

The Shortest Distance Between Two Points is a Zigzag¹

Exodus 13:17-22

While the shortest distance between two points may be a straight line in geometry, it is not always the case for what God is doing in our lives. There are times when God deliberately takes us on a zigzag path. It may not make sense at the time, but in hindsight we can see what God was doing.

During the Exodus, God led Israel in the opposite direction of where they should logically go.

- Israel was not prepared for a straight line route (13:17)
 - They needed other experiences God had planned

- God knows that sometimes we are not yet prepared for his plan
 - God will grow us gradually until we are ready (Exodus 23:27-30)

- God provides encouragement along the way—He reminds us of his good intentions through his:
 - Providence – “God will surely visit you” (13:19)

 - Promises – “God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob” (Genesis 50:24-25)

 - Presence – “the Lord went before them” (13:21-22)

 - Provision – “to lead them along the way ... to give them light” (13:21)

Principles to remember

God always knows which way is best

God is always faithful to help his people

God is always present to guide his people

¹ Title and outline borrowed with permission from Dr. Donald Sunukjian