direct route* to the Promised Land
- But God didn't take "quick and easy" way, the direct way to the Promised Land
- The "quick and way" is tempting but it isn't always God's best way
- But God lead the Israelites a *different way*, a way that *seemed* to be "out of the way"
- God led them the Israelites on an unusual route because God sees what they didn't see, and He *knows* things the Israelites didn't know
- The Israelites were not aware that the "quick and easy" route would take them right through the land of the Philistines, a large, strong, and notorious army
- But God *knew* Israel was not *ready* to fight
- The Israelites had several things working against them:
 - They were former slaves, not warriors; they had no military training at all
 - They had few weapons
 - They still had a slave mindset; a broken, beat down spirit, not the spirit of a soldier
- to go the way *they thought* they should go, it would be disastrous for them
- God knew if the Israelites *saw* war, they would *repent*, or change their minds and return to Egypt
- The first sign of opposition would have caused the Israelites to go back to Egypt (bondage)
- To keep the Israelites from missing their destiny, God *led them* in a different direction on a different road
- Instead of the "quick and easy" way, God lead Israel the *long way* through the wilderness
- Sometimes God takes *detours* that lead us away from *destiny-destroying decisions*
- **Only God knows what's ahead in our lives**
- God leads us away from trouble
- If you "feel" God is taking you the long way to your destiny, realize that God knows what you're about to face, He knows what you're not ready to face, and He wants to protect you

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- The Israelites were going to the Promised Land, but He had to *prepare them for the Promised Land* as well as *prepare the Promised Land for them*
- The Israelites *needed* the long detour to the Promised Land in order to *learn* to trust God *before* they could inherit the Promised Land
- God is always *leading and guiding*, our job is to *always follow Him*

God's Guidance Reminds Us of His Faithfulness in the Past

¹⁹ And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you.

- God's faithfulness in the past gives us confidence for His leadership and guidance in the future
- Nearly 400 years before Joseph made the Israelites *promise* to carry his bones with them to the Promised Land
- Joseph wanted to be buried in the Promised Land because he believed God had a *Promised Land* for Israelites
- Joseph died in faith, he never received the promise, but *he* saw the Promised Land through the eyes of faith
- When the Israelites honored Joseph's request, they acknowledged God's faithfulness to fulfill His promises
- They were reminded of God faithfulness in the past and their ancestor's faith *strengthened* their faith
- Our future hope for God's guidance rests on remembering our past experiences of God's faithfulness
- Joseph said if you honor this request, *God will surely visit you*, meaning *God will take notice of you, God will take care of you, and God will rescue you*
- The God who was our **help** in years past is our **hope** for years to come

God Guides Us in Ways We Can't Explain

²⁰ And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness. ²¹ And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: ²² He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

- The Israelites left Succoth (i.e., shelter, safety security), and *encamped* in a place called Etham
- Etham was on the edge of the *wilderness*
- The wilderness *here* is not the same as the "beautiful wilderness" we're familiar with in East Texas, West, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, etc.
- It would be *impossible* for the Israelites to make to it from Etham through the *wilderness* without *supernatural guidance*
- The word Etham in Hebrew means, **with them**

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- To go beyond Etham and *through* the wilderness to the Promised Land, they would need someone *with them*
- God was saying to Israel *and us*, ***I AM with you*** on your journey
- This is when you really need *God's guidance* when the *detours in life* takes you to places that are *unfamiliar, unpredictable, and unknown*
- And the Lord went ***before*** them in a pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night
- This pillar of cloud/fire represented the Shekinah of God, the manifest presence of God
- The pillar of cloud/fire is ***always in front*** because God is leading them to their destiny, the Promised Land
- This pillar of cloud/fire was the constant companion of the Israelites, and it *never left them or failed them*
- We don't have a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to guide us like the Israelites
- But we *do have* the Word of God and the Holy Spirit available to guide us
- The Word of God will never leave you *stumbling* in the dark ***Psalm 119:105 (KJV) 105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.***
- The word of God reveals to us what we need to know about God *and ourselves*
- The Holy Spirit will never lead you astray ***John 16:13 (KJV) 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.***
- The Holy Spirit guides us by:
 - *Speaking the truth*, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth
 - *Leading us to all truth*, the Holy Spirit does not speak of Himself, but only speaks what He hears from the Father
 - *Showing (announcing, declaring) us things to come*, what will happen in the future
- The presence of the Holy Spirit guides us, protects us, helps us, and comforts us, the same way the Israelites were guided by the pillar of cloud/fire in the Old Testament
- When we allow the Holy Spirit to guide our lives, we will experience *daily miracles*
- Miracles are *supernatural events* that occur in our lives that have no *earthly explanation*
- Following the guidance of God is not "by force", it's *by faith*
- You don't have to travel through the "wilderness of life" on your own, God promises to be with you ***Matthew 28:20 (KJV) "... I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."***