

Delays, Detours, and Divine Design
Exodus 14

Exodus 14:1-12 (NIV)

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.' And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." So the Israelites did this. When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, "What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!" So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. The Egyptians — all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen and troops — pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon. As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

I. Deepening Disappointment

Verse 10 – "They were terrified and cried out to the Lord..."

Exodus 13:17-18 (NIV)

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." So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt armed for battle.

Exodus 17:1-3 (NIV)

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?" But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

II. Deadly Dangers

Verse 11 – “They said to Moses, ...you brought us to the desert to die”

Psalm 107:25-27 (NIV)

For he stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves. In their peril their courage melted away. They reeled and staggered; they were at their wits' end.

Exodus 16:8 (NIV)

Moses also said, the LORD has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD."

Numbers 14:26-35 (NIV)

"The LORD said to Moses: How long will this wicked community grumble against me? So tell them, 'As surely as I live, I will do to you the very things I heard you say: In this desert your bodies will fall— every one of you twenty years old or more who has grumbled against me. They will meet their end in this desert; here they will die.'"

III. Divine Design

- God is protecting us from greater harm.

Exodus 13:17 (NIV)

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."

- God is proving us in our spiritual growth.

Deuteronomy 8:2 (NIV)

Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

- God is persuading us of His power and faithfulness.

Verse 13, 14 – “Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

3 Keys to Defeating Discontentment:

- Rejoice in the Sovereignty of God

Chapter 14:31; 15:13

“And when the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him. In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.”

Psalms 106:7 (NIV)

When our fathers were in Egypt, they gave no thought to your miracles; they did not remember your many kindnesses.

- Trust in The Word of God
- Rest in the Plan of God

